

## **Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

**October 12, 2023**

Hybrid Meeting: Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Road, Jacksonville and on ZOOM

### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Rhonda Boyd, Chair, Timber Oaks HOA; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Jacqueline Harrington, Gand Park; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Vanessa Cullins-Hopkins, Pebo Corp.

**ZOOM:** Stephen Nutt, Planning and Development Department; Tiffany Morales, Military Affairs Veterans Department; Lana Suggs Champion, Carver International; (904) 537-0917; iPhone

**Excused:** Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Murphy Nmezi, Royal Terrace

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Warren Jones, Duval County School Board Member; Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer, Duval County Public Schools; Al Ferraro, Interim Director, Neighborhoods Department; Gloria Crawford, Chief, Senior Services, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Derek Dixon, FDOT, Damian Bell, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Adam Scott, Jacksonville Public Library, Brian Naples, Municipal Code Compliance Department

**Guests/Visitors:** Debra Cotton, The HUB; Ginny Winters; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition; Ronnie Christopher, We The People; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project JAX; Antonia Bryant; JacQueLyn Harris; Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Carol McGraph; Keith McGraph; Tenisha Bradham, City Rescue Mission; Jaime Williams, City Rescue Mission; Roxie Powell, Woodstock Neighborhood Association II

### **Meeting Summary;**

**1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Edwina Henry confirmed a quorum was present.

**2. Approve Summary of the Previous Meeting:** The September meeting summary was approved.

**3. Presentation:** Gloria Crawford, Chief Senior Services Division; Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, provided an overview of the Senior Services Division, whose mission is "to encourage and empower senior citizens to live active, independent lifestyles through social, educational and wellness programs."

There are 19 senior centers across the City of Jacksonville, with each one featuring social, education and wellness programs. Door-to-door transportation is provided, as well as at least one meal (breakfast or lunch) per day.

Ms. Crawford highlighted the Independent Living and Foster Grandparent Programs. She also discussed various volunteer opportunities, as well as resources for seniors such as:

- Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP) – provides services to seniors facing a crisis in utility service payments;
- Homemaker – provides light housekeeping services for seniors who live alone;
- Material Aide – provides assistance with home safety repair;
- Council on Elder Affairs (COEA) – a countywide body representative of the elderly in Duval County. Members are appointed by the mayor and each of the council members

The Senior Services Division has several very popular upcoming events:

- October 20, 2023: Fall Fling at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
- November 3, 2023: Walk for Wellness at the Bob Hayes Sports Complex and Legend Center
- November 28-29, 2023: The Senior Expo at the University of North Florida Campus
- December 3, 2023: Holiday Festival at the Prime Osborn Convention Center

Ms. Crawford distributed copies of the 2022-2023 Senior Services Directory. For more information, call the Senior Events Hotline at (904) 255-5667 or online at [www.jaxseniors.net](http://www.jaxseniors.net)

**Gloria Crawford**, [Adultsvcs@coj.net](mailto:Adultsvcs@coj.net) (904) 255-5400

#### **4. Elected Officials Reports:**

The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member, shared the following updates:

- The school Superintendent search is underway:
  - October 13, 2023, is the application deadline for the Superintendent position
  - October 28, 2023, the School Board is holding a workshop to narrow the field of applicants
  - October 26, 2023, the Superintendent semi-finalists will be selected for interviewed
  - November 8, 2023, the final candidate will be selected
  - November 17, 2023, the selection process should be completed with a start date of early 2024
- School Showcases are scheduled to allow parents the opportunity to visit the schools where their child will be attending next year: January 3, 2024, for elementary schools and January 27, 2024, for middle and high schools
- The Half-Penny Sales Tax is enabling the school district to build two brand new schools and replace on-site 26 schools. Ribault High School is the first new high school to be built in 10 years and ground was recently broken for a new Chaffee Trail Middle School
- Additional information on the Master Facility Plan can be found online

For more information visit [www.dcps.duvalschools.org](http://www.dcps.duvalschools.org) or call (904) 390-2000

#### **5. Staff Reports:**

**Neighborhoods Department** – Al Ferraro, Interim Director

Before giving his report, Interim Director Ferraro thanked the Honorable Warren Jones for his updates. He also thanked Gloria Crawford for her important work with the Seniors. Mr. Ferraro especially thanked Chair Boyd for her efforts and noted that the CPACs help to make neighborhoods strong; and, lastly, he recognized the first responders and thanked them for being part of tonight's CPAC meeting.

