

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

### **January 8, 2024, 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; 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; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Sheila Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Donnie Oulton, Glynlea Park Neighborhood Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougouklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.

**Excused:** Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Mary Jane Brewer, Live Oak Manor Neighborhood Association; Pamela Brown, Osprey Pointe HOA; Nell DeCoursey, Hickory Creek HOA; Alexander Hoffman, Ashley Green HOA; Michael Journey, City Council District 4; Dr. Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA

**Visitors:** Cheryl Brantley, Hidden Hills; Chantha Bisher, Pelican Bay HOA; Lynne Williams, Zeta Phi Beta; Joe Mantione, The Woods; Mary Castor; 904-631-6401

**Staff:** Erin Abney, Planning and Development Department; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Shay Hill, JEA; Sara Radovic, JPL; Lieutenant Jamar Smith, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

**Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Keeley called the January 2024 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 November and December 2023 meeting summaries were completed.

**Presentation(s):** **Scott Bacon, Senior Vice President for External Affairs, Jacksonville University and Vincent Saladino, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations and Campaign Operations, Jacksonville University** provided updates that are occurring at Jacksonville University (JU).

Mr. Bacon stated that in the Fall of 2023, JU welcomed their largest incoming class since 2019. Student retention is one of the key measurements of success that higher education facilities monitor. In particular, the freshmen to sophomore retention rate is closely followed. JU is proud to share that their freshman to sophomore retention rate was over 74% this year; up from a 63% retention rate last year.

There has been significant physical growth on campus as well. In the past year, JU has opened a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) Institute on the Arlington campus. JU will continue to grow educational programs in the areas of Fintech and digital animation education.

Due to the nursing crisis, JU has developed three Accelerated Bachelor of Science Nursing (ABSN) programs at the Arlington campus. Additionally, JU has partnered with Lake Erie College

of Osteopathic Medicine. Through this partnership, Jacksonville University will open its first four-year medical school in the fall of 2026. The medical school will be located on the north end of the Arlington campus with the other healthcare facilities.

Since the creation of the Jacksonville University College of Law, all law classes have been held in the VyStar Credit Union Building in downtown Jacksonville. JU is happy to announce they renovated the old Atlantic National Bank Building on Forsyth Street, and the College of Law will permanently move to this downtown location in mid-2024.

In support of the Renew Arlington CRA efforts, outside Jacksonville University's main entrance, JU has installed a four-sided obelisk with internal illumination. The four sides of the obelisk feature plaques honoring Jacksonville's naval history, the era of the historic silent-film studio, the Mathews Bridge, and a water scene as part of the Arlington community history.

There have been numerous discussions with JU leaders on how to enhance the amenities offered to students both on and off campus. JU is also exploring the idea of more formally opening their gates to the community of Arlington. JU questions how they can develop an area on/near the campus to create multi-use space in a way that could help with the revitalization of Arlington.

#### **Elected Officials Report: none**

#### **Staff Reports:**

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

- JFRD can install a new smoke detector or change the batteries in an existing smoke detector by calling 630-CITY to submit your request.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from flammable materials.
- Before lighting a fire in your fireplace, make sure your chimney is clean.

Lieutenant Smith – JamarS@coj.net

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

- On January 27, 2024, Mayor Deegan's River City Readers program will kick off for students of all ages at the Main Library from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; all student attendees will receive a free book. The reading program encourages all students to read at least 20 minutes a day.
- In celebration of Black History Month, on February 11, 2024, at 2:00 pm at the Main Library there will be a History Chat to discuss the History of the Prince Hall Masons with speaker Jerry Urso. Pre-registration is required and can be completed at: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/celebrating-black-history-and-imagining-better-future>
- In February, JPL, and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will partner to bring free tax preparations to the community. Details will be forthcoming, but it was noted that appointments will be mandatory.

Sara Radovic – 904-255-2665

**JEA – Shay Hill** provided the following information:

- If you receive a bill in the mail, you will notice a QR code has been added. If you scan this QR code, it will give you the same options that you will find on JEA.com.
- JEA is currently working on an app that consumers can use on their smart phone and tablets. This app is currently in the testing phase and should be available sometime in the spring.
- Bonding agencies have upgraded JEA bonds. This means when JEA turns to bonds for infrastructure projects, they will get a better rate and the savings will be passed on to the consumers.
- JEA will partner with several volunteer agencies to offer a week of service opportunities in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. JEA employees are encouraged to volunteer at least once during this week.
- If you ever have any questions about your bill or if a situation arises regarding a deposit or you receive a phone call or email requesting you to pay for anything with a gift card or pre-paid credit card, do not pay them. Everyone was encouraged to call JEA at: 904-665-6000 and report the request.

Shay Hill – 904-665-6000

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

- In the past 30 days, 1005 inspections were completed, and 139 snipe/litter signs were removed.
- In the past 30 days, two proactive inspections were conducted. One inspection was in the Century 21 area and one in the Woodmere area; both inspections combined generated 58 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)

**Planning and Development Department – On behalf of Connor Corrigan, Erin Abney** did not have a report.

Connor Corrigan – [Ccorigan@coj.net](mailto:Ccorigan@coj.net) or 904-255-7844

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

**LUZ (Land Use and Zoning)/Governmental Affairs** – Michael Corcoran informed the CPAC that the subcommittee reviewed eight applications and two motions were presented to the full CPAC. The motions are:

Denial of 2023-0854, a Planned Unit Development (PUD) located at 1511 Parental Home Road to allow for 29 townhomes. This proposal does not facilitate parking that is sufficient for visitors, or provide access for mail delivery, trash collection or emergency vehicles, and the functionality of the driveways is inappropriate. Motion carried.

Denial of E-24-01, an Exception at 13547 Atlantic Boulevard for an auto laundry facility in the CCG-1 Zoning District. This proposed development would create excessive noise. The ten-foot uncomplimentary buffer will in no way mitigate this impact on the adjoining single family residential homes. Additionally, the traffic increase impact on the two-lane residential entry road (San Pablo Road N) will also negatively impact this residential community serviced by this road. Motion carried.

**Beautification/Parks** – Larry Belge – no report

**Environment – Lad Hawkins** – no report

**Membership** – vacant

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt** –no report

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

**TRUE Commission**- vacant

**Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski** reminded the attendees that copies of the 2024 CPAC meeting calendar are available in hard copy on the sign in table and copies were emailed to everyone.

It was announced that the Neighborhood Services Office will offer their multi-class neighborhood leadership training program called CommUniverCity again this spring. Additional details about the training class will be forthcoming.

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

**Chairs Report** – Chair Keeley – no report

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** – Member Scott Cowitt stated that he enjoyed the December gathering at Matt's Italian Restaurant after the CPAC meeting and he hopes the CPAC will do this again.

**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, February 12, 2024, - 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 also be available virtually on Zoom.