

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

### **September 9, 2024, Meeting Summary**

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

#### **Meeting Attendance:**

**CPAC Members:** Amita Agnihotri, Osprey Point HOA; Robert Beckham, Pelican Bay HOA; Larry Belge, River Woods – St. Johns Landing HOA; Cheryl Brantley, Hidden Hills Country Club Estates 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; 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; Justine Wadyko, Waterleaf HOA; Debra Wagner, Hawkins Cove Owners Association, Inc.

**Excused:** Marion Anglin, Charter Point Community Association; Ramsey Salem, Queens Harbour POA

**Visitors:** Gary Dickinson, Grove Park HOA; Mary Amber, Brittany Bluff; Roy Amber; Brittany Bluff; Dot Belvins, Brittany Bluff; Denny Belvins, Brittany Bluff; Pat Swigart, Ashley Green HOA; Fred Berley; Ed Radloff, Colony Cove; Karen Kelly, Allenby; Keith Martin, Allenby; Feng Martin, Allenby; David Ledbetter; Jimmy Marshburn; Joyce Washburn; JoAnne McIntesh, Ashley Green HOA; Judi McKinney, Allenby Drive; Julie Randolph, Allenby Drive; Debbie Gelwicks, Ashley Green HOA

**Staff:** The Honorable Ken Amaro, District 1; Robert Bautochka, Municipal Code Compliance; Connor Corrigan, Planning & Development Department; Derrick Dixon, FDOT; Sargent Garcia, JSO; Devon Holland, JPL; Sharwonda Peek, DCPS; Lieutenant Jarmar Smith; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

**Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Keeley called the September 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 August 2024 meeting summary was completed.

**Presentation(s): Stephanie Means, Duval County Extension Office**, informed the CPAC about Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL).

The purpose of Florida Friendly Landscaping is to have an integrated approach to maintain an attractive, colorful and diverse yard that is friendly to wildlife, is easy to maintain, conserves water and protects water quality (in lakes, streams/creeks, retention ponds, rivers and the ocean). There are nine Florida Friendly Landscaping principles:

- Right plant, right place- choose a diversity of plants and use native plants when you can.
- Water efficiently – follow the Duval County Irrigation Ordinance, check and maintain irrigation systems, only water when needed and do not water pavement.

- Fertilize appropriately – follow the Duval County Fertilizer Ordinance, only apply fertilizer when the grass is actively growing, do not fertilize if heavy rain is expected, leave a 10-foot buffer by water bodies.
- Mulch – to buffer soil temperature, slows evaporation, reduces water needs, inhibits weeds and adds nutrients to the soil.
- Attract wildlife – by using plants of varying heights to create layers for shelter, choose plants that are a food source: seeds, nuts, berries, and nectar.
- Manage yard pests responsibly – identify your pests and use the least toxic method first. Spot treat vs broadcast application.
- Recycle Yard Waste – use fallen leaves and pine needles as mulch under trees and shrubs, create and maintain a compost area or utilize horticultural recycling at the curb.
- Reduce stormwater runoff – keep water in landscape, use porous surfaces for walkways, patios and driveways. Direct downspouts/gutters to porous areas and install a rain barrel.
- Protect the waterfront – establish and maintain a 10-foot buffer zone near waters areas. Plant a border of low-maintenance native plants between lawn and shoreline/seawall to absorb nutrients, provide wildlife habitat and prevent erosion.

For additional information, please visit [www.floridafriendlylandscaping.com](http://www.floridafriendlylandscaping.com) or contact Stephanie Means at [smeans1@ufl.edu](mailto:smeans1@ufl.edu)

#### **Elected Officials Report:**

**The Honorable Ken Amaro, City Council District 1**, did not have a report, but was available for questions.

#### **Staff Reports:**

**JSO – Sargent Garcia** presented the following JSO report for District 2:

- Shared crime statistics and confirmed overall crime in District 2 is down 3% in all categories.
- Thefts of Hyundais and Kias remain a problem.
- Everyone was reminded to participate in the 9:00 pm routine; remove all valuables from vehicles and lock your car every night at 9:00 pm.
- There was a brief review on how the emergency alert system works and how alerts are sent to our electronic devices (phones, tablets, computers).
- The neighbors along San Pablo Road extended their appreciation to Assist Chief Alicea for responding to their traffic concerns.

