

## **Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

### **November 25, 2019 Meeting Summary**

NEFAR Office, 7801 Deercreek Club Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256

#### **Meeting Attendance**

**Members:** Joyce Brown, Pine Forest Community Action; Walter Bryant, St. Nicholas Area Preservation; Richard Cardell, The Lakewood Community; Carol D'Onofrio, Deercreek Owners Association; Joanne Parker Griffin, Villa San Jose Civic; Donna Herrin, City Council District 11 Representative; Will Herron, Shiloh Creek Neighborhood Association; Jim Hill, Greater Hood Road Community Association; Ralph Hodges, City Council At-Large Group 4; Abby Howard Murphy, Hampton Glen at Deerwood HOA; Debbie Johnson, The Gables HOA; Scott Koslowski, James Island Homeowners Association; Joe Luczak, Bartram Springs HOA; Jon Malmind, Oak View Corner Oaks Owners Association; Sherry Marks, Kernan Mills Community Association; Kathleen Perera, Alumni Civic Association; Robin Pickle, Brierwood Neighborhood Association; Henry Rogers, Rose Creek Condo Association; Kathy Soares, Highland Glen HOA; Denise Torres, The Arc Jacksonville Village; Gary Weise, Secret Cove Civic Association; Betty Wolfe, Mandarin Community Club

**Excused:** Pam Fraser, Blackwood Forest HOA; Ernst Cornehl, Deerwood Improvement Association; Peter Gentry, Deercreek Owners Association; Eric Laner, East Hampton HOA; Marj Rothstein, Villa San Jose Civic Association

**Visitors:** Arthur Mills, City Council At-Large Group 4; Anne Davis, Riverbrook; Sharon Ervin, Riverbrook; Nekinia Wright; Mary (Marcie) Turner, Heather Glen; Richard Skule, GENA

**Staff:** The Honorable Danny Becton, City Council District 11; The Honorable Michael Boylan, City Council District 6; Carol Brock, City Council District 3 Executive Council Assistant; Robert Crawford, Municipal Code Compliance; Lt. Frederick Dash, JSO; Keith Meyerl, Parks, Recreation and Senior Services; Arimus Wells, Planning and Development Department; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

#### **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:**

Chair D'Onofrio called the November 2019 SE CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

#### **Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:**

The October 2019 meeting summary was approved by the CPAC.

#### **Presentation(s):**

**Lori Boyer, Downtown Investment Authority, CEO,** The Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) was created to revitalize Jacksonville's urban core by utilizing Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) resources to spur economic development. Since 2000, nearly \$2 billion in Downtown development projects have been completed. In 2013 alone, nearly \$10 million in development projects were completed, with another \$470 million under construction. In the summer of 2014, the DIA Board of Directors adopted an updated Community Redevelopment Area Plan, as well as a Business Investment Strategy and Market Feasibility Study. Combined, the plans and study guide the development and redevelopment of Downtown, create incentive programs, and identify strategic public investment projects.

Ms. Boyer explained the importance of the Residential First Strategy. The residential component of downtown is a critical factor in many ways. The greater the residential density is in and around downtown contributes significantly to the local customer base for local merchants. In order to attract commercial development downtown, businesses evaluate the number of residents/clients that are within walking distance of retail before they commit to commercial development. The DIA has been working diligently to increase the residential population and residential housing downtown. In the past couple of years several new multi-family communities

have opened and approximately another 972 housing units are under construction. In addition to new construction, there are a number of housing units that will be developed in some of our existing historic downtown buildings too.

Construction began in 2017 to restore the original Barnett Bank Building located at the corner of Adams Street and Laura Street. The Barnett Bank Building will be transformed to a mixed-use building, with approximately 107 apartment units located on the eighth to 18th floors. The Barnett Bank Building is part of a \$90 million investment to revitalize some of the historic downtown building. Once the Barnett Building is completed construction will move on and restoration will begin on the Laura Street Trio buildings.

