

## **Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

### **November 13, 2023, Meeting Summary**

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

#### **Meeting Attendance:**

**CPAC Members:** Robert Beckham, Pelican Bay HOA; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Michael Corcoran, Kensington HOA; Scott Cowitt, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Kacy Evans, Caroline Forest HOA; Lenore Hanapel, Covington Creek HOA; Delmas “Dedee” Harper, POISE, Inc.; Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougouklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.

**Excused:** Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Michael Jurney, City Council District 4

**Visitors:** Alexander Hoffman, Ashley Green HOA; Pat Swigart, Ashley Green HOA; Deborah Gelwicks, Ashley Green HOA; Judy Heffrin, Hawkins Cove; Marion Anglin, Charter Point; Donnie Oulton, Glynlea Neighborhood Association; Diana Richardson, Mayport Landing; Jeanne Kline, AENCW; Tony Kline, AENCW; Joyce Ammons, AENCW; Steve; Joe Mantione, The Woods; Rick Sonneberry; Chanta Bish; Kylie; Sarah Behren; Mary Castor; 904-631-6401.

**Staff:** The Honorable Ken Amaro, City Council District 1; Assistant Chief Alicea, JSO; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning and Development Department; Steve Long, Public Works; Sharwonda Peek, DCPS; Daniel Piastuck, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Sara Radovic, JPL; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Lieutenant Jamar Smith, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

**Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Keeley called the November 2023 GAB CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Rosemary Wesolowski verified that a quorum was present.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary** – Approval of the October 2023 meeting summary was completed.

**Presentation(s):** Fred Berley, **Military Affairs and Veterans Department** informed the CPAC about the services and programs offered through Military and Veterans Affairs.

The Military Affairs and Veterans (MAV) Department provides the following services:

- They are advocates for the expansion of military infrastructure, personnel, and jobs within the City of Jacksonville and throughout Northeast Florida. The department team works closely with military, business, community, and elected leaders at the local, state, and national levels to deliver a compelling message that Jacksonville is the most "Military and Veteran Friendly City in the United States" and that Jacksonville is strategically important to the security posture of the nation.
- The department is committed to delivering services to our large and growing veteran community. Staff can assist veterans, their survivors and their caregivers who seek access to pensions, healthcare, disability ratings, GI Bill, and other earned benefits.

- The department sponsors and promotes city-wide events to publicly recognize the service of the military men and women serving at area installations, veterans, and their families.
- Upcoming events include:
  - Veterans Stand Down will be held on January 26 and 27, 2024 at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds.
    - On Friday, January 26, 2024, employment services, medical services and shelter and housing issues will be addressed starting at 10:00 am and ending at 2:00 pm.
    - On Saturday, January 27, 2024, veteran services, food and clothing give away, hygiene kits and dental services will be offered from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

For additional information or questions, please call 904-255-5550.

### **Elected Officials Report:**

**The Honorable Ken Amaro, City Council District 1**, shared the following updates:

- There is a potential buyer for Regency Square Mall and there is an intent to purchase, but there is not a purchase contract. The potential buyer is conducting his due diligence.
- Council President Ronald Salem and Council Member Amaro have introduced a resolution recognizing Rita Reagan for her commitment and work to save and restore the Norman Studios. Additionally, the City of Jacksonville has just acquired a building from the Circle of Faith Ministry which completes/reunites the Norman Studios building/property. The newly acquired building will be named after Ms. Reagan.
- Council Member Amaro will learn more about an upcoming Scenic Jacksonville project. For now, it is known that the project will focus on Arlington and should begin in 2024. Additional information is forth coming.
- Council President Salem has created a special committee that will address homelessness in Jacksonville. The first committee meeting will be held on November 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm.
- The next Council District 1 Townhall meeting will be held at Seacoast School on December 6, 2023, starting at 6:00 pm.

Ken Amaro – 255-5201 or [KAmaro@coj.net](mailto:KAmaro@coj.net)

### **Staff Reports:**

**JSO – Assistant Chief Alicea** announced:

- In the past 30 days, crime statistics were down overall in all zones.
- Automobile crashes reported in the Atlantic Boulevard and Hodges Boulevard area YTD total 183 incidents; in 2022 YTD was 184 incidents.
- Everyone was reminded to participate in the 9 pm Routine. Please keep your vehicles locked when you are not in them and do not leave valuables and/or firearms in your vehicles.

JSO Zone 2 – 630-8166 or [JSOZone2@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSOZone2@jaxsheriff.org)

**JFRD – Lieutenant Jarmar Smith** encouraged everyone to:

- If you plan to deep fry your turkey at Thanksgiving, remember to completely thaw your turkey before putting it into a deep fryer. Keep the deep fryer at least 10 feet away from your house.
- Do not leave food unattended in/on the stove.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials.
- Before lighting a fire in your fireplace, make sure your chimney is clean. Additionally, everyone was encouraged to place a fire screen in front of the fireplace fire box once a fire is lit.
- The CPAC members were reminded that fire extinguishers typically last five years. Everyone was encouraged to rotate the contents of their fire extinguisher periodically.

**JTA- Cheryl Riddick** announced:

- Gameday Xpress will be offered for all hometown games; the shuttle service begins two hours before kickoff. Prices for Gameday Xpress are \$10 to ride from a downtown lot or \$15 to ride from a suburban lot. For additional information, please use the following web address: <https://www.jtafla.com/ride-jta/bus-schedules-and-services/gameday-xpress/>
- JTA continues to work on the San Pablo Road project. The project team is doing everything they can to minimize impacts on the traveling public, including work preparations on the weekend and by working nights. There will be a public meeting in December 2023 to discuss the project; an exact date and location has not been set yet.

**Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) – Sara Radovic**, shared the following information:

- November is National Novel Writing Month. There are programs and workshops throughout the library system that will focus on writing, editing, nonfiction and self-publishing to name a few topics. Visit <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/> for more information.
- The Friends of the Library will hold a book sale November 16, 17, and 18, 2023 at the University Park Branch Library.

Sara Radovic – 904-255-2665

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

- In the past 30 days, 1146 inspections were completed, and 128 snipe/litter signs were removed.
- The third and final phase of a proactive inspection was completed on the Glynlea, Holiday Hills and Grove Park communities. This multi-phase proactive inspection has generated 198 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. 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](mailto:RBautochka@coj.net)

**DCPS – Sharwonda Peek** shared several updates:

- Everyone was encouraged to visit the DCPS website to follow the Master Facility Plan.
- Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary, 4346 Roanoke Boulevard, 32208, is the first school to be completed as part of the new Master Facility Plan. There are eight more new schools that will open in 2024.
- In January 2024, DCPS will offer School Showcase Saturday where families can visit and learn about the different DCPS schools and the programs they offer.
- It was confirmed that our local charter schools have their own governing board.

Sharwonda Peeks – [Peeks@Duvalschools.org](mailto:Peeks@Duvalschools.org)

**Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Dan Piastuck**, shared the following information:

- There are a few updates at Blue Cypress Park:
  - The contract for the new swimming pool is nearly finalized.
  - The pier remains closed, but construction on the boardwalk has been completed and is open to the public.
  - The community center is currently under renovation on the inside and some updates will be completed on the outside.
  - It was confirmed that the golf course is city owned and is operated through a private vendor contract. At this time, the possibility of expanding the number of course holes is under review. It is unclear if any discussion about a clubhouse development/expansion has occurred.
- Beach and Peach Park will be the first park in Jacksonville to receive a pump track. This project is in the design phase.
- The new playground equipment at Fort Caroline Community Center Park has been installed and the pool is in the design phase for various repairs.
- Playground equipment will be installed at Ed Austin Regional Park in Spring 2024.
- Lights in the parking lot at Ed Austin Regional Park are working. Recently trees have been trimmed back to increase light dispersion through the parking area. A lighting evaluation is underway to assess how the parking lot can be better illuminated.
- The Jim Fortuna Senior Center is currently closed for renovations. The next closest senior center would be the Frances Padgett Senior Center located at 1078 Rogero Road, 32211.

Dan Piastuck – [Dpiastuck@coj.net](mailto:Dpiastuck@coj.net)

**Planning and Development Department – Connor Corrigan** did not have a report.

Connor Corrigan – [Ccorigan@coj.net](mailto:Ccorigan@coj.net) or 904-7844

**Public Works – Steve Long** informed the CPAC that:

- Hurricane Season ends on December 1, 2023, and currently, there are no storms developing in the tropics.
- Public Works held a Consultant Forum where approximately 125 different companies attended the event.
- On Wednesday, November 22, 2023, Public Works will host a follow up forum with the contractors.
- At the October GAB CPAC meeting, it was mentioned that a sidewalk on Oak Drive needed to be replaced/repared; the work on the sidewalk has been completed.
- The City of Jacksonville does not post “no littering” signs on the roadway but will post “no dumping” signs in areas that are notorious for illegal dumping.

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

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

**LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Michael Corcoran, informed the CPAC the subcommittee reviewed eight applications and one motion will be presented to the CPAC.

Denial of Ord. 2023-0708 at 0 Atlantic Boulevard to change the current zoning from PUD RR-Acre to CCG-1 for special commercial use. The GAB CPAC voted to deny for the following reasons:

- There were numerous comments from multiple neighboring residential communities about the total reduction of green space along Atlantic Boulevard.
- The overdevelopment of commercial properties directly across from residential communities and the traffic those businesses produce already impact the safety of the area.
- The development of undeveloped land eliminates the natural water runoff from an already congested and heavily developed area, with no reciprocal areas to handle the watershed.
- With the abundance of vacant commercial property available within one mile of the proposed site, this new construction increases the potential for blight in the area.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge** – everyone was encouraged to clean up their yards and communities to prepare for the upcoming holidays.

**Environment – Lad Hawkins** – informed the group that a national champion loblolly pine tree at the Arboretum has fallen over and will be removed.

**Nomination – Kacy Evans** presented a slate of officers to the GAB CPAC; no nominations were made from the floor. The election concluded with Tim Keeley serving as CPAC Chair and Delmas “Dedee” Harper will serve as Vice Chair in 2024.

**Membership** – vacant

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt** – informed the CPAC that the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan is nearing completion. Until the new plan is completed, you can review the old plan at <https://northfloridatpo.com/uploads/2045-LRTP-Summary-Report.pdf>

**Park Safety Council – Mary Jane Brewer** – not present

**TRUE Commission** - vacant

**Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski** thanked all of the CPAC members and award winners that attended the Neighborhood Awards and the CPAC 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on October 19, 2023.

There was an inquiry and discussion regarding the December 11, 2023, meeting. It was determined that the CPAC members would like to go out to eat dinner after the meeting. The location is still to be determined.

It was announced that the CPAC Chairs and Vice Chairs will attend the annual Chairs training on December 13, 2023, in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street at 6:00 pm.

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

**Chairs Report** – Chair Keeley stated that he attended the quarterly meeting with the Mayor's Staff earlier in the month and Zoom meetings were discussed. It was determined for the time being, all CPAC meetings will be conducted in the hybrid (in-person and Zoom) format.

**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, December 11, 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.