Assistant Chief Alicea – 904-630-8166

**JFRD – Lieutenant Smith** provided the following updates:

- We are in the busiest part of hurricane season, make sure you are prepared. Everyone was encouraged to download the JaxReady app.
- Once fall arrives, please have your chimney inspected or cleaned before you start a fire in your fireplace.
- Check your space heaters to ensure they are working properly and that the cords, plugs and outlets are intact.

Lieutenant Smith – [JamarS@coj.net](mailto:JamarS@coj.net)

**Duval County Public Schools – Sharwonda Peek** shared the following information:

- The Master Facility Plan meetings/discussions continue.
- On September 17, 2024, there will be a televised meeting with the Duval County School Board. The meeting will be available on Live Stream; please join the meeting virtually to hear about any possible impacts for our educational facilities.
- All applications to for School Choice have new applications dates. The new dates are December 1, 2024, to January 31, 2025. Visit <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/schoolchoice> for more information.
- All schools need volunteers; there are a wide range of volunteer opportunities available. Please contact Duval County Schools if you are interested in volunteering.

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

**FDOT – Derek Dixon** provided the following updates to questions that were emailed to him. The updates are:

- There was a question requesting FDOT to turn the traffic signals to flashing yellow lights on Kernan Boulevard (from McCormick Boulevard to J. Turner Butler Boulevard)? This is a City of Jacksonville Road, not a FDOT road; contact the City of Jacksonville to make the request.
- There was a question about development in the vicinity of Merrill Road/I-295/Southside Connector; how will this change these roads? FDOT has studied the I-295 corridor from the Dames Point Bridge to J. Turner Butler Boulevard. Everyone was encouraged to visit [www.NFLroads.com/I295](http://www.NFLroads.com/I295) to see the study and the latest updates. It was noted that none of the recommendations or updates that are included in the study are funded.
- On Atlantic Boulevard can a flashing yellow light be added at Kensington Gardens? It was stated that Kensington Gardens will not get a flashing yellow arrow to allow left turns. It was noted that FDOT (Traffic Engineering) is constantly evaluating the roads, intersections, traffic flow and the use/types of traffic lights in use.
- It was noted that there are several questions/concerns submitted pertaining to the development of the Madison Palms community, and improper driving; are not FDOT issues.

Derek Dixon – [Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us)

**Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Devon Holland introduced herself to the CPAC and provided the following information:

- September is National Library Card Sign Up Month; please get a library card if you do not have one.
- A brand-new library catalog system will be installed to enhance your browsing and borrowing experience. The new catalog is set to launch on October 10, 2024, with a transition week starting from October 1-9, 2024. To ensure a smooth transition, it was encouraged that you stock up on your favorite books before the conversion begins. During the transition period (October 1-9) you can:
  - Use Libby to borrow books from the library, borrow eBooks, Audiobooks, and magazines; use Hoopla to borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks, TV/Movies, and Music.
  - Stream films from Kanopy.
  - Access LinkedIn Learning and other digital platforms from the library.
  - Use public computers and print documents

You'll have to wait to:

- Access the My Account page
  - Place new holds
  - Pay fees
  - Suggest a Purchase through the online form
  - Use the Books by Mail service (you can still sign up though)
- JPL will reinstate the Books by Mail service. This is a free service, but you must register for the service; please call 904-255-BOOK for assistance with registration and/or additional information.
  - The Regency Square Branch Library will receive some building improvements within the next couple of months; specific dates were not available.
  - The Jax Book Fest will return to the Main Library on September 20-21, 2024. Please visit: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/blog/new-york-times-bestselling-author-gabrielle-zevin-jax-book-fest> for more information.

Devon Holland – [DHolland@coj.net](mailto:DHolland@coj.net)

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

- In the past 30 days, 1,142 inspections were completed, and 577 snipe/litter signs were removed.
- A special project was completed in the Woodland Acres Community, specifically on Dandy Avenue. There were 64 new cases opened due to the project on Dandy Avenue.
- 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.
- Supervisor Bautochka answered questions pertaining to shed maintenance, what types of vehicles are allowed to be parked in driveways, questions about fences and concerns about overgrowth on the service road near Beach Boulevard and San Pablo Road.
- It was questioned if bees and aviaries are considered livestock, and can they be kept in a back yard? Planner Connor Corrigan did some quick research and reported that they are not considered livestock and can be maintained in a residential backyard.

