

# Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

## March 6, 2023, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting:

The Main Library 303 N. Laura St. Room G4, Jacksonville, FL 32202 and on Zoom

### Meeting Attendance

**CPAC Members:** Bryant Shumaker, Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senior, Vice-Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Ernest Smith, Plaza Condominiums; Cindy Watson, JASMYN; Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, INC.; Becca Dingler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Johnny Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood

**Excused:** Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS

**Visitors:** Linda Harris, Myrtle Avenue Community CDC; Ricky Anderson, Historic Eastside CDC; Shannon Denson, Jacksonville Black Chamber of Commerce; Lee Kryszewski

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Honorable Warren A. Jones, Duval County Public Schools Board; Chris Billings, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Duval County Public Schools; Charles Johnson, JFRD; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office; Craig Black, Neighborhood Services Office; Cheryl Riddick, Jacksonville Transportation Authority; Kara Tucker, Park, Recreation, and Community Service

### Meeting Summary

**Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Craig Black confirmed a quorum was present.

**Approval of Previous Meeting's Summary:** The February 2023 meeting summary was approved by the CPAC members.

**Presentation:** No presentation

**Elected Official's Report:** Duval County School Board member Warren Jones shared:

- The annual five-year essential survey is underway. Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) is using a survey produced by the University of Chicago to measure the culture and climate of Duval County schools.
- DCPS is now in the third period of controlled open enrollment. Any student who wishes to return to the district from a charter school, or a home school can return to their neighborhood school or any other school that has an open seat available. Information regarding the School Choice Program can be reached on the School Choice Program phone number at 904-348-7777.
- Students of Ribault Middle School were toured A. Phillip Randolph Career Academy for a tour of the campus.
- Ribault High School will receive a brand-new high school. Construction is expected to begin in the Summer of 2023, with a projected opening date of August of 2025.
- The new Rutledge H. Pearson Elementary School will open in August of 2023.
- The Highlands Elementary School and the Southside Estates Elementary School will be replaced onsite with new schools.

**Chair's Report:** Chair Shumaker shared he attended the Quarterly Chairs meeting with the Mayor's Staff and was impressed to witness the city's genuine interest in the CPACs and their impact to the City of Jacksonville.

### Staff Reports:

**Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) –** Chris Billings reported;

- From February 6 to March 6 MCCD conducted 1,209 inspections in the Urban Core district.
- Thomas Register is the new Assistant Chief and is making changes to the way systematic inspections will be conducted. The changes include addressing issues reported to 630-CITY within hours instead of weeks.

He mentioned the Jacksonville Assistance and Relief (JAR) program. The purpose of the JAR Program is to facilitate a means of compliance to those who would otherwise be challenged to achieve it due to disability or economic disadvantages. The objective is to provide the abatement services required at no cost to citizens who qualify, thereby achieving compliance to the city while not unduly burdening its most vulnerable citizens.

More information regarding the JAR Program can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>

**Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD)-** Captain Charles Johnson announced:

- He reviews Certificates of Use and Occupancy Permits to ensure the proposed use is compatible with the zoning of the property. His office can be found in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, 32202.
- The certificate process has been streamlined to simplify the process.
- JFRD offers small business help sessions to assist with starting a new business.
- There is a time change in the month of March. Captain Johnson reminded the CPAC to check batteries, time settings and other functions of household smoke alarms, clocks and other safety items.
- The MyJax application allows citizens to report concerns such as blight, potholes, missed garbage collections and other issues.

Captain Johnson can be reached at 904-255-8560 or [johnsonc@coj.net](mailto:johnsonc@coj.net)

**Park, Recreation, and Community Service –** Kara Tucker reported:

- The Flossie Brunson Playground equipment replacement is in process, with an expected completion date of Spring 2023.
- The Florida Dwight Memorial Playground is close to completion, awaiting the fencing for the playground.
- The movie Matilda will be shown on March 10 at Willow Branch Park, 2870 Sydney Street, 32205 at 6:30 p.m.
- There will be a Spring Break Camp hosted at various park locations and extended care drop-off is available. More information can be found at [tinyurl.com/JaxParksRegistration](http://tinyurl.com/JaxParksRegistration)
- Eggstravaganza will be held April 1, at 11:00 a.m. at Henry J. Klutho Park, 204 West 3<sup>rd</sup> St., 32206.

**Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) –** Cheryl Riddick reported:

- The My Ride 2 School program launched January 4, 2022. The program provides free fixed-route bus trips to middle school and high school students attending any Duval County Public School or charter school.
- There was a conversation to have a representative from JTA to speak at an upcoming Urban Core CPAC meeting regarding the Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C). The Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C) is a program that will expand the Skyway and introduce autonomous vehicles into JTA's transportation system.

**Old Business –** none to report.

**New Business –** none to report.

**Subcommittees:**

**Blight and Code Enforcement:** - Keith Davis reported;

- The sub-committee did not meet in February but will plan to meet in March.
- Any concerns with blight and code enforcement should be reported to 630-CITY.
- If there are any individuals or organizations interested in joining the subcommittee to please address him after tonight's CPAC meeting.

**Homelessness:** Cindy Watson announced there was a Homelessness Sub-committee meeting in February and the topics discussed were.

- Ordinances that govern homelessness issues
- Affordable housing is an ongoing issue for the City of Jacksonville and how it effects homelessness
- The subcommittee would like an opportunity to address questions to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in regard to homelessness.
- The subcommittee would like an opportunity to hear from the Changing Homelessness organization to gain insight into opportunities to help fight homelessness.

**Governmental Affairs:** Dimitri Demopoulos stated the subcommittee reviewed two applications. There were no motions or action taken.

**Public Comments** – Ricky Anderson shared that he represents The Historic Eastside CDC and his organization is undergoing the process to become a part of the Urban Core CPAC.

**Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, April 3, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library 303 North Laura Street, 32202 Room G4

**Summary prepared by** Craig Black, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8260 or [blackc@coj.net](mailto:blackc@coj.net). A copy of the audio recording of this Urban Core CPAC meeting is available through a Public Information Request by calling 630-CITY. Details about Public Records can be found on the City's Website: [Public Records](#).

**Under the Americans with Disabilities Act**, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at: V 904-255-5466, TTY-904-255-5476, or email your request to [ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net](mailto:ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net)