

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

November 2, 2020 Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Kim Pryor, Chair; Glen VanVorst, Vice Chair; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Bill Hoff, SPAR Council; Tia Keitt, Eastside CDC; Greg Radlinski, Parks at the Cathedral; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Cindy Watson. JASMYN

Excused: Celia Miller, Good Neighbor M.A.N.I.A.; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch

Visitors: Richard Lewis

Staff and Elected Officials Bradley Clayton, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning & Development Department; Gary Kuehner, JFRD; Laura Minor, JPL; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Will Williams, Public Works

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** CPAC Chair Kim Pryor called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Staff confirmed a quorum.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The October meeting summary will be presented and voted on at the next CPAC meeting.
3. **Presentation:** No presentation, but Chair Pryor inquired if anyone had any suggestions for presentation(s) in the future. Please share your suggestions.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Elected Official's Report:** None
6. **Chairs Report** – Chair Pryor reminded the CPAC about the attendance policy located in the CPAC Executive Orders and By-Laws. If a CPAC member has three consecutive unexcused absences, they will be removed from the CPAC. Everyone was encouraged to attend the meetings and/or top get an alternate to ensure their community is represented at all of the CPAC meetings.
7. **Old Business** – It was requested to re-submit a concern to FDOT regarding the dip in the road on Main Street by MLK. It continues to be a problem.
8. **New Business** – Member Greg Radlinski informed the CPAC that a group of individuals have taken up residence under the Main Street Bridge (north bank side) thus creating a problem with litter. Since the Jacksonville Landing has been demolished, none the trash cans around the Main Street Bridge has not been emptied. It was stated all the trash cans and the large dumpster in the former Jacksonville Landing parking lot (on Independent Drive) are overflowing and need to be emptied. Mr. Williams, Chief of Solid Waste was present and noted the concern.
9. **Subcommittees:**
 - **Code Enforcement and Blight** – announced he did not hold a subcommittee meeting in November, but Vice Chair Van Vorst shared that the city is reviewing a permit application from developer Jacksonville Riverfront Revitalization LLC to demolish the 18-story structure at 500 E. Bay Street (Berkman II) along the St. Johns River. Arwood Inc. is the demolition contractor. Subcontractor Controlled Demolition Inc. of Phoenix, Maryland, would execute the implosion, according to a letter from Arwood filed with the permit application.

Jacksonville Riverfront Revitalization intends to redevelop the property with mixed-use retail, a 300-unit residential development and public park space.

- **Homelessness:** Cindy Watson – announced the Homelessness Subcommittee did not meet in November, but the subcommittee did meet in September and October. The subcommittee members reviewed data from the 2020 Point in Time Count and at the October 19, 2020 subcommittee meeting, they met with Dawn Gilman. Ms. Gilman is the CEO with Changing Homelessness and she provided an overview of the homeless population in Jacksonville. The overview included:
Nearly 2,000 homeless people in Jacksonville have received help in August from Changing Homelessness and the 35 other agencies that work together. Changing Homelessness received \$1.2 million from the State of Florida in September 2020 to fight homelessness and another \$1.7 million from the City of Jacksonville in October 2020. The money from the City of Jacksonville was from the HUD Emergency Solutions Grant. With this grant from the city, Changing Homelessness has the money to move people to hotel and motel rooms. The state grant funds will be used to move people out of hotels and into a permanent home in 30 days or less. Since March 17, 2020 Changing Homelessness have moved 50 homeless veterans into households off the streets with money from the CARES Act.

It was noted that it is too early for to know the impact the pandemic has had on the homeless population. An extensive Covid-19 testing program was executed, and Jacksonville is one of two cities in the US where all homeless people were tested for coronavirus. Of the nearly 700 tested in Jacksonville, all the results were negatives.

There was considerable discussion about the needs/services of the homeless, funding sources for homeless housing and/or services, affordable housing and how the CPAC could assist amongst to help improve homelessness in the Urban Core District. No official recommendation(s) or role was identified by the CPAC.

