

## Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

### August 10, 2023, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Rd, 32219 and on ZOOM

#### Meeting Attendance

**CPAC Members:** Rhonda Boyd, Chair, Timber Oaks HOA; Victor Coleman, Vice Chair, Central Fairfax Community Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Jaqueline Harrington; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Vanessa Cullins-Hopkins, Pebo Corp.

**Excused:** None.

**ZOOM:** Jackie Williams, Planning and Development Department; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association; Lana Suggs, Carver International; Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Honorable Angela Nixon, FL HD-13; Joni Turner; (904) 537-0917

**Visitors:** Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition; Ginny Winters; Jeanette Mitchell, Central Fairfax Association, Inc.; J. Harris; David Johnson, OIG-JAX; Jessica Wilkerson, Oakleaf Quality Homecare; Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Darlene Neal; Sharon Doe; Joni Turner, GW Jax; Paula Renfro, DCPS – Duval County Public Schools; B. Scott, Ribault Manor.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County School Board; Damian Bell, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue; Adam Scott, Jacksonville Public Library; Chris LeDew, Public Works

#### Meeting Summary

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Vice Chair Victor Coleman, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. Edwina Henry confirmed a quorum was present.

**2. Approve Summary of the Previous Meeting:** The June 2023 Summary was approved by the CPAC Members.

**3. Presentation:** David Johnston, Office of Inspector General, Director of Audits, City of Jacksonville (904) 255-5800 [InspectorGeneral@coj.net](mailto:InspectorGeneral@coj.net) - Mr. Johnston provided an overview of the Jacksonville's Office of Inspector General (OIG), which was established by City Charter and Municipal Code in 2014, and has three main purposes:

- **Provide Independent Oversight** of publicly funded activities, transactions, and other local government operations;
- **Investigate, audit and provide contract oversight** to promote economies and efficiencies; improve agency operations; and prevent and deter fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- **Receive, review and investigate any complaints** regarding projects, programs, contacts or transactions of any office, agency, department, or part of the entire consolidated government.

The OIG conducts presentations/trainings designed to inform citizens of the Office of inspector General's role and responsibilities; to raise awareness of what constitutes fraud, waste, and abuse; and to discuss best practices to help increase efficiency. The Office is also able to grant **Whistleblower Status** to keep information confidential. Matters may be reported anonymously and confidentially.

[COJ.net](http://COJ.net) - [Inspector General](http://Inspector General)

#### 4. Elected Official's Reports:

**The Honorable Angela Nixon, FL HD-13 (850) 717-5013 Tallahassee; (904) 381-6013 local**  
[E-Mail Representative Angela "Angie" Nixon \(myfloridahouse.gov\)](mailto:Angie.Nixon@myfloridahouse.gov)

State Representative Nixon addressed the NW CPAC via ZOOM.

- The State Legislature ended its session in May and will resume in September.
- She recently completed a ride-along with F-DOT (Florida Department of Transportation) and took note of issues such as debris on the roads, overgrown grass and weeds, missing guardrails due to accidents, etc. She will be working to get these addressed.
- The Representative held a town hall meeting last week in the Riverside/Avondale area and is planning another town hall meeting next month at the Legend Center – details to follow.
- On the agenda for the town hall meeting will be legislation which took effect on July 1, 2023, and some legislation that she will be introducing this Legislative Session in Tallahassee in September.
- She is also collecting interviews on the “affordability Crisis,” namely rent and property insurance. Please refer anyone interested in sharing their experiences to her office:
  - **Representative Nixon's District Office**  
3939 Roosevelt Blvd, Suite G-121  
Jacksonville, FL 32205-8949
  - **Phone:** (904) 381-6013

**The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County School Board, District 5, (904) 390-2372 –**  
[Jonesw2@duvalschools.org](mailto:Jonesw2@duvalschools.org) – Mr. Jones announced that school starts Monday, August 14, 2023

- DCPS announced the ribbon cutting on Thursday, August 10, 2023, for the first new school in Duval County in the last 15 years – Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary. Both Dr. Diana Greene (former DCPS Superintendent) and Dr. Dana Kriznar (current DCPS Superintendent) were present. The event was well attended.
- Mr. Jones thanked everyone for their support of the half-penny sales surtax; which is making the school renovations possible.
- The search for the new school superintendent is officially underway and there is an opportunity to offer your opinion, thoughts, and input online regarding the qualities the new superintendent should have. [duvalschools.org/search](https://duvalschools.org/search)

#### 5. Chair's Report: Rhonda Boyd, NW CPAC Chair

Ms. Boyd reported that all six CPAC chairs were invited to meet with the Mayor's Transition Subcommittee on Neighborhoods, Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at noon, held at the Ed Ball Building downtown.

