

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

September 13, 2021, Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas Harper, POISE, Inc; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Harley Herndon, Cypress Cove Good Neighbor; Tim Keeley, Vice Chair, Kensington Association; Shelia Lithwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Will Messer, Chair, Queens Harbor POA; 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; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

Excused: Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA

Visitors: Ed Shvila, The Woods; Janice Curry, Celebrate Arlington; Earl Jones

Staff: Derek Dixon, FDOT; Steve Long, Public Works; Julie McNeil, JPL; Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Connie Quinto, Planning and Development Department; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Tanya Washington, Neighborhoods Department; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Messer called the September 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 August 2021 GAB CPAC meeting summary was approved.

Presentation(s): Nicholas Primrose, Chief, Regulatory Compliance, Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT) provided an overview and update of activities at JAXPORT.

JAXPORT is governed by a seven-member board and has 150 employees at JAXPORT. There are an additional 26,282 jobs that are on the private sector side and indirect private sector maritime jobs reliant on port facilities. In total, JAXPORT has a \$31.1 Billion total economic impact for the region and state.

JAXPORT operates primarily as a landlord, managing the upkeep, improvement and expansion of Port Authority facilities and coordinating their use by private companies. The physical facilities are owned by JAXPORT; this includes docks and wharfs, cranes, a passenger cruise terminal, warehouses, paved open storage areas and road connections to the public highway system. The Port Authority provides and maintains the terminals and their equipment and manages the overall use of the facilities, but not the actual cargo. There are five port terminals in three locations. The terminals are: Blount Island Marine Terminal; Rail Terminal; Dames Point Terminal; Talleyrand Marine Terminal and Downtown Jacksonville.

JAXPORT and its maritime partners handle any type of cargo. The cargo that comes through JAXPORT include:

- Containers - representing about 60 percent of all cargo tonnage handled at JAXPORT, dry and refrigerated containers ranging in length from 20 feet to 53 feet carry a variety of consumer goods. Longshoremen move these boxes via crane from ship to truck and back.
- Roll On-Roll Off (ro/ro): Ro/Ro cargo, including vehicles, construction equipment and recreational boats.
- Breakbulk: Raw materials such as lumber, rolls of paper, wood pulp, pallets of boxed items and steel comprise the breakbulk.
- Liquid bulk: cooking oil, corn syrup, molasses, and other bulk liquids.
- Dry bulk: Dry bulk materials such as limestone and gravel are carried in a ship's hold and poured into piles on port property at Dames Point.
- Project cargo (heavy lift): Specialty cargoes like locomotive engines, air conditioning chillers for skyscrapers, massive rolls of power cable and other "heavy lift" items.

One of the major reasons JAXPORT has had so much success attracting new cargo business, as well as cruise business, is due to the excellent geographic location of Jacksonville. Jacksonville is a one-day truck drive to more than 70 million people and Florida is now the nation's 3rd most populous state, with more than 116 million visitors each year. This is a very attractive market for cargo shippers. In addition, there are three interstates and three railroads servicing our port (I-95 and I-10 intersect in downtown Jacksonville, and I-75 is only about an hour west of us). The railroads are CSX, Norfolk Southern and Florida East Coast Railway. This is attractive to importers and exporters, including U.S. manufacturers needing a major port capable of handling raw materials or finished products.

Recently, the largest ship ever to visit JAXPORT stopped at Blount Island Marine Terminal. The ship was the Cape Sounio and it was over 1,100 feet long. For scale, if you stood this ship on its end, it would stand almost as tall as the Empire State building. These are the size ships which are being deployed in global trade. These huge vessels sit very low in the water, which means they need deeper ship channels in which to operate. Due to the trend of larger vessels, JAXPORT has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a project to deepen the St. Johns River.

After a decade of study, independent review, public input and full regulatory approval, contractors for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began deepening the St. Johns River in February 2018. The project will take the river from its current depth of 40 feet to a final depth of 47 feet. The project is more than halfway completed through to the Blount Island Terminal. The project is authorized to deepen the channel all the way to Dames Point Terminal, but JAXPORT is prioritizing the first 11 miles (through Blount Island) to provide return on investment for the community as soon as possible. Deepening will not only allow JAXPORT to handle the larger container ships, but also keep JAXPORT competitive with competition from other ports in South Carolina and Georgia, who also are deepening their harbors as well. The deepening is ahead of schedule, and anticipated to be complete in 2022.

In addition to deepening the harbor, JAXPORT has invested in other upgrades to their facilities to remain competitive. The enhancement projects include:

- Berth enhancements will be completed around the same time as the deepening project.

- There will be two newly reconstructed 1,200-foot-long container berths capable of simultaneously accommodating two post-Panamax vessels.
- The berths are electrified to handle a total of 10 state-of-the-art environmentally friendly electric-powered 100-gauge container cranes, including three currently in use.
- Deepening also includes construction of a vessel turning basin to allow larger ships to turn at Blount Island.

JAXPORT is still a port for cruise service. JAXPORT has a three-year contract with Carnival Cruise lines. Before the Covid-19 outbreak, 200,000 cruise passengers annually departed from Jacksonville. JAXPORT expects the first cruise ship to set sail from Jacksonville on October 31, 2021. This will be the first cruise to sail since March of 2020.

