

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

May 8, 2023, Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Bob Barletta, Charter Point Community Association; Robert Beckham, Pelican Bay HOA; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Michael Corcoran, Kensington HOA; Scott Cowitt, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas “Dedee” Harper, POISE, Inc.; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Michael Journey, City Council District 4; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Shelia Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougliouklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.

Excused: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Nicole Hamm, Southern Grove Condominium; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA

Visitors: Marion Anglin, Charter Point; Judy Neffron; Brandy W.; Luke Sutton; Mary Castor; 904-631-6401

Staff: Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning and Development Department; Gloria Crawford, Parks, Recreation and Social Services; Renee Manna, JEA; Steve Long, Public Works; Sara Radovic, JPL; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Lieutenant Jarmar Smith, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Keeley called the May 2023 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – Approval of the April 2023 meeting summary was postponed until the June meeting.

Presentation(s): Shay Hill, Government Relations Specialist, JEA, informed the CPAC about solar power at JEA.

There are eight solar facilities in the JEA territory that provide/sell various amounts of solar power to JEA. JEA does not own any solar facilities at this time. The solar facilities are located on the west side and north side of the city.

JEA acquires solar energy through a competitive bid process. The bid process includes an RFP, qualified proposals are evaluated and scored, with the highest score winning the contract. The awardee will then proceed with the facility permitting, construction and commissioning. JEA is a non-profit organization and traditionally non-profit organizations cannot take advantage of tax incentives. That may change due to the recently announced Inflation Reduction Act, which has a tax provision that may allow JEA to perform a self-build facility. The new Act is still under review by JEA.

Mr. Hill did share some issues with solar power. Those issues include:

- Solar power is only functional when light is available (not useful at night or under clouds).
- Intermittent resource (fluctuates throughout the day as clouds pass)
- System costs (capital, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning) can be pricey.
- Solar is very land intensive (each megawatt of solar requires six to eight acres of land).
- Material used to manufacture solar modules are not “green”. At the end of their useful life, the modules are more expensive to recycle than to replace. In the United States, only 10% of modules are recycled.

Currently, 58% of our power generated by JEA is from natural gas, 2% from renewable sources (solar, landfill gases, and biomass), 12% from coal/petcoke, and 28% is purchased from other energy companies. JEA has a goal of utilizing 35% clean energy by 2030 and plans an 80% reduction in CO2 emissions (from the 2005 levels) and to offset energy efficiency programs.

It was questioned if homeowners could sell excess solar power to JEA and what is the rate JEA will pay? It was confirmed that JEA could purchase the excess power and they paid the homeowner fuel cost rates (which fluctuates) versus commercial rates.

To learn more about the JEA solar projects, visit www.JEA.com/solar

Elected Officials Report:

The Honorable Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1, provided the following updates:

- The next City Council District 2 Town Hall meeting will be held on May 22, 2023, at the River City Baptist Church, 6801 Merrill Road, 32211 at 6:00 pm.
- The next City Council meeting will be held tomorrow night, May 9, 2023, in City Council Chambers; everyone was invited to attend.
- The new WaWa gas station (corner of Arlington Road and University Boulevard N) is scheduled to open sometime during the second week of June.
- Transformation at College Park shopping center continues. So far, a coffee shop, pizza restaurant, bank and a shipping container food court are scheduled to open upon completion.
- In June 2023, the art installation in the turbo roundabout located in the front of Jacksonville University (JU) is expected to be completed.

The Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC members recognized and applauded Council Member Morgan for her commitment to her council district and to the Greater Arlington Beaches CPAC for the past eight years.

Joyce Morgan, City Council District 1 – 255-5201 or joycemorgan@coj.net

Staff Reports:

JSO – Lieutenant Travis Hobbs announced in the past 30 days, overall violent crime is up 30%, property crime is down 30%, aggravated batteries are up 34% and property crime to businesses down. Lieutenant Hobbs confirmed that JSO still has a stop station at Regency Square Mall, but the substation relocated out of the mall. The Zone 2 or GAB JSO substation is located at 9119 Merrill Road.

JFRD – Lieutenant Jarmar Smith shared Hurricane Season is upon us. The first 2023 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on Saturday, May 27, 2023, and ends on Friday, June 9, 2023. A second Disaster Preparedness Holiday begins on Saturday, August 26, 2023, and ends on Friday, September 8, 2023. Lieutenant Smith also reminded the CPAC to download the JaxReady app and shared a copy of the Disaster Supply Kit Checklist everyone.

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Sara Radovic provided the following updates:

- Early voting will continue at most libraries until Sunday, May 14, 2023.
- The library will be hosting several different Lit Chats over the next couple of weeks at various libraries through out the city and on Zoom. Please visit the JPL website for complete details.
- JPL offer a summer reading programs for readers of all ages. To learn more about the reading program visit jaxpubliclibrary.org/summer

Sara Radovic – Sradovic@coj.net or <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/>

JTA – Cheryl Riddick did not have a report but was available for questions. There was a question regarding the possibility of adding a traffic light on San Pablo Road near the elementary schools as part of the roadway project. Ms. Riddick informed that CPAC that the contractors for the San Pablo Road roadway project stated the City of Jacksonville would need to conduct a traffic study and request the addition of the traffic light to the project before it can be constructed. Once that criterion was met, JTA would build/add the traffic light into the project. There was another request/question about adding a roundabout near the Pelican Bay community, also off San Pablo Road. Ms. Riddick will follow up on this request.

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) – Robert Bautochka shared the following updates:

- In the past 30 days, 1565 inspections were completed, and 78 snipe signs were removed.
- Proactive inspection was completed in the Parkridge Community. This generated 107 new cases.
- 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 with 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>

- Florida Senate Bill 60 prohibits code inspectors from initiating investigations of potential violations of codes and ordinances by way of anonymous complaints. The tickets will be closed if they are submitted anonymously.

Robert Bautochka – RBautochka@coj.net

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Gloria Crawford informed the CPAC that:

- May is Older Americans Month. The theme this year is “Aging Upbound”.
- Bash at the Ball Field will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 121 Financial Ball Park. This event is free to Duval County residents that are 60 and over. Call 904-255-5667 for more details and to RSVP.
- The Senior Expo will be held May 17 and 18, 2023 at the Prime F. Osbourn III Convention Center, from 9:00 to 3:00 pm both days.
- Disabled Services Division will host the 2023 Emergency Preparedness Conference at the Schultz Center located 4019 Boulevard Center on May 26, 2023, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- Both the Jim Fortuna Senior Center and Bennie Furlong Beaches Senior Center are closed for renovations and upgrades. The renovations will take six to nine months to complete.

Gloria Crawford – Gcrawford@coj.net

Public Works – Steve Long shared the following updates:

- Everyone was encouraged to keep their storm drains clean so the water can move freely and drain properly. Never put yard waste down the storm drains.
- The growing season is here, if you see any city owned property that needs to have the grass mowed, please call 630-CITY or use MyJax to request the property to be mowed.
- Director Long confirmed that there will be recycle bin audits completed by an agency that provides this service nationally. The audits will be completed to ensure we are recycling the appropriate items. To confirm the items that can be recycled, visit: www.coj.net/recyclerright
- There were questions regarding speed humps and speed tables on Gate Parkway and Bowden Road. Director Long will research and share his finding with the CPAC.

Steve Long – Slong@coj.net or 904-255-8786

Planning and Development Department – Connor Corrigan – was introduced as the new Planner assigned to work with the GAB CPAC.

Connor Corrigan – Ccorigan@coj.net or 904-7844

Subcommittee Reports (3-minute time limit):

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs – Michael Corcoran - the LUZ subcommittee reviewed two LUZ applications and no motions or recommendations were made.

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – no report

Environment – Lad Hawkins – no report

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt – stated there are several surveys available on the NFTPO website and NFTPO would really like community input. Two of the surveys are for roads in the GAB District, Rogero Road and Mayport Road. The web address to take the surveys is: <https://northfloridatpo.com/>

Park Safety Council – Mary Jane Brewer – no report

TRUE Commission- vacant

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski reminded the CPAC that in October, CPAC’s will celebrate their 30th Anniversary. To commemorate this milestone, there was a request for any CPAC memorabilia, especially items, pictures, or appointment letters from the 1990’s.

The annual Neighborhood Awards Program which is designed to recognize organized and registered neighborhood groups is still accepting applications. Hardcopies of the applications were available, and copies will be emailed again.

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

Chairs Report – Chair Keeley presented a new member packet to Robert Beckham, representing Pelican Bay HOA. Welcome Robert.

Chair Keeley read the final CIP recommendation letter that was submitted before the April deadline. The recommendations were:

- Build an "over the road walkway" over San Pablo Road in between Alimacani Elementary School (2051 San Pablo Road) and River City Science Academy (2002 San Pablo Road S.)
- Ed Austin Regional Park: as a safety measure, conduct an engineering study to determine the number of additional lights needed to properly illuminate the parking lot(s) adjacent to the PAL Building and the Jim Fortuna Senior Citizen Center both located within Ed Austin Regional Park.
- Build a multi-use path/trail system using JEA right-away land. The start of the trail would begin at the St. Johns River (RE#160266-0120 to RE#161135-0000) and continuing east across McCormick Road.

Old Business - none

New Business – none

Public Comment – none

Motion to Adjourn – there was a motion and a second; the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the District 2 CPAC will be on Monday, June 12, 2023 - the meeting will be held in-person at Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm and the meeting will be available virtually on Zoom.