- **North Florida TPO:** Celia Miller – was not in attendance
- **Governmental Affairs:** Tia Keitt informed the CPAC that the Governmental Affairs Subcommittee reviewed five Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) applications and no recommendations or motions were made.
- **Nomination:** Cindy Watson conducted the election for the 2021 CPAC Chair and Vice Chair. The slate of officers was presented to the CPAC membership and three calls for nominations from the floor were made for each position. The election determined that Kim Pryor will serve as Chair and Glen Van Vorst will serve as Vice Chair in 2021. Congratulations!

10. Staff Reports

- **JFRD** – Gary Kuehner from Fire Station 4 reminded the CPAC to change the batteries in their smoke detectors and encouraged everyone to download the Jax Ready app. There is another hurricane in the Caribbean and the Jax Ready app can help keep you informed about the storm and storm related issues.
- **JSO – Assistant Chief Pendley** – not in attendance
James.Pendly@JaxSheriff.org
- **Duval County Public Schools** - Dr. Dana Kriznar was not in attendance
- **JPL- Laura Minor** informed the CPAC that all branches of the library has reopened. The hours for the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street are: Mon- Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; closed on Sunday. Please use the following web address for the hours at other branches: www.jaxpubliclibrary.org Ms. Minor reminded everyone that all late fees are waived through the remainder of the year.
- **JTA - Cheryl Riddick** informed the CPAC that JTA several route changes today. JTA has been reviewing ridership closely since the onset of the pandemic. To accommodate riders, routes have been added and additional services are being brought online.

Ms. Riddick informed the CPAC that in honor of Election Day, JTA will give away free 1-day bus passes if you bring your "Voted" sticker to the JTRC in LaVilla; this offer/promotion will end on November 10, 2020.

It was announced that the transport service Go Tuk'n is up and running. Go Tuk'n is offering tours and transportation in the Downtown, Riverside and Avondale areas. The

tours feature a wide variety of topics from architectural features, to the significance of the St. Johns River to the settling of the United States by foreign settlers, to the great fire of Jacksonville and more. Tours depart in rain or shine. The vehicles are open air but have covers to protect you from the elements. Additionally, The Go Tuk'n has 20 stops through downtown area Monday through Friday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. For additional information regarding the Go Tuk'n, please email your questions to: hello@gotukn.com

- **Municipal Code Compliance: Bradley Clayton** informed the CPAC about the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program. The purpose of the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program is to facilitate a means of compliance to those who would otherwise be unable to achieve it due to disability or economic disadvantages. The Program's objective is to provide the abatement services required at no cost to those citizens who qualify, thereby achieving compliance and beautification of the City while not unduly burdening its most vulnerable citizens. If you cannot comply 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>

The systematic inspections are underway in the Moncrief area and so far, there are 280 properties cited with violations so far.

- **Public Works – Will Williams**, Chief of Solid Waste clarified the locations of the trash cans and dumpster that are overflowing near the Main Street Bridge. There was a question in regard to the schedule of street sweepers in the Springfield community. Mr. Williams stated that the street sweeping service is located in a different area of Public Works, but he would get that schedule. A concern about the two low areas/dips in the road on South Liberty Street (near Courthouse Drive) remain a problem. Mr. Williams stated work has been completed a couple of times in this area, but the problem seems to return. Mr. Williams will get an update on this issue.
- **Neighborhood Services Office - Rosemary Wesolowski** reminded everyone that the Neighborhood Services Office Awards Program will be held on Zoom this coming Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm. An email that contains the Zoom information for the award program will be resent.
On Saturday, November 14, 2020 the City of Jacksonville and Greenscape will partner to offer a free shred event and tree giveaway at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. Flyers with details on the shred event are located on the sign in table and will be emailed again.
- **Public Comments - None**

11. **Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn and a second and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ed Ball Building, First Floor Training Room.

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](#).