Elected Officials Report: none were in attendance

Staff Reports:

JSO – Lieutenant Nguyen introduced himself and shared JSO crime statistics from the past 30 days: violent crime was up 3%; property crime was up 4%. There were 53 aggravated batteries; 5 sexual batteries; 68 auto burglaries -39 vehicles were unlocked and 10 had guns stolen.

Everyone was encouraged to participate in the 9 pm Routine; remember to remove valuables and firearms from your unattended vehicles. Remember to lock your car doors when you are not in the vehicle.

The Zone 2 Substation will be moving as soon the interior construction has been completed. The new substation will be located at 9119 Merrill Road, 32225. As a reference, the new Zone 2 JSO Substation is near the intersection of Merrill Road and Fort Caroline Road in a shopping center near the Big Lots store; or just east of I-295 and the Southside Connector.

JSO is available for Neighborhood Crime Preventions Walks. The purpose of crime prevention walks, conducted routinely throughout the city, is to meet with citizens "one-on-one" and discuss crime and crime prevention in their neighborhoods. To schedule a walk with JSO, please call 726-5100 and ask for Officer Ashenfelder or Renee Barnhardt. Or you can call Lt. Nguyen at 630-8174 for an evening walk.

JFRD – Battalion Chief Clemons, Rescue Division introduced himself and reported the emergency medical transfers have increased due to the recent spike in Covid-19 Delta variant cases. In June 2021 JFRD transported 57 individuals with Covid-19; in July 2021 JFRD transported 227 individuals with Covid-19 and in August 2021 JFRD transported 357 individuals with Covid-19. The September statistics are not available, but it appears there maybe a slight decrease in the number of Covid-19 positive transports.

JFRD is excited to announce the additions of three new fire stations. The grand opening of Fire Station 63 (on Gate Parkway - near Ikea) will be held on October 26, 2021. Construction will begin on the new Fire Station 65 off Arlington Road (near the Glynlea Community) in early December 2021. The third new fire station will be located in the E-Town area on E-Town Parkway. JFRD will break ground on the E-Town fire station later this month.

JPL – Jackie Spiritas informed the CPAC about updates at Jacksonville Public Library (JPL):

- Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month at Pablo Creek Regional Library, on Thursday, September 19th from 4-6 p.m. to celebrate Hispanic Heritage with an afternoon of dance, crafts, and games courtesy of Jacksonville Sister Cities Association and Viva Panama Associates. There will be dance demonstrations, arts and crafts for kids, tech games, bingo, and more.
- Online Little Movers and Shakers are available. This music-based program is for children from birth to pre-k and their families. Through books, songs, and movement activities children build pre-literacy skills.
- September is Library Sign-Up month. Available to Duval County residents only. Must visit a branch to sign up for a physical card.
- National Novel Writing Month is just around the corner in November. Join JPL online to work with three local writers for hands-on workshops to improve your novel's Setting, Character, and Plot before you even begin. Visit <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/> for details.
- Free GED Test preparation is available on Zoom. For more information and register call 904-255-6135 or visit <https://tinyurl.com/2sj6ewfs>
- Free English Classes are available via Zoom. For more information or to register call 904-255-6135 or visit [https://jaxpublic library.org/services/center-adult-learning/esol](https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/services/center-adult-learning/esol)
- The Main Library is closed. Visit <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/> and visit [Locations and Hours](#) for alternate locations. The Regeneron Treatment Site in the Main Library Conference Center is operational; the entrance into the treatment center is through the entrance on Main Street. If you have questions about Regeneron Treatments, please call 1-850-344-9637.

Jackie Spiritas – spiritas@coj.net

FDOT – Derek Dixon provided the following updates:

- San Pablo Road and J. Turner Butler (SR 202) Diamond Diverging project is expected to be completed in Spring 2022; weather permitting.
- Phase 2 of the I-295 Managed Lanes project is expected to be completed in Fall 2021.

Neighborhoods Department – Tanya Washington Pressley, Administrative Aide to Operations Director Chiquita Moore, shared the following information:

- Animal Care and Protective Services will host *Clear the Shelter Event* on September 18, 2021, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at both the Animal Care and Protective Services Shelter, 2020 Forest Street and at PetsMart Regency, 356 Monument Road. All adoption fees are waived.
- The Mortgage Relief Program still has funds available. Individuals requesting assistance must be the owner and occupant of the property. The program will provide up to six months of delinquent mortgage payments or \$7,500, whichever is less. Payments will be made directly to the mortgage company. Individuals can create a MyJax account at: myjax.custhelp.com and start the application process.
- The City of Jacksonville's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has money remaining 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. United Way is administering the rental assistance payments and

the City and JEA will administer the utility assistance payments. You can access the application here: <https://www.coj.net/erap>. You can also text APPLY to 211904 to access the application.

