

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

August 7, 2023, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Main Library 303 North Laura Street, Conference Level, Multipurpose Room and on ZOOM

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senor, Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Ernest Smith, Plaza Condominium Association; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood

Excused: Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, Inc.

ZOOM: Dosia Pickney, Cathy Reed and Kim Pryor

Visitors: Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Jax; Vanessa DeSue; Brenda Thomas, Ashley Square Apartment Community; Mike Haskins, Executive Director - SPAR Council; Marjorie Wilson; Richard Lewis; Ramon L. Day, Hakimian Holdings; Fred Atwill, Hakimian Holdings; Robert Maldonado; Honey Holzendorf; Dawn Curling; Catherine Griffin.

Staff and Elected Officials: Chris Billings, Supervisor, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools; Cpt. Charles Johnson, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department; Michael Pinckney, Jacksonville Public Works – Solid Waste; Lt. Michael Senterfitt, Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Scott Schneider, Duval County Public Schools.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. Edwina Henry confirmed a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Previous Summaries from prior Meetings: The May 2023 and June 2023 Meeting Summaries were approved by CPAC Members.

3. Presentation: Garold Smith, Acuity Design Group (ADG) Mark “Parks Master Plan”
Mr. Smith gave a power point presentation on the Jacksonville Parks Master Plan Update. His company, ADG, is part of a consulting group, working in partnership with the City of Jacksonville, Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

The Consulting Group is tasked with creating a 10-year vision for the City’s future parks system; addressing how to equitably improve and enhance the parks throughout all communities; and ensuring that improvements are sustainable and resilient.

Currently the City has 405 City Parks, covering 36,831 acres – 59 miles of paved trails, 141 miles of unpaved trails, 195 playgrounds and 137 parks with courts.

The project began by assessing current conditions, then moved into generating ideas and is now moving into Phase II which begins with Public Input. Now through September the Consulting Team will be visiting all six CPAC meetings and other public workshops to get public input. The next round of meetings will be with stakeholder focus groups: City leadership meetings and in 2024 another round of Public Workshops to present findings and get more feedback on plans.

For more information, go to www.imaginejaxparks.com

Plan Update Contacts:

Daryl Joseph	Jill Enz	Cantrece Jones
Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services	Chief, Natural and Marine Resources	ADG Mark Public Involvement
(904) 255-7907	(904) 255-7907	(904) 619-8605
DJoseph@coj.net	JEnz@coj.net	hello@adgmark.com

Park Questions:

Email	Call	Web
jaxparks@coj.net	(904) 630-CITY (2489)	Jaxparks.com

4. Elected Officials Report: None.

5. Chair’s Report: None.

6. Staff Reports:

- **JSO – Lt. Mike Senterfitt – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office (904) 924-5361 – Zone 1** - addressed concerns about “vagrants” in the urban core. JSO can distinguish between those who “choose” to live on the streets and those in need of services to get off the streets.

Rezoning – Patrol Sectors are now divided so that there is one officer per sub-sector. Purpose: for officers to get to know the people in the area; re-instill sense of ownership of the area and give more opportunities for bike officers to patrol.

JSO is aware that the Shell Gas Station and the 7-11 are “hot spots” for drug activities and other crimes. It has been requested that officers focus attention on these areas in particular at night, as they are congregation spots and present quality of life issues. JSO is hoping to get stronger, clearer city ordinances so that those being arrested will have to pay the consequences for their actions.

- **JFRD – Capt. Charles Johnson – Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (904) 255-8560 – JohnsonC@coj.net** – emphasized the importance of being prepared during hurricane season. Capt. Johnson discussed downloading informational applications onto smart phones, such as JAX Ready, which provides GEO positioning, listing of evacuation zones, shelters and other information that one would need during an emergency.
- **JPL – Greg Pierce for Keli Likins – Jacksonville Public Library – (904) 255-6068 – Gpierce@coj.net** - Mr. Pierce noted that the Summer Programs at the Library were “winding down,” as children are returning back to school. He did note that the Main Library has been designated as one of several area “cooling centers” during the recent heat advisories.

