

# Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

## April 12, 2021 Meeting Summary

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225

### Meeting Attendance:

**Members:** Will Messer, Chair, Queens Harbor POA; Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Mike Anania, Arlington Business Society; Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Andre Boutte', Hickory Creek HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Delmas Harper, POISE, Inc; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove; Tim Keeley, Vice Chair, Kensington Association; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Shelia Lithwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Pete Miller, Indian Springs Community Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; John Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

### Excused:

**Visitors:** Peter Mione; Ed Shvila, The Woods; Evelyn Tukes, Scarlett Oaks; Patricia Vail; Carol Shirado; Joe Keller, Waterleaf HOA; Jean Keller, Waterleaf HOA; Roberta Thomas

**Staff:** The Honorable Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1; Chet Aikens, Executive Council Assistant, District 1; Nikki Evans, Executive Council Assistant, At- Large Group 2; Renee Goode, JEA; Captain Klingbeil, JFRD; Steve Long, Public Works; Sharonda Peek, DCPS; Connie Quinto, Planning and Development Department; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Cliff Zukero, Municipal Code Compliance Division.

**Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Messer called the April 2021 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary** – The March 2021 GAB CPAC meeting summary was approved.

**Presentation(s):** Karen Nasrallah, Redevelopment Manager, Office of Economic Development, introduced herself and provided an overview of Renew Arlington Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). The intent of the Renew Arlington CRA is to enhance the CRA's unique aesthetics and appearance; improve property values; promote an environment that is visually appealing and safe for vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic; promote appropriate redevelopment of existing properties.

To date Renew Arlington CRA has completed the following milestones:

1. Renew Arlington Zoning Overlay was approved on June 25, 2019 ~~Ordinance~~ Ordinance 2019-239-E
2. The Mandatory Compliance Grant Program was approved on January 28, 2020
3. The Arlington Road Restriping Project was approved on March 23, 2021.

A Mandatory Grant program was established to help property owners with the mandatory compliance requirements that have been established. The following criteria must be in place to submit a Mandatory Grant Application: no contractor liens on parcel; no outstanding ~~city~~ City citations and no grants will be awarded retroactively

Again, the CRA program goals are to support the renovations and help in reducing blight and attract investment, create positive momentum towards community redevelopment and offset the potential costs related to the compliance with a with the renew Arlington zoning overlay. To help the property owners with this task the CRA funded a landscape architect to help CRA businesses with their projects/site plan development. The landscape architect is Brian Wheeler and he can be reached at: [gwheeler@coj.net](mailto:gwheeler@coj.net). There is no cost to the property owner.

More information on the Mandatory Compliance Grant, please visit: [www.coj.net/renewarlingtongrant](http://www.coj.net/renewarlingtongrant)

The Arlington Road Restriping Project will be an effective way to introduce the community to complete streets concept/goals. The Arlington Road Restriping Project will run from Cesery Boulevard to University Boulevard North. The project will provide 90 on street parking spaces that are not currently available. The project will also save the adjacent parcel owners time and money that would be required and mandated for their parking to meet the zoning overlay requirements on their property. Goals of the Arlington Road Restriping Project include:

1. Improve pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicular safety
2. Add bike lanes to both sides of the street
3. Beautify the corridor by considering parking needs, urban elements that enhance existing businesses and provide space for landscaping
4. Support pedestrian access to Transit and ADA compliance
5. Identify an Access Management strategy to close or consolidate existing driveways
6. Ensure ADA compliance is in place at all intersections, bus stops and sidewalks will be evaluated
7. Provision for future Core2Coast bikeway connection

Karen Nasrallah – 904-255-5449 or [karenn@coj.net](mailto:karenn@coj.net)

#### **Elected Officials Report:**

**Joyce Morgan, City Council Member, District 1**, provided the following updates:

- An invitation was extended to the CPAC members to attend the next Renew Arlington CRA meeting on April 14, 2021. Council Member recognized that CPAC members Dedee Harper and Dr. Ramsey Salem serve on the CRA Board.
- Grand re-opening of Blue Cypress Golf Course will take place on April 10, 2021 as a 9-hole golf course. There are plans to expand the golf course to 12 holes. This golf course is open to the public. Call (904) 204-3965 or visit Blue Cypress Golf Course at ~~(did you mean to add the address?)~~ or [golfbluecypress.com](http://golfbluecypress.com) to schedule a tee time.
- Legislation has been filed for an extra playing field at Blue Cypress Park; this will be a turf field.
- The Safer Together workshops continue and an invitation to join the workshops was extended to the CPAC attendees. The next workshop will be held on April 23, 2021 and the topic of discussion will be the JSO Budget. On May 1, 2021 the topics will be KHA Teen Divergent Program, Teen Court, Drug Court and Cure Violence. At the May 21, 2021 workshop the topics will include JSO hiring practices, JSO policies and the JSO Police Explorer Program.

- The next City Council District 1 Town Hall meeting will be held on April 26, 2021. At this meeting a discussion will take place about the local gas tax. The Zoom information for the Town Hall meeting will be shared with the community.

Council Member Morgan – 904-630-1389 or [joycemorgan@coj.net](mailto:joycemorgan@coj.net)

**Nikki Evans, Executive Council Assistant, At-Large Group 2**, provided the following updates:

- Council Member Salem introduced legislation with Council Members Pittman, Newby and Gaffney to name the field at J.P. - Small Memorial Stadium in honor of Henry Aaron, the baseball legend at this field in 1953 when he played for the Jacksonville Braves.
- The Mental Health Offender Pilot Program (MHOP) launched in January of this year and after three months of data they are already seeing positive results. The goal of this pilot program is to divert misdemeanor offenders with mental health issues out of the jail and provide them with the correct care that is needed. By helping these people become stabilized and active members of our community, we can not only reduce our jail population significantly, but we can also save taxpayer money by combating recidivism.
- Teen Anti-Vaping Campaign that kicked off in January 2021. The campaign is off to a great start with over 30,000 hits on the website in February alone. This means that teens are engaging in the campaign, clicking the links, watching the videos, and listening to our message. This campaign will be in schools and on social media for the duration of the year. Results and effectiveness are monitored consistently so we can fine tune the campaign as we move forward for maximum reach and effectiveness.

Council Member Salem – 904-255-5216 or [rsalem@coj.net](mailto:rsalem@coj.net)

#### **Staff Reports:**

**JFRD – Captain Gene Klingbeil** provided the following updates:

- The CPAC members were encouraged to download the JaxReady app; this is an especially valuable tool to have during hurricane season.
- Fire Station 19, located on Rogero Road is one of the busiest fire stations in Jacksonville. Station 19 was recently renovated and is currently running an extra fire engine out of this station to keep up with calls and demands.
- There was a question regarding the status of construction on the new fire station under construction near the intersection of Atlantic Boulevard and Arlington Road. Captain Klingbeil did not have an update on the progress of construction or a timeline for completion.

**JPL – Jackie Spiritas** informed the CPAC about updates at JPL:

- If you are looking for a suggestion of reading materials, you can visit the JPL website for a reading list at: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/booklists>
- JPL will open the last three closed libraries. The re-opening dates are: April 19, 2021 for the Eastside Library and Maxville libraries and April 26, 2021 for the Westbrook Branch Library.
- On May 1, 2021 meeting room space at the libraries will be open to the public. To reserve space, please make a reservation on the JPL website: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/meeting-rooms>

- A second children's storybook has been installed at Storywalk In Klutho Park. A StoryWalk is a series of kid-sized signs featuring the disassembled pages of a children's picture book all in order and spaced several feet apart along a walking path. StoryWalk was created by the Jacksonville Public Library in partnership with the City of Jacksonville Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department and the Springfield Preservation and Revitalization (SPAR) Council. There will be a new StoryWalk book installed every three months.

Jackie Spiritas – [spiritas@coj.net](mailto:spiritas@coj.net)

**JEA – Renee Goode** shared the following updates:

- The City of Jacksonville in partnership with JEA are working together to on the Septic Tank Phase Out program initiative. This initiative will eventually eliminate existing septic systems, thus reducing the amount of harmful nutrients that often find their way into the St. Johns River and other local waterways. The program was approved by the Jacksonville City Council on August 23, 2016 and involves installation of new water and sewer services in designated areas of our community. The Biltmore, Beverly Hills and Christobel neighborhoods are the first three proposed areas based on community needs and abandoning of septic tanks having a positive environmental impact to our waterways.
- There is nearly \$29 million of federal funds available to assist Duval County residents who have been unable to pay their rent or utilities due to a loss of income related to COVID-19. The funds will be available to citizens to cover up to 12 months of rent and utility payments with the option for an additional three months if determined necessary to ensure housing stability. Partnering agencies JEA and the United Way of Northeast Florida will administer the program, with JEA managing \$5 million and United Way distributing \$23.8 million. Call 665-6000 to learn more about the funds and how to apply.
- Unfortunately, JEA continues to receive reports from customers who have been contacted via phone, text and email by scammers who threaten disconnection of service unless instant payment is made. These tactics are used to target both local residents and businesses. JEA encourages customers to never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (banking account information, debit or credit card information) to anyone initiating contact with you, whether by phone, in person, or by email, claiming to be a utility company representative. Never purchase a prepaid card or respond via a mobile payment app, (Cash App, PayPal, Venmo, Zelle, etc.), to avoid service interruptions. JEA does not accept payments via Cash App, PayPal, Venmo and Zelle. If you are targeted by a scammer or are not sure if the call is legitimate, JEA urges you to call 904-665-6000.