The Chairs were given results of a survey conducted by the City of Jacksonville on CPACs. Forty-six people responded to questions such as: Why do you volunteer to serve as a CPAC representative? What does your CPAC do well? And how could your CPAC improve? Participants answered according to where they lived. And while she only recognized two (2) names as being NW CPAC members, she could tell that they were very passionate about Northwest. She commended them for speaking up and stated how important it was to be heard.

Ms. Boyd offered the following comments to the Mayor's Subcommittee on Neighborhoods:

- NW (Northside) is in a “food desert.” Residents want stores like other areas and healthy foods; proper street lighting; potholes in the roads must be filled. She stated that “infrastructure is very important” to a community.

- The Mayor’s Subcommittee is contemplating “splitting up the CPACs” to make the areas smaller. Ms. Boyd stated that she does not think this is a good idea, and that the other CPAC Chairs also disagreed.
- She was pleased to know that Mayor Deegan is holding Community Conversations in the various communities. On August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor will be at the Legend Center. The Chair urged NW CPAC Members to try to attend and give voice to those issues that affect their neighborhoods. “Attendance/participation would show that we are interested and that our voices matter.”
- She gave accolades to Ms. Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office, for being such a strong advocate for CPACS.
- Additionally, during the CPAC Chair’s meeting, it was good to know that the Northwest area is not the only CPAC with issues. Other CPAC Chairs raised concerns and while they may not be the same as what the NW experiences, it shows that we all want to be heard and be able to voice our opinions and help make Jacksonville greater.

## 6. Scheduled Staff Reports:

- **JSO** - No Report.
  - **Comment from Chair Boyd** – She volunteers as the Sheriff Watch Chair. Please try to attend the August 15, 2023, Sheriff Watch Meeting at the Highlands Library, 5:30 pm.
- **JFRD – Capt. Damian Bell – Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department - (904) 255-3298 – [DamianB@coj.net](mailto:DamianB@coj.net)** – emphasized the importance of “hydration” during these extreme heat advisories, and to the extent possible, to avoid being outdoors between the hours of 10 am and 2 pm – when the temperatures are the highest. He also urged everyone to wear “safety glasses,” especially during yardwork. Lastly, Capt. Bell reminded everyone about the Mayor’s Smoke Detector Program. Please call 630-CITY or use the MYJAX App to request smoke detectors.
- **MCCD – Supervisor Brian Naples – Municipal Code Compliance Division – (904) 697-7290 – [Bnaples@coj.net](mailto:Bnaples@coj.net)** – Mr. Naples reported 1,827 inspections completed within the last 30 days and 45 litter signs were removed. MCCD is doing their best to clean up the litter signs. When cited, businesses are re-educated on proper posting/display. Please contact 630-CITY or My JAX to report violations.

MCCD also cited 176 nuisance properties, two (2) abandoned homes and several junk vehicles. Supervisor Naples also stated that the JAR (Jacksonville Assistance and Relief) Program is available to those who are unable to comply with code violations. The application can be downloaded from the coj website: [COJ.net - Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program](http://COJ.net - Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program). And lastly, he reiterated that any complaints called into My JAX or 630-CITY can no longer be anonymous. For those persons who are reluctant to give their name, due to fear of retaliation, can report violations through the CPAC Chair or City Council.

Those CPAC members with specific concerns about particular addresses can see Supv. Naples at the conclusion of tonight’s meeting. He also stated that “vagrancy” is a JSO issue and should be reported.

- **JPL – Scott Adams – Jacksonville Public Library – (904) 255-6407 – [SAdams@coj.net](mailto:SAdams@coj.net)** – announced that the Brentwood Branch, Jacksonville Public Library [Brentwood Branch | Jacksonville Public Library \(jaxpubliclibrary.org\)](http://Brentwood Branch | Jacksonville Public Library (jaxpubliclibrary.org)) will be holding the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Back-to-School

give-away on Saturday, August 12 starting at 9:30 a.m. Please check the library's website for details.

CareerSource will be at the Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Branch – Meeting Room C on Friday, August 18, 2023, and every Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free, job placement, resume writing, etc.

***Dallas James Graham Library at Myrtle and 13<sup>th</sup> – this JPL Branch was reported as having a severe chair shortage for the meeting room. Ms. Jennell Milton of JEA indicated that JEA may have surplus office furniture, since they are moving into new office space. She will make the inquiry and report back.***

- **JEA – Jennell Milton, Government Relations Coordinator, JEA – (904) 347-665-5102 – [miltjl@jea.com](mailto:miltjl@jea.com)** – Ms. Milton 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** – JEA will target the few remaining isolated outages.

JEA is scheduled to have a “subject matter expert” speaking at the September NW CPAC Meeting to discuss its electric Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Among other things, the IRP will increase and enhance energy efficiency programs to offset growing demands from the ongoing electrification of homes, businesses, and vehicles.