Upcoming events at the Main Library are: (1) a traveling exhibit on the Holocaust, 9/6/2023 through 10/12/2023 and (2) The Bookfest, 9/22-23/2023.

- MCCD – Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor – *Municipal Code Compliance Division* – (904) 497-9543 CBillings@coj.net** Mr. Billings reported Since our June meeting: MCCD officers completed 3,127 inspections within the Urban Core. Citing 1,518 nuisance properties, 767 Residential maintenance issues, and 102 Junk Vehicles.

On July 11th MCCD conducted a targeted systematic inspection in Mid Westside, resulting in 231 cases created, ranging from nuisance issues to unsafe structures.

The inspections also resulted in the removal of 50 litter signs within the last 30 days. He noted that litter sign violations should be reported through the My JAX App or by calling 630-CITY.

For property owners receiving code violations and are unable to pay or make corrections, the JAR (Jacksonville Assistance and Relief) Program may be available to those meeting all requirements. Mr. Billings further noted that “the JAR Program prevents liens from being placed on the property after the abatement occurs or remove liens that have already been placed; it will not prevent the abatement.” [COJ.net - Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program](#)
- JEA – Jenelle Melton, Government Relations Coordinator – (904) 665-5102 miltjil@jea.com** Ms. Melton discussed the “Restoration 1-2-3” process which is followed after storms and is designed to “assess and repair JEA facilities and restore power as quickly and safely as possible.”

Phase 1: Public Safety – as soon as weather conditions permit, JEA will repair power plants, transmission lines, substations, and water and sewer facilities. Then restore power to local hospitals, shelters and police and fire stations. **Phase 2: Individual Customers** - priority repairs are those restoring power to the greatest number of customers. **Phase 3: Final Repairs** – targeting the few remaining isolated outages.
- PW – Mike Pinckney, Chief of Solid Waste Division – (904) 255-7500 MPinckne@coj.net** – reported “no issues” with downtown waste collections. The Solid Waste Division is working on a compost program and is working through recycling issues. The Urban Core has completed its re-orientation on recycling and the division has seen improvements.

Additional Reports

- DCPS – Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent of Schools - *Duval County Public Schools* – (904) 390-2000 [Duval County Public Schools / Homepage \(duvalschools.org\)](http://duvalschools.org)** - announced that schools are back in session today (8/07/2023). The Superintendent discussed the following:

 - Duval County Public School Police have two new K-9 Members: LEO, a drug sniffing dog and Maverick, whose specialty is sniffing out firearms. Both will assist school police with conducting random school searches, investigating threats and working large events.
 - Centegix – a new badge-based, emergency alert system is being implemented in Duval schools. The badges contain a button when depressed will send an immediate alert to school administrators to commence lockdown procedures. The alert will also immediately notify school police and Jacksonville-area law enforcement that there is an emergency and lockdown is being initiated. Sensors located inside and outside the school will allow staff and police to pinpoint the location of the employee who activated the alert.
 - Shortage of school bus drivers may cause some delays in bus schedules. DCPS is working with JTA to allow students to ride JTA busses to get to school. School bus delays of 30 minutes or greater will be posted online.

7. Old Business: None.

8. New Business: None.

9. Subcommittees and Liaisons:

- **Governmental Affairs – Dimitri Demopoulos, Subcommittee Chair**
The Subcommittee met at 5 pm. and discussed three Land use Applications – No Action Taken.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement – Rev. Keith Davis, Subcommittee Chair**
Pastor Davis – excused absence – no report.
- **Homelessness – Cindy Watson, Subcommittee Chair**
The subcommittee met on June 20, 2023 – requested report be tabled until September Meeting.

10. Public Comments and Announcements: None.

11. Adjournment: 6:40 pm

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is **Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at 5:30 pm** – The Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, 32202, **in Room G-4.**

Summary prepared by: Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, (904) 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net.
A copy of the audio recording of this Urban Core CPAC Meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City's Website: Public Records.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at V (904) 255-5476, or email your request to ADAAccommodationsRequest@coj.net.