Municipal Code Compliance – Ernest Murphy provided the following updates:

- In the past 30 days, Code Compliance has removed 224 snipe signs and 4541 signs year to date.
- In the past 30 days, 1088 inspections were conducted, and 14,000 inspections have been completed year to date.
- New Code Compliance Officers have joined the team and are currently in training.
- No systematic inspections are scheduled at this time.

The Jacksonville Assistance and Relief or JAR program was discussed. 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>

Ernest Murphy – EMurphy@coj.net or 904-402-5568 or 904-255-7096

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

Connie Quinto – ConnieQ@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long informed the CPAC that the Public Works Department has awarded a contract to a new waste hauler. Meridian Waste contract will go into effect on October 1, 2021. Meridian Waste will replace Republic Waste (SWS). The service area for Meridian Waste is all the communities north of Atlantic Boulevard from Arlington to Mayport. This waste hauler will use a manual trash collection system; the trash trucks are not automated. Everyone can continue to use the trash cans that were provided by the City of Jacksonville. Once the trash cans that the city provided break and need to be replaced, it will be up to the homeowner to purchase their own trash cans. Waste Pro will continue to provide service to the area south of Atlantic Boulevard. Additionally, various COJ staff have been working outside of their normal types of duties to assist the Solid Waste Division in collecting the yard waste during the weekend. The Solid Waste Division is getting caught up. Everyone was encouraged to continue reporting their missed collection to MyJax system either online at <https://myjax.custhelp.com/> or by call 630-CITY (2489).

Chief Long reminded the CPAC that we are in peak hurricane season and with heavy rains from tropical storms, drainage may become a problem. If you have a slow flowing or clogged storm sewer, please request assistance to clear the blockage to the MyJax system either online at <https://myjax.custhelp.com/> or by calling 630-CITY (2489).

Chief Long answered several questions regarding cleaning and clearing of drainage/out-fall ditches and of the Sandalwood Canal. Chief Long confirmed that money is in the budget to clean every out-fall ditch citywide; this includes the Sandalwood Canal. Some of the projects have been started and others are out to bid, but all ditches should be cleaned within the next year depending on weather.

Chief Long answered a question regarding uneven sidewalks. Please report problematic sidewalks to <https://myjax.custhelp.com> or by calling 630-CITY (2489) and the Public Works Department will repair or replace.

Steve Long – Slong@coj.net

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

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Chair Will Messer served as Chair for the LUZ Subcommittee - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed seven applications and made one motion. The motion is:

Deny SW-21-06 (Ord. 2021-539), a request to reduce the required setback for a ground sign from 10 feet to 0 feet at 6349 Beach Boulevard. The CPAC made the following observations:

- A 0' setback blocks the Ryar Road viewscape for travelers seeking to turn onto Beach Boulevard.
- This 0' setback encumbers safe entry onto Beach Boulevard thereby heightening the possibility of collisions as travelers seek entry onto Beach Boulevard
- Consideration should be made for a pylon sign rather than a monument sign so that the business has additional signage however the safety of our citizens would not be compromised.

The motion passed unanimously

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – no report

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Nicole Hamm – not present

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – John Roberts informed the CPAC that the commission completed a table comparing Jacksonville crime and police enforcement to comparable cities. The comparison cities were nine peer cities that have consolidated government. The comparable table is in an Excel format; if you are interested in reviewing, please contact Mr. Roberts. The TRUE Commission has asked JSO to attend a TRUE Commission meeting to discuss the objective criteria is used to calculate their staffing and their staff to population ratio.

DCPS Sales Surtax Oversight Committee - Delmas “Dedee” Harper – no report, the next meeting will be held on September 15, 2021.

Park Safety Committee – Mary Jane Brewer informed the CPAC that their first meeting consisted of Ethics Training and Sunshine Laws Training. The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 27, 2021.

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski informed the CPAC the Nomination Subcommittee has formed. The subcommittee consists of Amita Agnihotri, Delmas “Dedee” Harper, Law Hawkins and Justine Wadyko. Please submit any nominations to Rosemary or any of the subcommittee members.

Volunteers are needed for International Coastal Cleanup that is scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021. A flyer with cleanup was emailed to all the CPAC members and flyers are available on the sign in table.

Registration for the City of Jacksonville Senior Games is open. A booklet with all the details for the Senior Games is available at the sign in table or the booklet can be viewed at:

<https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation/senior-services.aspx>

Rosemary Wesolowski – 255-8261 or rosemary@coj.net

Chairs Report – Chair Messer informed the CPAC that at the CPAC Chairs meeting with the Mayor’s Staff he brought up the following issues:

- The concern regarding missed collections of yard waste and recycling was discussed.
- There was also a request to the Mayor’s Staff to provide an update as to which CPAC CIP recommendations/projects have been funded.
- The rampant growth of kudzu growing in wooded or preserve areas that abut various neighborhoods throughout the city. The kudzu can weaken and destroy trees that can cause them to fall which may impact or endanger homes. How do associations handle this issue and who is responsible for any type of damage?

Chair Messer is hopeful there will be an update on these topics at the next meeting with the Mayor’s Staff.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn – meeting ended at 8:19 pm

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, October 11, 2021 - In person the meeting will be held at Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm and the meeting will be available virtually on Zoom.