

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee June 3, 2024, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting: Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Conference Level, Multipurpose Room, and on ZOOM.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, UC CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association, Inc.; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Marilyn McGee, First United Methodist Church; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood.

Excused: Juanita Senior, UC CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood.

ZOOM: Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Ernest Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Tina Stanton; Joni Turner, Groundwork Jacksonville; Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Becca Dingler, 2nd Mile Ministries; Mike Haskins, SPAR Council; Dennis Stone, Jacksonville Urban League; Laura Schrau; Mary Ashlee McPherson; Haley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Hank Rogers, Jacksonville Housing Authority Commissioner; Bill Hoff, SAMBA; bfore, Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.

Elected Officials and Staff: The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; Jennell Milton, JEA; Jeremy Norsworthy, JTA; Lieutenant Warren Fleeman, JSO; Garrett Callis, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Erin Abney, Chief of Current Planning, Planning and Development Department; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office.

Guests: Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside; Marjorie Wilson; Natavia Wicker; HECDL/LISC Jax; Karon Thomas, Historic Eastside; Ashley Cox; Paul Houchens, Parks at the Cathedral; Tiffany Clark; Nathan Ballentine; Latrice, Parents Who Lead; Joi Jones-McNear.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary: The CPAC Members approved the May 6, 2024, meeting summary.

3. Presenter: None.

4. Elected Officials Report: The Honorable Warren Jones, School Board Member, Duval County Public Schools, gave the following updates:

- The Duval County Public School Board voted to hire Dr. Christopher Bernier as the Superintendent. Contract negotiations are ongoing with Dr. Bernier, but he is expected to start work on July 1, 2024. He is a very competent and experienced superintendent.

- Dr. Dana Kriznar was acknowledged as having done an outstanding job and her hard work is appreciated. School Board Member Jones indicated that Dr. Kriznar is ready to retire.
- Regarding the list of potential school closures, School Board Member Jones indicated that no schools will be closed this year and that the Board will decide which schools to close or consolidate.
- Each Duval County School Board Member is having a community meeting in their district to discuss school closures. The closest meeting for the Urban Core CPAC Community would be June 10, 2024, 5:30 pm, at the School Board Administration Building.

The Honorable Warren Jones – (904) 390-2000 or jonesw2@duvalschools.org

5. Chair's Report: As a reminder, the UC CPAC does not meet in July, so our next meeting will be Monday, August 5, 2024, at 5:30 pm, here at the Main Public Library, 303 N. Laura Street in the Multipurpose Room.

6. Staff Reports:

JTA – Jeremy Norsworthy, Contract Specialist, provided information on the Transit Development Plan (TDP), which is a strategic plan which guides the development of public transit services over a 10-year period, ensuring alignment with community needs and regular and regulatory requirements.

- The TDP is essential for improving the transit system and for securing vital funding from the Florida Department of Transportation.
- Comprehensive public outreach is a component of the Transit Development Plan. JTA has developed a survey to collect public input from the community, in addition to holding and attending community meetings.
- Data gleaned from the survey and public feedback will help identify service gaps and opportunities for improvement. The feedback will help JTA tailor service recommendations to address specific needs of the community.
- All feedback will be shared with FDOT.

Jeremy Norsworthy, (904) 632-5522 or jnorsworthy@jtafla.com

JPL – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services, announced that it was "summer learning time" at the public library and that this year's theme is "adventure begins at your library."

- In addition to weekly educational programs, the library will have weekly drop-in activities, reading and book related challenges. Activities begin June 3, 2024, and run through August 3, 2024. Please check the website for specific information, www.jaxpubliclibrary.com
- The Third Annual Duval Comic and Zine Fest will be held at the main public library, Saturday, June 15, 2024, from 11 am to 5 pm. The activities will include a writer's lab workshop and a Lit Chat with graphic novelist Nate Powell. The program and all events are free to attend.

Keli Likins – (904) 255-6090 or Klikins@coj.net

Parks, Recreation and Community Services - Garrett Callis, Parks Community Program Manager, provided the following update:

- The film, Trolls, will be shown on Movie Night in Klutho Park, 204 W. 3rd St., 32206, on Friday, June 7, 2024.

- The Summer Camp Voucher Program will reopen Wednesday, June 5, 2024, through Saturday, June 8, 2024. Visit www.jaxparks.gov for more information.
- Community swimming pools are now open, seven days a week. Swim lessons are available. Visit www.jaxparks/aquatics.gov.
- Mr. Callis gave late summer and early fall an estimate as to when playground repairs will be completed this year.

Garrett Callis – Gcallis@coj.net

MCCD - Robert Bautochka, Code Compliance Supervisor, stated that currently the Municipal Code Compliance Division is down to only three supervisors, but plan to fill the three open supervisor positions by the end of the month. Chris Billings is now the Code Compliance Contracting Manager. The Urban Core CPAC will receive one of the new hires as your permanent MCCD Supervisor.

