

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

January 10, 2022 Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Kensington HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove Condominium; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas Harper, POISE, Inc; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Tim Keeley, Vice Chair, Kensington 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; Barbara Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills; John Roberts, The Valley at Hidden Hills; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA;

Excused: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA

Visitors: Carol Pearson; Melody Eckert; Phil Harris; Kathy Walker; Jennifer Casey; Debi Wagne; Scott Cowitt, Hawkins Cove

Staff: The Honorable Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1; Chief Andrew Cox, JFRD; Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Renee Goode, JEA; Steve Long, Public Works; Ernest Murphy, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Connie Quinto, Planning and Development Department; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Messer called the January 2022 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

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

Presentation(s): No presentation

Elected Officials Report:

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

- Extended an invitation to the January 11, 2022 City Council meeting. The meeting will be held in City Council Chambers (117 Duval Street W, 32202) and will begin at 5:00 pm.
- The 35th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast will be held virtually on Friday, January 14, 2022. The YouTube livestream pre-show will begin at 8 am and the live program will begin at 8:30 am. The virtual event will feature Mayor Lenny Curry and keynote speaker, Bonnie St. John. Ms. St. John became the first African-American ever to win medals in the Winter Olympic competition at the 1984 Paralympics in Austria. Today, she is a best-selling author, keynote speaker, television, and radio personality.
- The 41st annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade is scheduled for 11 am January 17th in Downtown Jacksonville. The parade route is 1.5 miles long and will begin on Water Street near

the Jacksonville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. The parade will continue onto Laura Street and then Adams Street before concluding at Lee and Bay streets.

- The next City Council District 1 Town Hall meeting will be held at Terry Parker Baptist Church on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:00 pm.
- The proposed Redistricting Ordinance (2022-1) has been introduced and it will be the subject of four public meetings. The public meetings will be held on: January 27, 2022 - 6:00 pm at Ed White High School; February 3, 2022 - 6:00 pm at Atlantic Coast High School; February 10, 2022 – 6:00 pm at First Coast High School; and February 17, 2022 – 6:00 pm at William Raines High School.

Joyce Morgan, 904-255-5201 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Jennifer Casey, Chair, Duval Soil and Water Conservation District – educated the CPAC about the purpose and duties of the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District, which is to educate the community about conservation, improvement, sustainability and protecting our natural resources for future generations. Chair Casey also stated that there are two bills, Senate Bill (SB)1078 and House Bill (HB) 783. The proposed bills seek to abolish all 58 soil and water conservation districts in the State of Florida. However, the Duval Soil and Water Conservation District is opposed to this legislation. If these bills pass, Florida would be the only state in the country without a Soil and Water Conservation District/programs. Chair Casey encouraged the CPAC members to reach out to their State Representatives regarding SB 1078 and HB 783. For more information, visit www.duvalsoilandwater.com or contact Chair Casey can be reached at casey@duvalsoilandwater.com or (904)994-5153.

Staff Reports:

Duval County Public Schools – on behalf of Sharwonda Peek, Assistant Superintendent School Choice, Chair Messer read the following report:

- Magnet and Special Transfer applications are being accepted from January 1st through February 28th. Please encourage all families to visit dcps.duvalschools.org/enroll for information and to visit the virtual school booths to gain insight on all the offerings in Duval County Public Schools.
- We would like your help and support in encouraging all families to complete the Federal Impact Survey that is available online at duvalschools.org. Families can also request a paper form from their local school or contact Mrs. Jacqueline Kelley at kelleyj@duvalschools.org for additional information. The collection of these forms will allow the district to reclaim millions of dollars that are lost to the district due to the amount of Federal property in our community.
- The Family Empowerment Scholarship program has vastly expanded this year due to a broadened eligibility. For additional information parents can contact Jacqueline Kelley at Kelleyj@duvalschools.org.
- We want all families who may have school aged children who have not enrolled at all in school this year to reach out to the Office of School Choice. We will be more than happy to assist with school placement. For additional support contact Mrs. Sharwonda Peek at peeks@duvalschools.org.

JFRD – Chief Andrew Cox informed the CPAC that calls for services have increased significantly since the onset of the Omicron variant in Jacksonville. JFRD is also awaiting the opening of Station 74 in the e-Town area.

JPL – Jackie Spiritas announced:

- The Jacksonville Public Library is proud to partner with the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) TaxAide during the tax season each year to provide free tax preparation. Taxes will be prepared by appointment only. Beginning Tuesday, January 18 you can schedule an appointment: aarpfoundation.org/taxaide
- 2022 Special Unitary General Election early voting will be held February 12, 2022 – February 20, 2022. Please visit the <https://www.duvalelections.com/General-Information/Learn-About-Elections/About-Early-Voting> for additional information about early voting. As a reminder, Election Day voting will be held on February 22, 2022 will be held 7:00 am - 7:00 pm and you may only vote at your precinct.
- Jax Stacks, the Library's new year-round reading challenge. Library staff have hand-picked 16 categories of books for you to read in 2022 that are designed to broaden your reading horizons. For additional information, please visit: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/jax-stacks-sign-up>

Jackie Spiritas – spiritas@coj.net

JEA – Renee Goode reminded the CPAC members with cold weather approaching you can expect this to impact your electric bill. JEA offers free efficiency assessment. Call 665-6000 to schedule an efficiency assessment.

Renee Goode – 665-6000

Municipal Code Compliance – Ernest Murphy provided the following updates:

- Code Compliance completed a systematic inspection in the CRA area in Arlington. There were 230 violations were cited.
- Year to date, 13,874 inspections were completed; 788 inspections were completed in the past 30 days and 845 snipe signs were collected in Zone 2.

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 and announced this would be her last GAB CPAC meeting. Ms. Quinto will be moving to Texas to join her husband. Ms. Quinto introduced Erin Abney as one of her temporary replacements that will represent the Planning and Development Department. Ms. Abney and Mr. Arimus Wells will alternate representing the Planning and Development Department until a permanent replacement has been identified.

Connie Quinto – ConnieQ@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long informed the CPAC member that he and his team are still actively working to replace/repair pipes, sidewalks, ditches and drainage throughout the area. Mr. Long provided these project updates:

- The new fire station off Arlington Road (just south of Atlantic Boulevard) was awarded in December 2021 and is currently in the contract phase. Once the contract has been finalized, the design phase will begin. As an estimate, construction will probably begin in Spring 2022.
- Upgrades at Norman Studio are underway. The upgrades include adding a HVAC system and new displays. This project is 90% completed.
- Two new roundabouts are open and in full usage. One roundabout is located at the intersection of Arlington Road and Rogero Road. The second roundabout is located at the intersection of Merrill Road and University Boulevard N. (in front of Jacksonville University).
- On St. Johns Bluff Road (between Atlantic Boulevard and Beach Boulevard) a sidewalk project just started. Once the project is complete, there will be a continuous sidewalk that will connect Atlantic Boulevard to Beach Boulevard.
- On Woolery Drive (off Merrill Road - just west of I-295) a drainage project will begin in March 2022, this project is designed to correct a flooding problem. Construction is expected to begin in March 2022.
- Construction on a new community center in Mayport community is underway and is approximately 65% complete.
- There is a dock project under review for the Mayport area.

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 6 applications and one companion application. A motion was made on:

AD-21-75 to deny the request to increase the allowed height of an accessory structure (shed) from 15 to 16 feet on 1204 St. Johns Bluff Road. The CPAC opposed this application for the following reason(s): An increase in the height of the structure is not justified within the written description of the need for the structure. An explanation is required for consideration.

The motion passed unanimously.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – no report

Environment – Lad Hawkins – The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a hybrid public hearing Thursday, January 27, 2022 to discuss proposed widening and other improvements along I-295 from J. Turner Butler Boulevard (S.R. 202) to the Southside Connector (S.R. 113). The hearing will begin with an open house from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. followed by a formal presentation and public comment period at 6:30 p.m.

The public may attend in person at UNF's Adam W. Herbert University Center, 12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32224 or online at nflroads.com/virtualmeetings.

Project information is now available for review at nflroads.com/I-295East.

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – **Nicole Hamm** informed the CPAC that the NFTPO did not meet in January, but she is willing to take back any feedback from the CPAC to the next NFTPO meeting.

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – **John Roberts** announced that the TRUE Commission did not meet in January.

DCPS Sales Surtax Oversight Committee - Delmas “Dedee” Harper – not present

Park Safety Committee – Mary Jane Brewer – not present

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski shared information regarding the upcoming Homeless Veterans Stand Down events and the Betty White Pet Adoption Challenge.

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

Chairs Report – Chair Messer inquired if there were any topics the CPAC members would like to have a presentation on. Topics suggested were:

- Feral cat colonies and how neighborhood communities can proactively address this concern.
- Presentation from the Supervisor of Elections to discuss working at the polls and voting options.
- Norcan Training
- Update on the City Council Special Committee on Parks and Quality of Life from City Council Member Defoor.
- Trash:
 - Littering on roadways
 - JSO enforcement on littering
 - Actions for illegal dumping

Chair Messer informed the CPAC members that his next meeting with the Mayor's Staff will be held in February and inquired if there are any concerns to bring to their attention. One suggestion was discuss panhandling on every street corner.

Chair Messer recognized the Hawkins Cove community members that were in attendance.

Old Business - none

New Business – Pete Miller informed the CPAC that he would be moving to St. Johns County very soon and will resign from the GAB CPAC.

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn – there was a motion and a second.

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, February 14, 2022 - 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.