Ms. Boyer stated with the downtown residential population growing she is also actively working to bring commercial development downtown too. One of the first commercial developments she would like to add to the downtown area is a grocery store. At this time Ms. Boyer and DIA are actively investigating feasible locations for a new downtown grocery store.

Activities and attractions are also needed downtown. Ms. Boyer showed a video that illustrated the \$6 million renovation and improvement project is expected to get underway in the spring at the Friendship Fountain on the Southbank. This project will bring state-of-the-art water and sound shows to Friendship Fountain and its surrounding Southbank Park. The renovations to the fountain and park should take one year to complete.

Ms. Boyer answered a number of questions and heard suggestions from the CPAC attendees. To learn more about the Downtown Investment Authority visit: <https://dia.coj.net/>

Contact Lori Boyer, Downtown Investment Authority, CEO at [BoyerL@coj.net](mailto:BoyerL@coj.net)

#### **Elected Officials Report:**

**Danny Becton, City Council District 11** – announced there was a ground-breaking ceremony on November 20, 2019 at the site of the new Baymeadows Park project. This project is currently a vacant lot that is located between Baymeadows Circle East and Baymeadows Circle West; this is where the former Baymeadows Golf Club 12<sup>th</sup> hole was located. An investment of over \$30 million dollar will result in mixed-use village project on this site. To date the Baymeadows Park project will have a 120-room Springhill Suites Marriot, and four mixed-use buildings for commercial, retail and restaurants. The hotel's grand opening is expected in 2021.

Council Member Becton – 904-255-5211 or [dbecton@coj.net](mailto:dbecton@coj.net)

**Michael Boylan, City Council District 6**– informed the CPAC that today a JEA Fact Finding Workshop was held in City Hall. It turned into a busy meeting with Mayor Curry and Former Mayor Jake Godbold both speaking. Today there was a historical aspect to the meeting as the attendees learned how JEA was formed. There will be two JEA Fact Finding meetings in December and Council Member Boylan encouraged everyone to watch the meetings online if they could not attend in person. Council Member Boylan confirmed that City Council is the final authority if the sale of JEA will proceed and/or if the sale will make it to a ballot.

Council Member Boylan – 904-255-5206 or [MBoylan@coj.net](mailto:MBoylan@coj.net)

**Carol Brock, City Council District 3, Executive Council Assistant** extended an invitation to a Holiday Open House on Wednesday, December 4, 2019, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at City Hall at St. James, Suite 425. Following the Holiday Open House will be the Christmas Tree Lighting

Ceremony in Hemming Park. The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony is expected to begin at 6:25 pm.

**Staff Reports:**

**JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office)** – Lieutenant Dash announced overall crime in Zone 3 is down except homicides and carjacking. Lieutenant Dash encouraged everyone to drive with their vehicles locked. Lieutenant Dash stressed the 9:00 pm Routine; everyone was encouraged to not leave money, valuables, car keys, wallets/purses and guns in their vehicles unattended.

Zone 3 substation – 8875 Liberty Ridge Drive, Suite 110, 32256 – 904-828-5463

**Neighborhoods Municipal Code Compliance** – Robert Crawford shared in past 30 days the Zone 3 Code Compliance team has completed over 1091 cases and has collected 310 snipe signs since October 1, 2019. The Zone 3 team completed a systematic inspection in Pickwick Park which created 160 new cases with 196 violations. Most of the adult arcades have been closed in Jacksonville and it doesn't appear that they will be re-opening any time soon.

Robert Crawford – RobertC@coj.net

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services** – Keith Meyerl provided the following updates:

- County Dock Park is under construction and should be open to the public in Spring 2020.
- Mandarin Park received a Fine Grant to expand the floating dock system; this should be completed in Fall 2020.
- A splash pad will be added to Deerwood Rotary Park; completed fall 2020.
- Camp Tomahawk Park will be treated for invasive plant species in the north portion of the park.
- San Marco Square Park will have new lighting installed around the palm trees.
- The Light Boat Parade will take place on Friday, November 29, 2019 at 7:00 pm. The parade can be viewed from Northbank and Southbank Riverwalks.
- The December 2019 Art Walk in Heming Park will have a Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 4, 2019 at 6:00 pm.
- Mandarin Museum will host a holiday event on Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 11 am to 4 pm.

**Planning & Development Department** – Arimus Wells did not have a report, but was available for questions.

Arimus Wells - ArimusW@coj.net

**Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3 minute time limit):**

**LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – On behalf of LUZ Subcommittee Chair Pete Gentry, Arimus Wells informed the CPAC the LUZ Subcommittee reviewed five LUZ applications tonight, but no motions or actions were made.

**Nomination** – Nancy Barry, Joanne Parker Griffin, Robin Pickle, Jim Hill and Kathleen Perera represented the Nomination Subcommittee. Mr. Hill and Ms. Perera presented the slate of officers to the CPAC. The nominees were: Carol D'Onofrio for Chair and Jon Malmind for Vice Chair. Mr. Hill called for nominations from the floor three times for each position. No nominations from the floor were made. Thank you Carol and Jon for serving another year as the SE CPAC Chair and Vice Chair.

**North Florida TPO** – Jim Hill did not have a report

**TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission** – Vacant- Chair D'Onofrio inquired if anyone would be interested in representing the SE CPAC on the TRUE Commission.

**Neighborhood Coordinator Report** – Rosemary Wesolowski thanked the members of the Nomination Subcommittee. Rosemary announced that the Neighborhood Department and the Neighborhood Services Office will offer CommUniverCity – Leadership Training again in 2020. Flyers and registration forms are available by the sign in sheets.

**Chairs Report** – Chair D'Onofrio asked Vice Chair Malmind to provide an update on the CPAC Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting with the Polish Delegation.

Vice Chair Malmind informed the CPAC that he and the other CPAC Chairs, along with representatives from the Neighborhood Services Office meet with 17 Polish Delegation members on November 8, 2019 in the Ed Ball Building. Through interpreters, they discussed a variety of topics, but citizen/community volunteerism was a topic that they discussed at length.

Chair D'Onofrio announced on November 8, 2019 she attended the CPAC Chairs meeting with the Mayor's Office. At this meeting the importance of the Census was discussed again.

Chair D'Onofrio announced that the Council on Elder Affairs will host the Mayor's Holiday Festival for Senior Citizens on December 7, 2019 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street. There will be dancing, dining and entertainment at the Holiday Festival. Tickets are required and can be purchased for \$5 for seniors over the age of 60 at City hall or any of the Senior Citizen Centers.

The December SE CPAC meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2019. This will be a short meeting followed by dinner at Miller's Ale House in the parking lot of the Avenue's Mall. Please RSVP to Rosemary if you plan to attend the dinner.

**Unfinished Business** – none

**New Business** – Member Howard Murphy reminded the CPAC that FDOT will host another community meeting in regard to changes to the I-295 Express Lanes construction project between S.R. 9B and J. Turner Butler Boulevard (S.R. 202). This community meeting will be held Thursday, December 5, 2019 at the Adam W. Herbert University Center (Grand Banquet Hall), 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224. There will be an open house to view proposed project displays and discuss proposed changes with project staff and consultants from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A formal presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by a public comment period. Ms. Howard Murphy encouraged all to attend in effort to get the sound wall extended in front of Twin Lakes Elementary School and Twin Lakes Middle School.

**Public Comment** – Member Henry Rogers announced that he would be dancing in the Nutcracker again this year and he hopes we come see him.

**Motion to Adjourn**

**The next meeting of the District 3 CPAC will be Monday, December 16, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the NEFAR Office, 7801 Deercreek Club Road, Jacksonville FL, 32256**