

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

April 3, 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; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, INC.; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; ; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Bill Hoff, SAMBA; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Ernest Smith, Plaza Condominiums; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Johnny Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Cindy Watson, JASMYN;

Excused:

Visitors: Shannon Denson, JBCC; Richard Lewis; Lewan Brunson, Blue Zone Project; Laura Langton, San Marco SB; Phyllis Mattox, NEFLHSC; Emily Cofer, San Marco Pres; Pam Sorenson, San Marco Pres; Kara Ramesor, NEFLHSC; Dawn Curly, Melanin Market; Honey Holzendorf; Ricky Anderson, Historic Eastside CDC

Staff and Elected Officials: Chris Billings, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Jared Chemay, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Duval County Public Schools; Charles Johnson, JFRD; Keli Likins, JPL; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services; Assistant Chief J. Ricks, JSO; Jennifer Walter, Animal Care and Protective Services; Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services Office

Meeting Summary

Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Rosemary Wesolowski confirmed a quorum was present.

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

Presentation: Marlo Zarka, Public Policy Lead, Blue Zones Project, provided an overview of the Blue Zones Project.

Blue Zones has evolved into a global movement that inspires people to live better, longer lives. This is accomplished by transforming the health and well-being of entire populations through altering environments; the places and spaces where people live, work, learn and play. Blue Zones represents a paradigm shift on root causes, not just the symptoms.

In Jacksonville, zip codes 32206, 32208, 32209, 32210 and 32244 currently are the prime focus areas. In these zip codes, Blues Zones will work to educate individuals and the community on making small, but healthy lifestyles changes that will help to contribute to huge benefits in the long run.

To learn more about the Blues Zones Project, visit: www.bluezones.com/jax

Elected Official's Report: None

Chair's Report: Chair Shumaker asked the CPAC members to identify if they serve on a subcommittee. The subcommittee members are:

- Governmental Affairs – Dimitri Demopoulos, Subcommittee Chair; Bryant Shumaker, Bill Hoff, Terry Canty.
- Blight and Code Enforcement – Keith Davis, Subcommittee Chair, Kim Pryor and Deloris Swain.
- Homelessness – Cindy Watson, Subcommittee Chair, Ernest Smith and Dimitri Demopoulos.

Chair Shumaker announced a special meeting will be held on April 27, 2023, at 5:30 pm to discuss and prepare the annual Urban Core CIP recommendations.

Staff Reports:

JSO – Assistant Chief Ricks answered questions that the UC CPAC compiled at a previous CPAC meeting and shared with JSO prior to the meeting.

1. The Co-responder Program currently has 12 responders that are available around the clock to assist JSO with individuals that are experiencing a mental health crisis. These individuals need medical attention, and it is a goal of the Co-responders Program to get them the treatment that they need instead of going to jail.
2. Hot Spots Program; JSO is actively working with 43 hot spots. Hot spots are data driven and are based on calls for service in the area. JSO has also started working with the business owners and merchants in the hot spot areas.
3. Homelessness/urban camping is another issue that JSO is working on. Assistant Chief Ricks mentioned an ordinance in the Sarasota area that utilizes co-responders and social workers to work with individuals that are sleeping/camping on the streets to get them into programs.

Zone 1 Substation – 904-630-8144 or JSOZone1@jaxsheriff.org

Neighborhoods Department – Jennifer Walters, Chief, Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) provided an overview of the ACPS services, volunteer opportunities, foster opportunities, and the details for an upcoming adoption event to be held on April 6, 2023. The shelter is located at 2020 Forest Street and the shelter is currently at capacity with close to 300 animals. Adoption fees range between \$20 and \$40 dollars. If anyone would like to volunteer at the shelter, please call 904-630-CITY or drop by the shelter.

Jennifer Walters – 904-630-2489

Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD) – Chris Billings reported:

- o In the past 30 days MCCD conducted 1,438 inspections in the Urban Core district.
- o 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:

- o He reviews Certificates of Use and Occupancy (COU) Permits to ensure the proposed use is compatible with the zoning of the property is suitable for a business. Captain Johnson's office is in the Ed Ball Building, 214 N. Hogan Street, 32202, second floor.
- o The COU process has been streamlined to simplify the application.
- o JFRD offers small business help sessions to assist with starting a new business.
- o Everyone was reminded to clean their dryer vents in their homes.

Captain Johnson can be reached at 904-255-8560 or johnsonc@coj.net

JPL – Keli Likins - JPL is happy to partner again with Tenikka Hughes in collecting new and very gently used books for local children from birth to 18 years old. The book drive began on March 27, 2023, and will end on April 8, 2023. All the books collected during Tenikka's Books for Kids book drive, are given to youths who meet their reading goals during the Jacksonville Public Library's Summer Reading Program. The books come at no cost to the children or their families.

FDOT – Derek Dixon reported:

- The I-95 /Fuller Warren Bridge bicycle and pedestrian path will officially open on Thursday, April 6, 2023, at 11:00 am. The opening ceremony will be held under the Fuller Warren Bridge where the Riverside Arts Market is located. Everyone is invited.
- The widening of I-10 (from I-125 to I-95) is expected to be completed in early 2025.
- An updated traffic signal will be installed at the intersection of Beaver Street and Broad Street. New signage and sidewalk improvements will also be completed at this intersection by summer 2023.
- There will be an interchange improvement project at I-95 and Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway. The project will include widening the I-95 bridge (at Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway) to increase vertical clearance, the pedestrian bridge over MLK Parkway will be reconstructed, and noise barrier walls will be installed.
- Main Street (from 12th Street to Wynona Street) will receive median and turn lane construction. On street parking will be removed in certain spots for safety reasons; this project should be completed by summer 2023.

Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) – Dr. Dana Kriznar stated:

- Safety is foremost on the minds of DCPS. All safety tips submitted are investigated. Anyone can report a tip to fortifyflorida.org.
- DCPS has started a pilot program to test the Involve system at Riverside High School. This is a security device that each student walks through that can detect weapons. So far, the results have been good.
- High school graduations are upcoming. New and harder graduation assessments have been enacted.
- DCPS worked with the Cultural Council, Art in Public Places to have a mural of A. Phillip Randolph installed at A. Phillip Randolph High School.

Old Business – none

New Business – none

Subcommittees:

Governmental Affairs - Dimitri Demopoulos – no report

Blight and Code Enforcement: - Keith Davis reported the sub-committee met on March 28, they did not have a quorum, but discussed the possibility of the UC CPAC hosting a unified clean up or clean ups. There was some discussion on what and how the clean ups would function. The Blight and Code Enforcement Subcommittee will meet later in the month of April to work out a few details and report back to the CPAC at the May meeting.

Homelessness: Cindy Watson announced that the Homelessness Subcommittee did not meet in March. Ms. Watson was thankful the JSO answered the questions the subcommittee previously prepared. Ms. Watson requested to have Dawn Gilman as a presenter at a future CPAC meeting.

Public Comments:

Visitor Kara Ramesor, NEFLHSC shared information about the services and events her organization is offering.

Visitor Pam Sorensen stated she lives on the Southbank and expressed her concern about a rezoning ordinance to build a five-story storage facility. There was a lengthy discussion about the proposed storage facility and a motion made and withdrawn to send an opposition letter regarding the ordinance. The Governmental Affairs subcommittee chair stated he would research the proposed project.

Adjourn: There was a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, May 1, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Main Library 303 North Laura Street, 32202, in the Multipurpose Room.

Summary prepared by Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8261 or rosemary@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