

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

May 3, 2021 Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, First Floor Training Room, Jacksonville, FL 32202 and on Zoom

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Kim Pryor, Chair; Glen VanVorst, Vice Chair; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Tia Keitt, Historic Eastside CDC; Celia Miller, Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; John Shermataro, SAMBA; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral

Excused: Bill Hoff, SPAR Council; Greg Radlinski, Parks at the Cathedral

Visitors: Richard Lewis; Keith Davis; Veronica Brown; Kyle Hayes; Angelica Rodrigue; Ernest Smith III, Brian Jefferson, Ryan Akin

Staff and Elected Officials: Nikki Evans, Executive Council Aide for Council Member Ronald Salem, At-Large Group 2; Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board; Julie McNeil, JPL; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Dana Kriznar, DCPS; Will Williams, PW; Cheryl Reddick, Jacksonville Transportation Authority; Adam Pendley, JSO; Berdell Knowles, JEA; Jessica Denson, Neighborhood Services Office; Connor Corrigan, Planning and Development

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Pryor called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Jessica Denson confirmed a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The April meeting summary was approved by the CPAC Members.
- 3. Presentation:** Kyle Hayes, Environmental Department Manager at Terracon, informed UC CPAC members about the City of Jacksonville's Brownfields Assessment Grant Program. The grant award is \$300,000 (\$150,000 for hazardous substances and \$150,000 for petroleum). The grant focuses on Downtown Jacksonville with the target area being McCoy Creek and Hogan's Creek. A Brownfield site is a property whose full use is hindered by fears of environmental contamination. Examples of Brownfield property includes vacant properties, abandoned properties, dry cleaners, former gas stations, landfills, illicit dump sites, industrial properties, junkyards, mine-scarred adjacent lands, rail yards and adjacent facilities. The Brownfield Program has Federal and State level programs. The Federal Program focuses on grant funding and job training. The State Program can vary by state, concentrating on financial incentives, regulatory benefits/liability protection, and technical assistance. The State Program is supported with federally funded projects. The redevelopment of Brownfield properties will benefit the community by increasing job growth and local tax base, utilize existing infrastructure, reduce blight, and improve and protect the environment. Please visit www.coj.net and search "Brownfield" for additional information, or to apply for the Brownfields Assessment Grant.

Kyle Hayes may be reached at (904)549-7371 or Kyle.Hayes@terracon.com.

- 4. Public Comment:** None
- 5. Elected Official's Report:**

Nicole Evans, Executive Council Aide for Council Member Ronald Salem, At-Large Group

2- announced that the five City Council At-Large Members are each hosting a Town Hall Meeting regarding the proposed gas tax increase. Council Member Salem's hybrid Town Hall Meeting will be held on May 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. located at the Regency Square Branch Library or via Zoom. Nicole will forward Jessica Denson the meeting notices for each At-Large Council Member Town Hall Meeting.

Nicole Evans may be reached at (904)255-5179 or nevans@coj.net

Vice Chair Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board- reported that the Sales Surtax Oversight Committee is currently searching for local businesses in each district to become a vendor. He informed CPAC Members that most of the students are attending school in person. Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) will continue to follow COVID-19 protocols by requiring students and staff to wear a mask and maintain 6 feet distance. On May 4, 2021, the School Board will vote on the graduation waiver. Students are still required to attempt to pass the Florida Standards Assessments test. Starting next school year, a digital textbook will be used in the High School curriculum. For more information go to www.duvalschools.org .

Vice Chair Darryl Willie may be reached at (904)390-2374 or willied@duvalschools.org

6. **Chairs Report** – Chair Pryor reviewed outstanding items on the UC CPAC Action Items List.
7. **Old Business** – Chair Pryor lead a discussion and reviewed seven CIP recommendations to be considered for inclusion into the City proposed FY2022-2026 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). CPAC Members approved all seven recommendations. Chair Pryor will forward Jessica Denson the UC CPAC CIP recommendation letter to be submitted to Teresa Eichner, Capital & Budget Operations Administrator by May 14, 2021
8. **New Business** – Vice-Chair Glen VanVorst stated the Plaza Condominium received a social media post regarding two Town Hall Meetings to discuss the design of the Riverfront Plaza (Formerly the Jacksonville Landing). The meetings will be held on May 6, 2021, and May 20, 2021. Vice-Chair VanVorst would like the UC CPAC to submit a letter in support of the design. Vice-Chair VanVorst will attend the meetings and provide more information on the designs at the next UC CPAC Meeting.
9. **Subcommittees:**
 - **Code Enforcement and Blight:** Vice-Chair VanVorst- no report
 - **Homelessness:** Cindy Watson – no report
 - **Governmental Affairs:** Bill Hoff - On behalf of the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Chair, CPAC member Dimitri Demopoulos stated that the subcommittee reviewed one Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) application. No action was taken.

10. Staff Reports:

- **Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA)-** Berdell Knowles reported that Jay Stowe is Jacksonville Electric Authority's (JEA) new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Mr. Stowe is originally from Huntsville, Alabama, and has been with JEA for five months now. JEA is currently preparing for a safe and reliable hurricane season. Mr. Knowles encouraged the CPAC Members to get acquainted with the JEA outage maps. For more information visit www.JEA.com .
- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)-** Julie McNeil encouraged the CPAC Members to participate in the Urban Branch Study Community Meetings. The study will include Brown Eastside, Bill Brinton- Murray Hill, Brentwood, Dallas Graham, and Westbrook libraries. The purpose of the meetings is to allow the community to provide feedback about the library's space. The meetings will include a survey, and walk-through of the libraries participating in the study. Ms. McNeil also informed the CPAC members that all 20 library branches are open.
For more information go to www.jacksonvillepubliclibrary.org
- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) –** Dana Kriznar, Deputy Superintendent, reported the following:
 - DCPS launched a website that will display the half-penny sales tax referendum funds and DCPS's progress.
 - DCPS is hosting a six-week summer enrichment program for grades kindergarten-8th students. The deadline to submit applications is May 7, 2021.
 - Teachers' Appreciation Week will be May 3, 2021 – May 7, 2021.
 - The school choice deadline has been extended and will be accepting late applications.

- John Love Elementary School will be reconfigured into a complimentary Early Learning Center for three- and four-year-olds. The Early Learning Coalition of Duval and United Way will sponsor the three-year-old "Success by 6 Program" at the new center. The center will have a full-day VPK Program for four-year-old. The school transformation will take place in August 2021.

For more information go to: dcps.duvalschools.org

Deputy Superintendent Kriznar may be reached at kriznard@duvalschools.org

- **Public Works (PW)** – Will Williams, Chief, Solid Waste Division, stated PW had no updates and opened the floor for questions or concerns.

CPAC Member Celia Miller stated her neighborhood yard waste is not being collected frequently, and it takes eight weeks or more before the waste is collected. The yard waste should be collected weekly. Ms. Miller stated she has submitted several service requests surrounding this issue and will forward the service requests to Neighborhood Coordinator Jessica Denson. Chief Williams said he was concerned because she has mentioned this problem before. Chief Williams offered to send his staff to meet with Ms. Miller on May 4, 2021, so she can show Public Works (PW) the location of concern. Ms. Miller stated she was unavailable to meet with PW on that day. Chief Williams said he will assess the neighborhood himself after his meetings on May 4, 2021.

CPAC Member Tia Keitt wanted to know what type of project is taking place on Albert Street. Chief Williams stated that he needed more details. Ms. Keitt stated she will email Chief Williams more details regarding Albert Street.

Chief Williams may be reached at (904)255-7512 and willw@coj.net

- **Municipal Code Compliance (MCCD):** Robert Bautochka, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported that in April, MCCD completed 1,316 inspections in the Urban Core District. MCCD will conduct a systematic inspection in the Eastside area, and Laura Street in the month of May. He stated Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) has almost one hundred thousand dollars left. Only a dozen people have utilized the program. The JAR Program may prevent a lien from being placed on your property. Please visit the Municipal Code Compliance Departments website for more information:

www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program

Robert Bautochka can be reached at RBautochka@coj.net or (904)-255-7055

- **Public Comments** – None

11. **Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, First Floor Training Room and via Zoom.

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](#).