**DCPS – Sharwonda Peeks** informed the CPAC that The On-time School Choice Application Window has closed. All applications received by the respected deadline are processed in the lottery. The lottery is a computerized program that randomly selects students based on the priority that has been assigned to each choice and the number of available openings for each program and grade level. There is a waiting list for students who are not placed in either of their magnet selections or their special transfer option selection. Keep your notification letter in a safe place. It contains your waiting list number, and if openings become available during the summer, they will be filled according to that number. The late application window will open April 15, 2021 in FOCUS on the DCPS website.

**Municipal Code Compliance – Cliff Zukero** provided the following information to the CPAC for the month of March:

- There were 29 snipe sign citations written and 570 snipe signs were collected.
- 1392 inspections were completed.
- A systematic inspection was conducted in the Beachwood Community and 100 new cases were opened.
- The next systematic inspection will take place in the Holiday Hills community starting on April 28, 2021.
- Year to date 7774 inspections in the GAB District have been completed.

Cliff Zukero – [Czukero@coj.net](mailto:Czukero@coj.net)

**Planning and Development Department – Connie Quinto** did not have a report but was available for questions.

Connie Quinto – [ConnieQ@coj.net](mailto:ConnieQ@coj.net)

**Public Works – Steve Long** stated that his team members have been busy working on sidewalk and pot-hole repairs. In addition, attention has been paid to storm water drains. Mr. Long reminded the CPAC to spread the word that plant material should not be put down/blown down the storm water drains. Mr. Long answered a number of questions from CPAC members about issues in their communities; mostly pertaining to trash, yard waste and recycling missed collections.

Steve Long – [Slong@coj.net](mailto:Slong@coj.net)

**Subcommittee/Liaison Reports** (3-minute time limit):

**LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** - Mike Anania - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed four and the LUZ Subcommittee would like to make one motion. The motion is to approve 2021-193 Land Use Change and 2021-194 Rezoning because the requests more closely reflect the current commercial makeup of the surrounding parcels. The motion was approved by the CPAC members.

**Beautification/Parks** – Larry Belge – stated that the redevelopment of Blue Cypress Park was good news for the GAB District and neighborhoods

**Environment** – Lad Hawkins – no report

**Membership** – vacant – Chair Messer introduced new members Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove Condominiums and Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association. Welcome!

**Transportation** – Chair Messer - no report

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO)** – vacant

**TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission** – John Roberts stated the commission currently has two projects they are working on. The projects are:

1. Comparing Jacksonville crime and police enforcement to comparable cities.
2. Overall comparison of Jacksonville to nine other peer cities that have consolidated government.

**Neighborhood Services Office Report** – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the CPAC members on Zoom that new equipment was purchased to conduct the hybrid meetings and inquired if they could hear the CPAC meeting better. There were no complaints about the audio or visual from the Zoom attendees.

Rosemary Wesolowski – 255-8261 or [rosemary@coj.net](mailto:rosemary@coj.net)

**Chairs Report** – Chair Messer recognized the visitors in attendance, thanked them and encouraged them to attend another meeting. If you have a specific concern or topic of interest that you would like a presentation on, please email your suggestions Rosemary at [rosemary@coj.net](mailto:rosemary@coj.net).

Chair Messer stated a couple of new recommendations were made and will be compiled on the 2021 GAB CPAC Recommendation list. Chair Messer encouraged the CPAC members to give this a little thought and to email them to Rosemary Wesolowski ([rosemary@coj.net](mailto:rosemary@coj.net)) to add to the list.

Criteria for a capital improvement project include: the total project must have a total cost greater than \$100,000 and a lifespan of more than ten years and must add to, enhance the value of, or extend the life of the City's physical assets. Some examples include improvements to an existing park, the purchase of land for a future park, road improvements, sidewalk and bike lane construction, drainage projects, intersection improvements and library enhancements. Capital improvement projects do not include general maintenance. The deadline to submit the GAB CPAC recommendations is May 21, 2021.

**Old Business** - none

**New Business** – none

**Public Comment** – Member Pete Miller, Indian Springs Community Association stated missed trash, yard waste and recycling collections has been an ongoing problem and encouraged everyone to call 630-CITY to report the missed collection.

Member Dr. Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA inquired if the CPAC members liked meeting at the PAL Building or would the members like to return to the Pablo Creek Regional Library?

Member John Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills requested Rosemary to send out the 2021 CIP Recommendations list that has been compiled so far.

Chair Messer shared with the CPAC Membership that Andre' Boutte has resigned as the alternate for Hickory Creek HOA. Mr. Boutte will be moving to Orlando to be closer to family. All of the CPAC members thanked Mr. Boutte for his service to his community and the GAB CPAC.

**Motion to Adjourn** -The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on **Monday, May 10, 2021** at

Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm.