

Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 26, 2024, Meeting Summary

Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Susan Bailey, Linkside Baymeadows; Nancy Barry, Brierwood Neighborhood Association; Joyce Brown, Pine Forest Community Action Corp.; Walter Bryant, St. Nicholas Area Preservation; Ramon Day, Timberland Ridge HOA, Inc.; Carol D'Onofrio, Deercreek Owners Association; Carol Eichling, Village Green Two Condo Association; Sharon Ervin, Riverbrook at Glen Kernan HOA, Inc.; Clifton Green, The Arc Jacksonville Village; Jose Gonzalez, Mandarin Community Center; Donna Herrin, Sweetwater by Del Webb; William Herron, Shiloh Creek; Jim Hill, Greater Hood Road Community Association; Abby Howard Murphy, Hampton Glen at Deerwood HOA; Rich Horvath, Cypress Trails HOA, Inc.; Debbie Johnson, The Gables Homeowners Association; Scott Koslowski, James Island Homeowners Association; Joe Luczak, Bartram Springs HOA; Jon Malmind, Oak View Corner Owners Association; Sherry Marks, Kernan Mills Community Association; Rowena Nagales, Riverbrook at Glen Kernan HOA; Kathleen Perera, Alumni Civic Association; John Reed, Linkside of Baymeadows; Linda Gail Rowe, Lake Mandarin HOA; Craig Shoup, Council At-Large Group 2; Kathy Soares, Highland Glen HOA; James Taylor, Deerwood Improvement Association; Gary Weise, Secret Cove Civic Association

Excused: Dick Cardell, The Lakewood Community; Joanne Griffin, Villa San Jose Civic Association; Andrea Letizia, Williamstown, HOA

Visitors: Margie Cummins; Shann Mills, San Jose Forest; Bob Chamberlain, Edgewater at Sunbeam; Jonathan Burgess, Edgewater at Sunbeam; User's iPad

Staff: Charles Benson, Municipal Code Compliance; George Foote, Executive Council Assistant, District 5; Assistant Chief Glossman, JSO; Jackie Gregson, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Chip Harper, MVA; Ben Kodatt, JFRD; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Eric Soriano, JPL; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum:

Vice Chair Shoup called the SE CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting at the Mandarin Senior Center and on Zoom. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – The January 2024 meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Barabra Wingo, President, Norman Studios Silent Film Museum, Inc. informed the CPAC about the history of the silent film industry and the revitalization of the Norman Studios Silent Film Museum.

In the early twentieth century, for a brief period of time, Jacksonville Florida was dubbed the Winter Film Capital of the World. Many silent film studios set up shop locally. In 1916 in the Arlington area, Eagle Film City was formed. In the early 1920's this studio was purchased by Richard E. Norman and became known as Norman Laboratories. Norman Laboratories released films under the name Norman Film MFG and Norman Studios. Mr. Norman's films were among the nation's first to produce race films starring African American characters in positive, non-stereotypical roles.

Norman Studios consisted of a five-building complex located at 6337 Arlington Road and is the sole silent film studio remnant from Jacksonville's heyday as the Winter Film Capital of the World. Several silent movies were made at Norman Studios between 1920 and 1928; several of the films were filmed entirely on the property.

After the cameras stopped rolling at Norman Studios, the property would become known as the Gloria Norman Dance Studio, which operated at this location from 1935 to 1976. In the 1990's an Arlington preservation group was formed, to help save the historic, but rapidly deteriorating film/dance studio buildings. In 2002, the City of Jacksonville purchased four of the five original buildings and stabilization of the buildings and restoration on the exterior of the buildings was completed in 2007. Recently, the City of Jacksonville was able to purchase the fifth building which was the original set/stage building, thus reuniting all the original buildings. This newly acquired building was recently unanimously voted by Jacksonville City Council to be named the Rita F. Reagan Building to honor the longtime preservationist and Norman Studios Silent Film Museum co-founder. The efforts of Old Arlington Inc, and Ms. Reagan were validated when the studios and property were designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service in 2016.

If you are interested in learning more about Norman Studios, please visit the studios on the first or the third Saturday of each month from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at 6337 Arlington Road, 32211 or visit their website at Normanstudios.org.

Elected Officials Report:

George Foote, City Council District 5 Executive Council Assistant, provided the following updates:

- The San Marco trashcan installation project is scheduled to take place on March 4, 2024.
- Tree installation in the medians along Baymeadows Road has been approved.
- At the state level, legislation has been introduced to make it illegal for people to sleep on public property. This includes sidewalks, city parks and right of way areas.
- FDOT is conducting underwater work near the John T. Lowe Boat Ramp at Goodby's Creek and has been using the parking lot in the park as a staging area; the FDOT project should be completed in March.
- Mr. Foote and a Public Works team member will work in the field to assess curbs, storm water and flooding in Council District 5.
- Councilmember Joe Carlucci is still waiting on a quote to have a water line installed on Wright Avenue in the Pine Forest community.

Joe Carlucci – 904-255-5205 or JoeCarlucci@coj.net

Staff Reports:

JSO – Assistant Chief Glossman, shared the following updates from JSO:

- In the last 30 days in the Southeast District, crimes against persons were up by 20 incidents. Crimes against persons include the following categories, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, abductions, all sexual offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, and simple assault. JSO has made a sizable number of arrests in this category.
- In the crimes against property category, District 3 is down by 10 incidents.
- Motor vehicle thefts increased by 16 incidents. This is attributed to the thefts of Kia and Hyundai vehicles. If you own one of these brands of vehicles, please take the vehicle to a local dealer to get a software update.

District 3 Substation – 904-630-8100

JFRD – Captain Ben Kodatt, introduced himself to the CPAC and provided the following recommendations:

- If you need assistance to check and/or change the batteries in your smoke detectors or need a smoke detector, please call 630-CITY or enter your request online using the MyJax system.
- A new Marine Fire Station was opened today (February 26, 2024) on Scott Mills Road, just north of I-295.
- JFRD will complete their annual inspections of the local fire hydrants in February. It was confirmed that JFRD inspects the fire hydrants, but the fire hydrants are owned and maintained by JEA.
- There is a year-round ban on burning trash. The only types of open fires that are allowed in Duval County are small recreational fires in a firepit and a fire in a bar-b-que pit and/or smokers for cooking purposes.

Captain Kodatt – BDKodatt@coj.net

JPL – Eric Soriano, shared the following information:

- On January 27, 2024, Mayor Deegan's River City Readers program kicked off for students of all ages. The reading program encourages all students to read at least 20 minutes a day through the Beanstack app. The goal is to have 300,000 reading minutes logged on to the Beanstack app by the end of the year. So far, this reading program is very successful, and the goal of reading minutes may need to be raised; program participants have almost reached the established goal very quickly. For more information about the challenge, please use the following web address: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/mayor-deegans-river-city-readers-citywide-literacy-challenge>
- JPL, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) have partnered again to bring free tax preparations to the community. Appointments are mandatory. Please contact your local library branch for more details and/or an appointment.
- JPL has big plans to celebrate Reading Week – March 3-9, 2024. During this week there will be a series of programs and events at all libraries across Jacksonville. Some of the library events include an animal investigation with Molly of Denali, live reptile shows, a Junior Lit Chat and book giveaway to name a few. Please visit <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/celebrate-reading-week-where-wild-books-are> to learn more about Reading Week.

Eric Soriano – esoriano@coj.net

JTA – Cheryl Riddick announced JTA is holding a series of public meetings to seek public input regarding proposed fare policy modifications for JTA services. The meetings will be held as an open house format and will begin on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Details about the public meeting will be shared with Rosemary to disseminate to the CPAC. Ms. Riddick also shared that there are no fare changes proposed for customers who are 65 and older.

Cheryl Riddick – 904-632-5522

Municipal Code Compliance Division – Charles Benson, Zone 3 Supervisor, introduced himself to the SE CPAC and provided the following report:

On February 6, 2024, a pro-active inspection was conducted on Sunbeam Road, between Philips Highway and San Jose Boulevard. Most of the concerns are associated businesses and their signage.

