

## **Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee October 2, 2023, Meeting Summary**

Hybrid Meeting: 303 North Laura Street, Conference Room Level, Room G-4 and on ZOOM

### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Bryant Shumaker, CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senior, CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association; Ernest Smith, Plaza Condominium Association; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Bill Hoff, SAMBA; Pastor Keith Davis, All Things Common Ministries, Inc.

**Excused:** Becca Dingler, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Ministries; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Cindy Watson; JASMYN

**ZOOM:** Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Derek Dixon, FDOT

**Visitors:** Mike Haskins, SPAR; Lewan Brunson, Blue Zones Project

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Chiquita Moore, Operations Director, Neighborhoods Department; Gloria Crawford, Chief, Senior Services Division; Parks and Recreation and Community Services Department; Warren Jones, Board Member, Duval County Public Schools; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools; Captain Charles Johnson, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; Chris Billings, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Caroline Fulton, Planner, Planning and Development Department.

### **Meeting Summary**

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Edwina Henry confirmed a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** CPAC Members approved the September 6, 2023, meeting summary.
- 3. Presentation:** Gloria Crawford, Chief, Senior Services Division; Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department, provided an overview of the Senior Services Division, whose mission is "to encourage and empower senior citizens to live active, independent lifestyles through social, educational and wellness programs."

There are 19 Senior Centers across the City of Jacksonville, with each one featuring social, education and wellness programs. Door-to-door transportation is provided, as well as at least one meal (breakfast or lunch) per day.

Ms. Crawford highlighted the Independent Living and Foster Grandparent Programs. She also discussed various volunteer opportunities, as well as resources for seniors such as:

- Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program (EHEAP) – provides services to seniors facing a crisis in utility service payments
- Homemaker – provides light housekeeping services for seniors who live alone
- Material Aide – provides assistance with home safety repair
- Council on Elder Affairs (COEA) – a countywide body representative of the elderly in Duval County. Members are appointed by the mayor and each of the council members

There are several upcoming Senior Community Events, which are very popular:

- October 20, 2023: Fall Fling at Kathryn Abbey Hanna Park
- November 3, 2023: Walk for Wellness at the Bob Hayes Sports Complex and Legend Center

- November 28-29, 2023: The Senior Expo at the University of North Florida Campus
- December 3, 2023: Holiday Festival at the Prime Osborn Convention Center

Ms. Crawford distributed copies of the 2022-2023 Senior Services Directory and a sample activities calendar. For more information, call the Senior Events Hotline at (904) 255-5667 or online at [www.jaxseniors.net](http://www.jaxseniors.net)

**Gloria Crawford, [Adultsvcs@coj.net](mailto:Adultsvcs@coj.net) (904) 255-5400**

#### 4. Elected Officials Reports:

The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member, shared the following updates:

- The Florida School Board Association conducted a six (6) session survey asking for community input on what they would like to have in the next School Superintendent.
- The School Superintendent Search is underway:
  - October 13, 2023, is the application deadline for the Superintendent position
  - October 18, 2023, the School Board is holding a workshop to narrow the field of applicants
  - October 26, 2023, the Superintendent semi-finalists will be selected for interviews
  - November 8, 2023, the Final Candidate will be selected
  - November 17, 2023, the selection process should be completed with a start date in early 2024
- New protocols for football game day security measures were announced, in response to a few violent incidents during recent high school football games.
- School Showcases are scheduled to allow parents the opportunity to visit the schools where their child will be attending next year: January 3, 2024, for elementary schools and January 27, 2024, for Middle and high schools.

For more information visit [www.dcps.duvalschools.org](http://www.dcps.duvalschools.org) or call (904) 390-2000

#### 5. Chair's Report: Bryant Shumaker noted several items to be taken up during New Business, later in the meeting:

- Closing out the 2023 calendar year
- Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- Changes and updates for the Blight Subcommittee

#### 6. Staff Reports:

**Neighborhoods Department – Chiquita Moore, Operations Director**

Ms. Moore stated that following the transition on July 1, 2023, and appointments made under the new city administration her role changed and Mr. Al Ferraro is now the Interim Neighborhood Department Director, and that the CPAC will have an opportunity to meet him at some point

Ms. Moore provided updates on each of the Neighborhood Department Divisions:

- Utilizing 630-CITY: our internal tracking system provides live updates as items move through the city for completion. For any outstanding service requests or requests requiring escalation, call 630-CITY or reach out to your Neighborhood Coordinator, Ms. Henry, for explanation or assistance
- Two ways to contact 630-CITY to enter a service request, call or email at [myjax@custhelp.com](mailto:myjax@custhelp.com)
- Customer Service Week: be sure to thank those working in a service capacity and let them know they are appreciated

- Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) – please help us by sharing information about some of the challenges we are having at some of the shelters with overpopulation. If you or someone you know may be amenable to fostering a pet, please contact the shelter [JaxPets@coj.net](mailto:JaxPets@coj.net) or call 630-CITY for assistance
- ACPS is offering amazing pet adoption fees for the month of October: cats over one year old are free, dogs over six months are free; and cats under one year and dogs under six months the adoption fee is \$40. Cats and kittens are buy one, get one free
- The new budget season started October 1<sup>st</sup> – any of the assistance programs stated in the past will be reinstated as of today (October 2, 2023). Waiting lists for assistance are extremely long and teams are working through the list. Fliers can be emailed to you. Contact Ms. Henry for information and/or assistance
- The Neighborhood Matching Grant applications are due on December 11, 2023. The Matching Grant Program is a competitive reimbursement program designed to provide financial assistance to organizations registered in the City of Jacksonville's Directory of Neighborhood Organizations which are assisting the city in fighting blight and enhancing their local community. To receive an application for the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program, please contact Ray Eslinger, Housing Property Analyst at [eeslinger@coj.net](mailto:eeslinger@coj.net) or call (904) 255-8272
- Mosquito Control – call 630-CITY and the team will come out and assess your area
- Neighborhood Services Office will hold their 2023 Neighborhood Awards and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPACs Event on October 19 at the main library auditorium. Please email your RSVP or call 904-255-8250

For a complete list of Divisions under the Neighborhoods Department:

[www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods) or call (904) 255-7200

**DCPS – Duval County Public Schools – Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent**

Dr. Kriznar announced a change in representation to the NW CPAC, as Ms. Sonita Thompson, DCPS Chief of Staff has retired; therefore, Dr. Kriznar will return to representing DCPS. Dr. Kriznar provided updates on the following:

- Sale of the School Board Building: the board held meetings and workshops and have requested more information from the two finalists in the bid process. The bids came in high and now the board is assessing the costs of not moving versus what the new lease payments will be
- Make-Up Days due to Hurricane Idalia – October 27 and December 1 are the two school make-up days
- School Choice Magnet Office – temporarily relocated to 4070 Boulevard Center Drive
- Superintendent Search – [www.duvalschools.org/superintendentsearch](http://www.duvalschools.org/superintendentsearch) to view updates on the search process, including candidate information such as their resumes and answers to their questions

For more information: [www.dcps.duvalschools.org](http://www.dcps.duvalschools.org) or call (904) 390-2000

**JPL – Jacksonville Public Library – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services**

- Americans and the Holocaust is the main exhibit at the library and will run through October 12, 2023
- 35-minute docent-led tours of the Holocaust Exhibit are available by registering online
- In conjunction with the Holocaust Exhibit, there will be a panel discussion: Resisting Hate, Repairing the World - Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 6:30 pm at the Main Library. The panel

discussion and open dialogue focuses on the impact acts of hate have on the individuals and communities being targeted. Those in attendance are encouraged to join the conversation during the Q&A Section with the Panelists

- To register for the program or a tour of the exhibit: [www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/exhibit2023](http://www.jaxpubliclibrary.org/exhibit2023) (904) 255-2665

**FDOT – Florida Department of Transportation** – Derek Dixon, Bike and Pedestrian and ADA Coordinator

- In response to a question posed by a CPAC Member regarding the rail tracks at 20<sup>th</sup> and Henrietta Streets, FDOT is looking for a contact at Norfolk Southern, as they own the railway line. As soon as the information becomes available, he will pass it on to Ms. Henry to share
- Mr. Dixon listed several projects FDOT scheduled to have completed this Fall, as well as a few projects just getting underway with completion dates in 2024 and 2025
- Concerns regarding the Main Street Project and whether it will impact the November 4, 2023, PorchFest in Springfield were raised. Mr. Dixon will investigate and report back; however, it is customary for FDOT and contractors to work around event dates
- For specific information on projects and updates, contact the FDOT Public Information Officer, Brie Isom at (904) 360-5457 or check online at [www.nflroads.com](http://www.nflroads.com)

**JSO – Jacksonville Sheriff's Office** - Not Present

**MCCD – Municipal Code Compliance Division** - Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor  
Mr. Billings reported on the following items:

- 1,226 inspections have been completed in the Urban Core since September and 42 litter signs were removed
- 515 nuisance properties have been cited, 13 residential issues, along with 35 to 40 dead or dying trees removed
- On October 3, Inspectors will begin a systematic review of adjacent properties; the goal is to privately inspect properties to ensure uniform enforcement and protect property values by reporting issues that may have gone unreported. The inspection will run through the end of the week
- This is still active hurricane season and everyone is encouraged to check the exterior areas of their properties for hazards and report them to 630-CITY or [coj.net](mailto:coj.net) at myJAX – NOTE: Florida Statute requires that individuals reporting non-life threatening issues provide their name and address
- The JAR (Jacksonville Assistance and Relief) Program helps eligible property owners address specific nuisance issues. For additional information and to check eligibility, applications are available online at [coj.net](https://www.coj.net/detpartments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program) or pick up an application in the MCCD Office, 214 N. Hogan Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor <https://www.coj.net/detpartments/neighborhoods/municipal-code-compliance/jacksonville-assistance-and-relief-program>

[CBillings@coj.net](mailto:CBillings@coj.net) (904) 497-9543

**JFRD – Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department – Captain Charles Johnson**

Captain Johnson responded to two previously asked questions:

- Short Term Rentals: After researching the question, he noted that the Building Department and Fire Marshal are not involved in the permitting process until a certain threshold has been crossed – concerning the number of people to be served. Florida State Statute Chapter 509, Section 242: Public lodging establishments.
- Multi-Colored Fire Hydrants: are privately owned. The colors represent the water flow of a particular hydrant. The yellow hydrants belong to JEA.
- Reminder: The time change is a great opportunity to test and change batteries in smoke detectors – Sunday, November 5, 2023, is the end of daylight savings time. Call 630-CITY to request a new smoke detector.

[JohnsonC@coj.net](mailto:JohnsonC@coj.net) (904) 255-8560

**Neighborhood Services Office** - Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, Districts 1 and 5  
Ms. Henry provided the following updates and reminders:

- Meeting Hand-Outs: Please be sure to read the City of Jacksonville Neighborhood's Matching Grant 2023-2024 Program Announcement. This program provides economic support to registered organizations that assist the city in fighting blight and in enhancing their local neighborhood community. Applications are due Monday, December 11, 2023. For eligibility and other criteria, please visit the Neighborhood Matching Grant Program Website at [www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-property-administration/neighborhood-matching-grants-program](http://www.coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/neighborhoods-property-administration/neighborhood-matching-grants-program) or call (904) 255-8272
- CPAC Attendance Reminder: Primary members are encouraged to reach out to their alternates to ensure coverage at CPAC Meetings. CPAC By-Laws require that any member with three consecutive unexcused absences be automatically removed from the CPAC. A recent attendance audit showed that the UC CPAC is in good standing. Excused absences may be requested by contacting the Neighborhood Coordinator.
- CPAC Elections: The 2024 CPAC Chair and Vice Chair will be elected next month (November) during the full CPAC Meeting. The Nominations Subcommittee will be meeting Tuesday, October 10 at 5:30 pm to develop a slate of nominees to put before the full CPAC for November's vote. Please forward your nominations to Ms. Henry to be shared with the subcommittee.
- October 19, 2023, is the Neighborhood Awards and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPACs Event, to be held in the Auditorium of the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, with a reception to follow. Invitations were mailed in September. RSVPs are required as this event is not open to the public and seating is limited.

[Ehenry@coj.net](mailto:Ehenry@coj.net) or (904) 255-8260

**7. Old Business – None**

**8. New Business** – Chair Shumaker discussed several items under New Business:

- End of the Year – UC CPAC does not meet in December, so November will be the final meeting of the year
- The November UC CPAC Meeting
  - Councilmember Jimmy Peluso will be the speaker
  - Holding elections for the 2024 Chair and Vice Chair
- 2024 Calendar – Schedule of UC CPAC Meeting Dates
  - Due to holidays in January and September discuss options for meeting dates
  - After discussion, CPAC voted not to hold meetings on first Wednesdays of each month
  - Motion: have the January and September meetings on the second Monday – motion carried
  - November 6, last meeting of the year. Will consider having light refreshments as a celebration
- Vacancy on the Blight Subcommittee
  - Pastor Davis has stepped down as the Chair of the Blight Subcommittee – discussion/motion: nominate Kim Pryor to be temporary Chair of the Blight Subcommittee – motion carried

It was also stated that it is desired that Pastor Davis remain on the Subcommittee, as his time permits

**9. Subcommittee and Liaisons:**

- **Governmental Affairs** – Dimitri Demopoulos: Two items were discussed. No action taken on either.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement** – No report
- **Homelessness** – No report

**10. Public Comments:** None.

**11. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is Monday, November 6, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. Join us at the Main Public Library, 303 North Laura Street, 32202, in the Multipurpose Room or virtually on ZOOM.