For his report, Mr. Ferraro shared the following information:

- Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) – overcrowding in animal shelters is a current concern. Volunteers willing to adopt pets, are needed. All dogs over 6 months old free – they are spayed and neutered. Dogs under 6 months old are \$40. Cats over one year old are free. Cats and kittens under one year old are \$40 and if you adopt one you can get one cat or kitten free.
- Neighborhoods – Matching Grants Program. Applications must be in by December 11, 2023. A flier is in your agenda packet. The Matching Grant Program is a way of getting the whole community to participate in making every neighborhood look as good as possible.

For a complete list of Divisions under the Neighborhoods Department:  
[www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods) or call (904) 255-7200

**FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation** – Derek Dixon, Bike and Pedestrian and ADA Coordinator provided information on the following:

- FDOT has a public meeting scheduled to discuss their five-year plan: October 17 at their Urban Office, 2198 Edison Avenue from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. To view the meeting online, go to: [www.nflroads.com/vph](http://www.nflroads.com/vph)
- Railroads and Crossings – CSX and Norfolk Southern railroad tracks are not governed by DOT or the City of Jacksonville. They are regulated by the federal government. For issues of concern, get the contact information off the blue plate posted at each railroad crossing. Contacting that number should put you in touch with the right person or just pass the information onto the City of Jacksonville.
- A frequent question is how to distinguish between FDOT roads and city roads? Go to [coj.net](http://coj.net), type FDOT Roads in the search box search type: FDOT Roads click on link for a list of FDOT Roads  
**Derek Dixon**, [Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us) (904) 360-5653

**DCPS – Duval county Public Schools** - Paula Renfro, Chief Academic Officer, brought the following report:

- Two make up days due to Hurricane Idalia – October 27, 2023, and December 1, 2023
- School Choice Fairs: January 3, 2024, for elementary schools and January 27, 2024, for middle and high schools. Fliers will be shared once available
- In response to a question from last month's meeting, community education programming is generated by community interest and input for what they want at each site. Call Community Education at (904) 858-6080 to request classes. The Site Coordinators will work on finding instructors to offer the classes  
**Paula Renfro**, [www.dcps.duvalschools.org](http://www.dcps.duvalschools.org) (904) 390-2000

**JPL – Jacksonville Public Library** – Scott Adams, Library Manager announced:

- Friday, October 13 and Saturday, October 14, 2023, Friends of Bradham and Brooks Library will hold a book sale at 1755 Edgewood Avenue, W from 10 am to 3 pm
- Monday, October 16, 2023, Life Lit: 17 Ways to Compost – with UF/IFAS Extension Duval County from 6 pm to 7 pm at the Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library in the Auditorium
- Tuesday, October 31, 2023, Halloween Drop in Party from 5 pm to 7 pm at the Murray Hill Branch
- The 2023 Library Card "Sign-up" Event saw a 16% increase from the previous year
- The 2023 Jacksonville Public Library Bookfest had three times the usual crowd  
**Scott Adams**, [SAdams@coj.net](mailto:SAdams@coj.net) (904) 255-6407

**MCCD – Municipal Code Enforcement Division** - Brian Naples, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported:

- 1,343 cases completed within the last 30 days – removing blight from the neighborhood
- 49 snipe/litter signs were removed within the last 30 days
- Money from the enforcement of the litter sign citations written is split two ways, with 70% going to JTA and the remaining 30% goes back to MCCD to maintain enforcements
- Last major corridor project was the Beaver Street Corridor, where 97 commercial properties were cited for any type of blight or ordinance violation
- The Jacksonville Assistance and Relief (JAR) Program eligibility can be based on disability or income. Applications were made available. For more information go to [www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoodsmunicipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoodsmunicipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program)  
**Brian Naples**, [BNaples@coj.net](mailto:BNaples@coj.net), (904) 697-7290

**JSO – Jacksonville Sheriff's Office** - Not present.

**JFRD – Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department** – Captain Damian Bell

- One and half months left to hurricane season – stay safe and stay prepared
- Winter Season – a good time to check that chimney flues are cleaned, check appliances and electrical cords; fuel burning heaters should be fueled outside; good time to check batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; apartment management is responsible for changing out batteries in the smoke detectors
- When traveling during the holiday season, make sure you know where emergency exits are in hotels
- Captain Bell indicated he will bring information on medication neutralizing on his next visit