When asked about the recent rate increases, Ms. Milton responded by saying the heat surges in temperature have caused an increase in demand for power, which in turn “drives up your bill.” She also stated that Jacksonville has the lowest utility rates in the state and that JEA offers free energy assessments and could recommend ways to save on energy costs. [Ways to Save | Residential Customers | JEA](#)

***When asked about “Septic Tank Phase Outs” in the NW CPAC Area, Ms. Milton indicated she would forward the information, through the CPAC Coordinator. She also offered to bring a subject matter expert to the November Meeting if the Chair so desired.***

- **Public Works – Chris LeDew – Chief of Traffic Engineering – (904) 255-7528 – [CLeDew@coj.net](mailto:CLeDew@coj.net)** – gave a brief overview of what the Traffic and Engineering Division does: it regulates, installs and maintains street markings, signs, signals and other vehicular and pedestrian traffic control devices on city-owned roadways. They are currently conducting engineering studies on high crash areas, high traffic congestion. After conducting the studies, they will develop and implement solutions and/or improvement plans.

Current Projects Underway:

- Lennox and Ramona – High Crash Area – studying possible solutions
- Post, College and King Streets – High crash location – developing a project and will be speaking with City Council about plans
- Garden Street off Jones Road – area is growing due to housing development; needs an additional turn lane – considering putting in a “Roundabout” to calm traffic.

- Beaver and Old Plank Road - due to truck traffic, will need to widen road from 10' to 12' and add a shoulder.

Mr. LeDew indicated that “Back-to-School” is a very busy time for his division: updating school zones, adjusting traffic signals. He also added that “traffic calming” in neighborhoods is achieved by installing “speed humps,” which require City Councilmembers to hold public meetings for input.

**7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:**

- **LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Leroy Kelly:** The subcommittee met at 5 pm this afternoon and reviewed 10 items and took action on three:

**NW CPAC LUZ Subcommittee Actions**

Application/Ordinance	Tracking	Plan Com.	Subcommittee Action	Comments
2023-0418	#4778	8/17/23	Did Not Approve	The subcommittee, felt that with approval the truck route would be an infringement on the residential area.
V-23-12		9/7/23	Partial Approval	The subcommittee approved the request for reduction of size of the home from 850 sq. ft., to 575 sq. ft., However, the subcommittee <b>did not approve</b> the request to install a 6 ft privacy fence, felt for safety reasons this was not practical.
AD-23-56		9/9/23	Did Not Approve	The subcommittee requests additional information to determine if the 7200 sq. ft would be adequate
2023-0362	#4781	8/17/23	No Action Taken	The Subcommittee did not feel they had sufficient information to make a decision.

- **T.R.U.E. Commission – Velma Rounsville:** The Commission met on August 10, 2023, and did not meet in July. T.R.U.E. is currently setting up the following meetings to gain more information: **September** – a representative from Public Works to discuss the contracting process – how they are issued and reviewed after completion of the work; **October** – a representative from the Procurement Division and in **November** – someone from the new Mayoral Administration to discuss the 1Cloud Data management System to explain why more departments are not using the 1Cloud System, how long before all departments are connected, etc. The T.R.U.E. Commission is concentrating on the mayor’s budget and encourages anyone who is interested to listen in on the Mayor’s Budget Hearings. T.R.U.E. will be holding a special meeting on Monday, August 14, 2023, to discuss budget recommendations for the City Council Finance Committee.

**8. Unfinished Business:** What is the status of the CIP discussed prior to July? The CPAC put in a request for a Community and Resource Center. Ms. Boyd has a meeting in the morning with the Neighborhoods Department and will inquire.

**9. New Business:** Selection of Chair and Co-Chair of Nominating Committee – will bring names forward in September for the 2024 Chair and Vice Chair.

- Nominating Committee will be last year’s committee: Roxsan Currier, Velma Rounville, Wynetta McGraw

**10. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- Would like to invite JTA to provide information on the new rail station development.
- Would also like to invite city roads and F-DOT for the September Meeting.
- **DCPS – Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent of Schools - Duval County Public Schools – (904) 390-2000** [Duval County Public Schools / Homepage \(duvalschools.org\)](http://duvalschools.org)
  - During construction, the following changes have been made – John Ribault High School has been relocated to John Ribault Middle School; John Ribault Middle School is located within a wing of A. Phillip Randolph Academies; Highlands Middle School is at MLK and the Pickett Elementary School is being rebuilt on site.
  - Safety Upgrades – Staff will be using 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - ***Dr. Kriznar was asked questions about parking and the Voucher Program – she will report back to the CPAC.***

**11. Adjourned: 8:05 pm**

The next Northwest CPAC Meeting is Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 6 p.m.. at the Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Rd, Jacksonville 32219 and on ZOOM.

**Summary prepared by** Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, (904) 255-8260 or [EHenry@coj.net](mailto:EHenry@coj.net). A copy of the audio recording of this Northwest 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 by may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at V 904-255-5466. TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to [ADAAccommodationsRequest@coj.net](mailto:ADAAccommodationsRequest@coj.net).