Robert Bautochka – [RBautochka@coj.net](mailto:RBautochka@coj.net)

**Planning and Development Department – Connor Corrigan** – no 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** – **Mike Corcoran** stated the subcommittee reviewed two LUZ applications and decided that no action was needed to move either application along. After this report, Member Eddi Parsons requested further discussion about application 2024-0668; the CPAC discussed the application. After the discussion, Member Parsons stated she would like to make a motion to have the record reflect that the GAB CPAC supports this application. There was a second and the CPAC voted that they support this application.

**Beautification/Parks** – **Larry Belge** – reminded everyone that we have received a lot of rain, and the grass will be growing. If you see homes, parks and other areas with grass that exceeds 15 inches in height, please call 630-CITY to report it.

**Environment – Lad Hawkins** – no report

**Membership** – vacant

**Ad Hoc Committees:**

**North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (NFTPO) – Scott Cowitt** attended a meeting last week, and they discussed the Transportation Improvement Program for FY 2024/25 – FY2028/29. In our area projects that were discussed include projects on University Boulevard, Merrill Road, Townsend Boulevard, the Arlington Expressway and the Mathews Bridge. One project that will be implemented is the Mayport Ferry; the ferry will increase service by 50%.

There was also discussion about future funding of roadways. Most funds come from tax on gasoline. With more drivers using hybrid or electric vehicles, this decreases funds available for roads. There are ideas under review on how hybrid vehicles and electric vehicles can contribute financially to help maintain our roads.

**Park Safety Council** – is currently vacant. CPAC Member Donnie Oulton has submitted an application and he is hopeful to hear an update soon.

**TRUE Commission - Alex Hoffman** – no report

**Neighborhood Services Office Report – Rosemary Wesolowski** reminded the CPAC that the election for CPAC Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the November meeting. Volunteers to serve on the temporary subcommittee are needed. Additionally, nominations are also needed. Our current CPAC Chair, Tim Keeley and Vice Chair, Delmas Dedee Harper are eligible to serve in those positions one more year if nominated. Please contact Rosemary if you are interested in serving on the Nomination subcommittee or if you would like to make a nomination.

Rosemary Wesolowski – 904-255-8261 or [rosemary@coj.net](mailto:rosemary@coj.net)

**Chairs Report** – Chair Keeley informed the CPAC that he will meet with the mayor's staff on Friday, September 13, 2024. Please let him know if you have any issues, concerns or unresolved MyJax tickets/concerns to discuss at the meeting.

**Old Business** – none

**New Business** – none

**Public Comment** – Visitor David Ledbetter stated he is working with JEA regarding awareness pertaining to residential solar panel fraud.

Visitor Debbie Gelwicks, Vice President of Ashley Green HOA, stated she is deeply concerned about a proposed development project (of 75 townhomes) that will be located on a private road off Fort Caroline Road. It was stated that Ashley Green HOA, the surrounding neighbors and neighborhoods would prefer single family homes instead of the townhomes.

Visitor Judy McKinney stated she lives on Allenby Drive, the private road where the proposed development project will be developed. Ms. McKinney explained the impact this development would have on the small private dirt road and the challenges the residents of Allenby Drive would face with increased cars on the road. It was stated that they have held a town hall meeting to discuss this proposed project and they have shared their displeasure with Councilman Amaro.

Visitor Ed Radloff stated he is the President of the Colony Cove HOA, a 192 single family home neighborhood that abuts the proposed development project land. Mr. Radloff stated that the project consists of 11 acres, of which 7 acres are proposed to be developed into 75 townhomes. Mr. Radloff described the area and expressed the negative impact the proposed development would have on the area and the neighbors in his community that live adjacent to the proposed development.

Visitor Dot Belvins, Brittany Bluff HOA, expressed her concern with the proposed development and the negative impact the development would have on the surrounding area and frustration with the congested traffic as it is without adding the additional vehicles.

**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, October 14, 2024, the meeting will be held in-person at Ed Austin Regional Park, PAL Building Cafeteria, 3450 Monument Road, 32225 at 6:30 pm and the meeting will also be available virtually on Zoom.