- In the last 30 days, Code Enforcement has completed 1,066 cases (9,889 since the start of the fiscal year) and removed 35 litter signs (610 since the start of the fiscal year).
- Mr. Bautochka reminded everyone to assess their property for dead and damaged trees to minimize the potential for storm damage, now that we are in hurricane season.
- Complaints may be called into 630-CITY or entered in the myjax app. As a reminder, every complaint needs a name and address. The city no longer accepts anonymous complaints.

Robert Bautochka – (904) 677-1065 or RBautochka@coj.net

JSO – Lieutenant Warren Fleeman, shared the following report from the Sheriff's Office,

- Year to date, crime is down 2%
- The Homeward Bound Program has been very successful this year. In conjunction with Downtown Vision, JSO has helped 58 people. This program works with transients to secure transportation vouchers to help them get back to where they would like to be.

Lieutenant Warren Fleeman – (904) 924-5361 or JSODistrict1@jaxsheriff.org

JFRD – Captain Charles Johnson, Fire Prevention Bureau, stated that Captain James Groff has been promoted to Chief of Fire Plan Review and that congratulations are in order.

- Johnson will now attend the UC CPAC Meetings. Part of his job is to meet with small business owners or those applying for a new use of existing buildings or need a certificate of use. His office conducts small business help sessions to guide them through the process.
- Captain Johnson urged anyone who has not yet done so, to please download the JaxReady app, as it provides a wealth of information on hurricane preparedness and zone evacuation protocols, location of hurricane shelters, etc.

Captain Charles Johnson – (904) 255-8560 or JohnsonC@coj.net

Military Affairs and Veterans Department – Chip Harper, listed several upcoming events:

- June 11, 2024: Three Rivers, Free Legal Aid, from 9 am to 12 pm – 117 W. Duval, Ste 175
- June 13, 2024: Food Farmacy at 390 Mayport Road – for active military members.
- June 20, 2024: Jacksonville Legal Aid, from 9 am to 12 pm – 117 W. Duval, Ste 175

- June 20, 2024: 7th Annual Military Spouses Night Out, from 5 pm to 8 pm – for active and retired military spouses – Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd.

Clarence "Chip" Harper – (904) 255-5537 or ClarenceH@coj.net

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, commented on the following:

- A reminder to please utilize (904) 630-CITY, the city's Customer Service Center phone line to report complaints or concerns.
- A big thank you to everyone who submitted an application for the 2024 Neighborhood Awards. The Urban Core had the second largest number of submissions – so thank you.
- The City of Jacksonville sent a small contingent to the NUSA (Neighborhoods USA) Conference in Lubbock, Texas, to make a bid to host next year's annual conference. NUSA is a non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations. www.nusa.org. Jacksonville will host the 2025 50th Anniversary NUSA Conference! We are all quite excited – details will be forthcoming this Fall!

Edwina Henry – (904) 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Subcommittees and Liaison Reports:

- **Governmental Affairs – Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee** – Dimitri Demopoulos, Chair. The Subcommittee reviewed three applications. No action was taken.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Ernest Smith, Vice Chair – the subcommittee met 5/16/2024, and discussed the status of several follow-up items.
 - Reverend Davis provided a report on a successful neighborhood clean-up in the Durkeeville Community.
 - The Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA) did follow-up on a request for a list of vacant lots owned by JHA.
 - The subcommittee expressed concern for the reported blighted area of West 25th and Fairfax, near Grunthal Street. Subcommittee member Frazier will follow-up with Municipal Code Compliance.
 - Another area of concern is under the Park Street Bridge, over McCoy's Creek.
 - A homeless encampment was sighted at West Ashley Street, near Johnson Street. This is an I-95 overpass.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes, Chair – the subcommittee met 5/17/2024, and reported the following:
 - The subcommittee wants to continue referring people to local agencies for homelessness (services/resources).
 - The subcommittee wants to start compiling mental health resources.
 - The subcommittee would like to join forces with the Blight Subcommittee and hold a joint community event. Details to follow.
- **Taxation, Revenue Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission** – Kim Pryor, Representative – gave a brief report:

- In May, the Commission had a report from the Office of the Inspector General, who provided an overview of what the office does.
- For the June 6, 2024, meeting, which will be held at 4 pm in the Don Davis Room of City Hall (meetings are open to the public), there will be two speakers. The first speaker will be a representative from the Associated Builders and Contractors to talk about the procurement code rewrite. The second speaker will be Anna Brochet, who will speak about indigent care contract monitoring.

10. Public Comments and Announcements (three-minute time limit)

- Ashley Cox, an attorney practicing in the Urban Core at the Bedell Law Firm on Adams Street, expressed her appreciation for all the work the CPAC is doing for the Urban Core.
- Marcia Ellison, from New Town Success Zone, inquired about the recent proliferation of ATMs throughout the neighborhood, and wanted to know where do they come from? Who's sponsoring them? And whose idea was it to place them in the neighborhood? Perhaps this is a question for Code Enforcement? They don't appear to be very secure and safety is an issue.
 - Next steps: Submit inquiry to Development Services, Code Enforcement and/or Planning and Development.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm