

Greater Arlington Beaches Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 12, 2024, Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Pointe HOA; Marion Anglin, Charter Point Community Association; 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.; Alexander Hoffman, Ashley Green HOA; Tim Keeley, Chair, Kensington Association; Sheila Litwhiler, Beachwood Civic Association; Joe Mantione, The Woods Community; Donnie Oulton, Glynlea Park Neighborhood Association; Eddi Parsons, Monument Oaks HOA; Jerry Petoskey, Old Mill Cove Community Organization; Nina Pougjouklidis, Ibis Point Owners Association; Dr. Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.

Excused: Lad Hawkins, Communities of East Arlington; Michael Journey, City Council District 4

Visitors: Cheryl Brantley, Hidden Hills; Mary Castor; 904-631-6401; Pat Swigart, Ashley Green; JoAnn McIntosh, Ashley Green; Deborah Gelwicks, Ashley Green; Starr Prescott, Youth Exposure, Inc.

Staff: Assistant Chief Alicea, JSO; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Kathleen Brunner, JPL; James Carroll, Public Works; Connor Corrigan, Planning and Development Department; Chip Harper, Military and Veterans Affairs; Dan Piastuck, Parks, Recreation and Social Services; Sharwonda Peek, DCPS; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Office; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Lieutenant Jamar Smith, JFRD; Thomas Waters, Neighborhoods Department; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Keeley called the February 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 January 2024 meeting summary was completed.

Presentation(s): In lieu of a presentation, the GAB CPAC discussed their 2024 CIP recommendations for submittal on February 23, 2024.

The CPAC members were reminded of the recommendations they submitted in 2023. After some discussion, the CPAC members voted to submit the following recommendations:

- 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.) Both schools are close together and on the opposite sides of the road. With the 2021/2022 addition of the River City Science Academy this has only increased the need for students to cross back and forth on this road. Due to the volume of traffic and lack of

designated crossing areas, it is a safety concern to families and walkers on both sides of the road.

- 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.
- Ed Austin Regional Park: as a safety measure, conduct an engineering study to determine the number of additional lights needed to properly illuminate all the parking lots in the park, especially the parking lot(s) adjacent to the PAL Building and the Jim Fortuna Senior Citizen Center.

Elected Officials Report: none.

Staff Reports:

JSO – Assistant Chief Alicea presented the following JSO report for Zone 2:

- District wide, violent crimes are down 14% and property crimes are up 11%. The increase in property crimes can be attributed to the number of stolen vehicles. Most of the vehicles stolen are related to the software glitch for Kias and Hyundais.
- The crime statistics were broken down by the various JSO subsectors in the GAB (Zone 2) District.
- It was announced that everyone can view the JSO crime statistics at www.JSO.com; scroll to the bottom of the page and click on crime mapping.
- Everyone was encouraged to report panhandling to JSO on the non-emergency line 630-0500.

Assistant Chief Alicea – 904-630-8166

JFRD – Lieutenant Jarmar Smith shared the following recommendations:

- 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) – Kathleen Brunner, shared the following information:

- On January 27, 2024, Mayor Deegan's River City Readers program kicked off for students of all ages. The reading program encourages all students to read at least 20 minutes a day through the Beanstack app. The goal is to have 300,000 reading minutes logged on to the Beanstack app by the end of the year. So far, this reading program is very successful, and the goal of reading minutes may need to be raised; program participants have almost reached the goal with many months to go.
- The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and JPL have partnered again to bring free tax preparations to the community. It was noted that appointments are mandatory. Visit jaxpubliclibrary.org for more details.
- A calendar was available for all the upcoming activities and events at the University Park Branch Library. Everyone was encouraged to explore activities at all the local libraries.

Kathleen Brunner – 904-255-2665

Military Affairs and Veterans (MAV) – Chip Harper provided the following information:

- On January 26 and 27, 2024, MAV held a very successful veteran stand down at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. There were 142 agencies in attendance that provided information and/or services for veterans in need. There were over 500 veterans that attended.
- On February 13, 2024, MAV will offer free legal advice for veterans in their office which is in City Hall at St. James Building, 117 Duval Street West, Suite 175. It was announced that free legal advice is available for veterans twice a month. Please call 904-255-5550 for additional information.
- The Military Affairs and Veterans Department also provides tax preparation to veterans and enlisted men alike. Call 904-255-5550 for more information.
- The Players Championship Military Job Fair will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Patriots' Outpost, TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. 32082 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Chip Harper – 904-255-5537

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

- In the past 30 days, 1176 inspections were completed, and 266 snipe/litter signs were removed.
- A corridor inspection was conducted on Merrill Road (from University Boulevard N to I-295) and 60 new cases were opened.
- 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

Parks, Recreation and Social Services – Dan Piastuck provided the following updates:

- On March 1, 2024, the Jim Fortuna Senior Center is scheduled to re-open to the public.
- The City of Jacksonville would like to hire approximately 375 lifeguards for the upcoming summer months. Handouts were available that contained information about hiring, job duties, training locations and public pool locations.
- The City of Jacksonville has 30 pools it can open if enough lifeguards are hired.
- Playground equipment at Ed Austin Regional Park will be removed and replaced with new playground equipment in the very near future.
- Renovations of Friendship Fountain on the Southbank have been completed. The grand re-opening of the fountain will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm, 1015 Museum Circle, 32207.

- Concerns about the baseball fields/use of space at Glynlea Park, the condition of the parking lot at Gerrie's Park and a request for park updates at Castaway Island Park were shared with Mr. Piastuck.

Dan Piastuck – Dpiastuck@coj.net

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

Connor Corrigan – Ccorigan@coj.net or 904-255-7844

Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) – Sharwonda Peeks, informed the CPAC that:

- DCPS needs to hire more teachers, if you are interested in teaching, please visit their website <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/> for complete information.
- Please use the DCPS website to investigate the School Choice program to learn about the education options available, especially if you would like to enroll your student into a magnet school or a magnet program.

Sharwonda Peeks – peek@duvalschools.org

Public Works – James Carroll shared the following updates:

- Everyone was encouraged to call 630-CITY or use MyJax online system (on jacksonville.gov) or download the MyJax mobile app from your app store or from the COJ website <https://www.jacksonville.gov/categories/mobile-apps/myjax>
- It was confirmed that utility companies (AT&T, Comcast, JEA) are required to pull permits from the City of Jacksonville to work on any underground utilities work they conduct in the community.
- The CPAC members shared concerns pertaining to the Public Works Department issues they have entered in the MyJax system that have not been completed or were closed without completion. Mr. Carroll stated he would follow up on the concerns he could not address at the meeting.

James Carroll – jcarroll@coj.net

Neighborhoods Department – Thomas Waters, Acting Director introduced himself to the CPAC and shared a brief professional biography. Mr. Waters identified the various divisions and offices that comprise the Neighborhood Department. In addition, Mr. Waters identified a few events and/or activities that he would like to bring back to the Neighborhoods Department, such as the neighborhoods magazine, the neighborhood conference and community charettes.

Thomas Waters – twaters@coj.net

Subcommittee Reports (3-minute time limit):

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

Beautification/Parks – Larry Belge – spring and the growing season are upon us. Everyone was encouraged to rake old leaves and trim any dead or dying plants or foliage.

Environment – Lad Hawkins – not present

Membership – vacant

Ad Hoc Committees:

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

Park Safety Council - vacant

TRUE Commission- vacant

Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski introduced Lisa Ransom, the Manager of the Neighborhood Services Office to the CPAC.

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.

The next GAB CPAC meeting will be held at Ed Austin Regional Park, but it will be moved into the gymnasium. Ed Austin Regional Park is a new polling place for this area. Several polling sites throughout the city have moved as well, please take a minute to check to see if your polling site has been changed.

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

Chairs Report – Chair Keeley introduced new member Joseph Mantione representing The Woods Community.

Chair Keeley informed the CPAC members that he did represent the GAB CPAC at two meetings since our January 8, 2024, meeting. The first meeting was with JTA on January 30, 2024, at the new JTA Regional Transportation Center. The purpose of this meeting was to get community input on JTA services and projects. Chair Keeley mentioned the challenges neighborhoods along San Pablo Road are having with road construction. The second meeting was the quarterly meeting with the mayor's staff and the other CPAC chairs.

Old Business – none

New Business – Member Nina Pougliouklidis, informed the CPAC members about legislation that was introduced in Tallahassee. HB 173: Not-for-profit Corporations that Operate Residential Homeowners' Associations. The CPAC was encouraged to research the bill and express any concern(s) with their state representative.

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2024/173/?Tab=BillHistory>

Member Kacy Evans announced that Council Member Ken Amaro will host a Town Hall meeting on February 26, 2024, at Fort Caroline Middle School at 6:00 pm.

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, March 11, 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.