In March, there will be a pro-active inspection in the Englewood neighborhood.

If you have an old Code Enforcement concern or complaint that was reported to 630-CITY and you are dissatisfied with how it was handled, please send an email to:

codeenforcement@coj.net. Please include the case number/reference number, the address where the concern is located, explain why you do not like how the issue was handled, provide your contact information and a Code Compliance Officer will contact you to discuss the issue. The Jacksonville Assistance and Relief or JAR program was reviewed. The purpose of the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program is to facilitate a means of compliance for those who would otherwise be unable to achieve it due to disability or economic disadvantages. If you cannot comply with the violations on your property due to a disability or economic hardship, please feel free to visit: <https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>

Florida Senate Bill 60 prohibits code inspectors from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints. The tickets will be closed if they are submitted anonymously.

John Williams – 904-255-7000

Military Veterans Affairs – Chip Harper provided the following updates:

- The Military Standdown that was held on January 26 and 27, 2024, at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds was a big success and served over 500 needy veterans.
- The Military Affairs and Veterans Department also provides tax preparation to veterans and enlisted men alike. Call 904-255-5550 for more information.
- The Players Championship Military Job Fair will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Patriots' Outpost, TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. 32082 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- A Memorial Day Observance will be held on Monday, May 27, 2024, at 8:30 am at the Veteran's Memorial Wall, 1145 East Adams Street (between TIAA Bank Field and the 121 Baseball Grounds).
- The 7th Annual Military Spouses Night Out will be held on June 20, 2024, 5 to 8 pm at the Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena. Pre-registration is required. Please register at Jacksonville.Gov/MSNO

Chip Harper – 904-255-5522

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Jackie Gregson stated:

- At the Mandarin Senior Center, the two smaller buildings on the property are under renovation and the renovations should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- A new playground is currently in the design phase at Tommy Hazouri Park and paddleboard rentals will be added to the park.
- At Walter Jones Historical Park, the floors in the restrooms are having new epoxy floors installed.

- The City of Jacksonville would like to hire approximately 375 lifeguards for the upcoming summer months. Handouts were available that contained information about hiring, job duties, training locations and public pool locations.
- The City of Jacksonville has 30 pools it can open if enough lifeguards are hired.
- Several of the swimming pools are being renovated; renovations at the Pine Forest swimming pool were completed a couple of months ago and the Englewood swimming pool is under major renovation. The swimming pool at Wolfson High School is in good shape and is ready to open in May.

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – 904-255-7907

Planning & Development Department – Bruce Lewis represented Kaysie Cox at the LUZ

Subcommittee - no report

Kaysie Cox – 904-255-7853 or KaysieC@coj.net

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

Land Development Regulation Stakeholder Advisory Committee – Jose' Gonzalez announced that the General Land Development Regulation Board did not meet in February, but the Neighborhood Subcommittee did meet, Mr. Gonzalez is serving on this subcommittee.

The purpose of the committee is to look at the future to ensure Jacksonville will remain resilient for the next 50 years. At the Neighborhood Subcommittee meeting, they discussed the possibilities of changing building codes to see if this will lead to more resilient development.

LUZ– Craig Shoup – informed the CPAC that the subcommittee reviewed six new LUZ applications and no motions were made.

North Florida TPO – Jim Hill – stated the NFTPO did not address anything specific to the Southeast District, but they are working on a list of priority projects.

Park Safety Council – Walter Bryant – no report

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Ramon Day – not present.

Neighborhood Coordinator Report – Rosemary Wesolowski – announced that the Neighborhood Services Office will offer CommUniverCity in the month of April. CommUniverCity, is a neighborhood leadership training program and it is comprised of six classes and will conclude with a bus tour and graduation. The applications are due March 8, 2024.

Rosemary Wesolowski 904-255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net

Chairs Report – Vice Chair Shoup did not have a report.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business – None

Public Comment – None

Motion to Adjourn – there was a motion to adjourn and a second.

The next meeting of the District 3 CPAC will be a hybrid meeting on **Monday, March 25, 2024**, at 6:30 pm. Join us in-person at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, 32257 or virtually on Zoom.