**NSO – Neighborhood Services Office** – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, Districts 1 and 5

- Nomination Subcommittee will be meeting on October 20. It would be helpful to the subcommittee if CPAC Members would submit their nominations, using the form in the agenda packet; nominations will also be taken from the floor prior to the election
- Meeting Attendance – CPAC By-Laws requires membership removal with three consecutive unexcused absences. A recent attendance audit was conducted, and some members were contacted with reminders to either contact the Neighborhood Coordinator or their alternates, when they are unable to attend either in person or via ZOOM, to keep their organization in good standing
- Email addresses – a few email addresses are being marked undeliverable. Please see the Neighborhood Coordinator if you are not receiving CPAC correspondence so that your contact information can be updated.
- Thursday, October 19, 2023, is the Neighborhood Awards and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPACs Event. This is our opportunity to thank you and let you know how much your participation and passion for improving conditions in the community means. We cannot have a strong city without strong neighborhoods. We do appreciate you coming out every month. So, thank you.

**6. Chair's Report** - Rhonda Boyd

- Keep in thoughts and prayers our vice-chair, Mr. Victor Coleman
- Kim Stephens Perry the former NW CPAC LUZ Subcommittee Chairperson has passed. Chair Boyd attended the services on September 29, 2023, and said it was a beautiful service and well deserved because Ms. Stephens Perry was an awesome woman
- 2024 Calendar of Meeting Dates – still the second Thursday of the month, for consistency. Chair Boyd suggested sharing the calendar and inviting others to attend NW CPAC meetings
- November Agenda – would anyone like to have a speaker, that is also the meeting when the Chair and Vice Chair elections are held
- Due to lingering COVID concerns, an agreement could not be reached regarding an end-of-year celebration. Chair Boyd will speak with her Vice-Chair, Mr. Coleman, and give it some additional thought, keeping safety in mind
- Suggestions for future speakers included: Representative Angie Nixon. Chair Boyd replied that Representative Nixon, or her assistant, will typically attend via ZOOM. Someone to address Land Use and Zoning to discuss why houses are being built so close together. The suggested speakers will be considered for early 2024
- Chair Boyd stated that each member represents a neighborhood and spoke of how important it is to know what is going on in our neighborhoods and thanked the CPAC members or their commitment

## **7. Subcommittee Reports:**

**LUZ Subcommittee** – LeRoy Kelly, Subcommittee Chair, gave the following report:

- Six applications were received and discussed.
- Three concerns were identified, and letters will be sent stating the reasons for opposition
- After being properly moved and seconded, the LUZ Subcommittee Report was accepted

**T.R.U.E. Commission** - Velma Rounsville

- The T.R.U.E. Commission met on Thursday, October 5, 2023
- Speakers were Nina Sickler, Director, and Robin Smith, Chief of Engineering and Construction, from the Public Works Department
- Speakers answered questions about specific projects and shared criteria used to prioritize public works projects
- The Public Works Department is looking to streamline the procurement system and develop an online capital improvement projects dashboard
- The T.R.U.E. Commission bylaws revision were not approved

## **8. Old Business -**

- Through the Subcommittee Chair, a request was made to note in the meeting summary that at the August 10, 2023, NW CPAC Meeting, LUZ Application 2023-417 and 2023-418 were not approved; however, the opposition letter was not sent. The issue has been delayed and won't be heard by City Council until December 12, 2023; therefore, it is being requested that an opposition letter be prepared and sent. Recommendation was approved. A Letter of Opposition will be prepared and sent through the proper channels regarding 2023-417 and 2023-418.

## **9. New Business - None.**

## **10. Public Comments and Announcements:**

- Discussion from the floor: Ordinance 2023-0533 and 2023-0534 will be before the LUZ Committee on October 17, 2023, at 5 pm. The NW CPAC has previously voted to oppose this item. It was suggested that a neighborhood contingent show up at the LUZ Committee to voice opposition. Sitting together shows unity and would make a greater impact. Should it pass the LUZ Committee, it will then go to the full City Council on October 24, 2023, for a vote.
- Jamie Williams, Director of Social Services for City Rescue Mission (CRM) announced that CRM will hold its Fall Festival on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at their McDuff Campus, located 426 McDuff.. For more information, please contact Ms. Williams. (904) 421-5155 or [jwilliams@crmjax.org](mailto:jwilliams@crmjax.org)

## **11. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm

The next Northwest CPAC Meeting is Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 6 pm at the Lincoln Villa Senior Center, 7866 New Kings Road, Jacksonville 32219 and on ZOOM.