

Southeast Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Date: Monday, April 27, 2026

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Meeting Attendance:

Members: Susan Bailey, Linkside at Baymeadows HOA; Joyce Brown, Pine Forest Community Action Corp.; Walter Bryant, St. Nicholas Area Preservation; Jonathan Burgess, Edgewater at Sunbeam Condo Association; Carol D'Onofrio, Edison HOA; Jose Gonzalez, Mandarin Community Club; Donna Herrin, Sweetwater by Del Webb; William Herron, Shiloh Creek; James Hill, Greater Hood Road Community Association; Rich Horvath, Cypress Trails HOA, Inc.; Debbie Johnson, The Gables Homeowners Association; Doug Klippel, Deercreek Country Club HOA; Scott Koslowski, James Island Homeowners Association; Joe Luczak, Bartram Springs HOA; Jon Malmind, Oak View Corner Owners Association; Shann Mills, San Jose Forest; Kevin Ondarza Sr., Gates of Olde Mandarin HOA; Jacqueline Parenteau, Brierwood Neighborhood Association; Kathleen Perera, Alumni Civic Association; Marci Turner, Kernan Mill Community Association, Inc.; Eddie Vizcaya, Gates of Olde Mandarin HOA, Catie Wallace, Edgewater at Sunbeam Condominium Association; Gary Weise, Secret Cove Civic Association.

Excused: N/A

Visitors: Joanne Arnick, Edgewater at Sunbeam Condominium Association; Katay Bennett, Mandarin Point; Chrystin Bowman; Margaret Hall, Woodland Station III; John Nooney; Randall Smith.

Staff: The Honorable Michael Boylan City Council District 6; Scott Carter, Public Works; Daniel Durbec, Keep Jax Beautiful; Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez, JFRD; Evin Herzberg, Jenny Hinton, COJ-OOR; City Council District 11; Kareena Mehta, Planning & Development; Rudy McClain, Municipal Code Compliance; Cindy Pearson, Duval County School Board; Kareena Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Commander Petena Tillman, JSO; John Everett, KHA; Necole Jenkins, Neighborhood Services Office; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office.

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:

Chair Koslowski called the SE CPAC meeting to order at 6:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the meeting at the Mandarin Senior Center. Necole Jenkins verified that a quorum was present. Chair Koslowski acknowledged the passing of long-time CPAC representative Dick Cardell and recognized his service to the community.

2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary – March 23, 2026, meeting summary was, motioned, seconded and approved.

3. **Presentation(s): Dr. Jenny Hinton, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer**, presented an overview of the City of Jacksonville's resilience strategy, highlighting key initiatives such as the Urban Forest Management Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and Green Infrastructure Prioritization Plan. The presentation emphasized environmental sustainability, risk reduction, and long-term planning. Residents expressed concerns about overdevelopment, tree preservation, and potential flooding impacts in local neighborhoods.

Jennifer Hinton- (904)255-7826 or JMHinton@coj.net

4. **Mayor's Representative:** N/A

5. **Elected Officials Report:**

Cindy Pearson, Duval County School Board, District 3, reported:

- Duval County Public Schools is performing at its highest level, achieving an A rating for the 2024–2025 school year, with 99% of schools rated A, B, or C. Two years ago, approximately half of the district's schools were rated A or B; this past year, nearly two-thirds have reached those ratings, reflecting continued academic improvement. The district also maintains strong graduation with a 97.6% graduation rate.
- The district continues to expand career and technical education programs, including partnerships that provide students with hands-on workforce training opportunities. Ongoing investments, supported by the voter-approved referendum, include new school construction, facility upgrades, enhanced safety measures, improvements to arts and athletics programs, and salary increases for teachers and staff.
- Additional discussion included upcoming testing periods, recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week, and ongoing efforts to sustain high performance despite increasing state academic standards.

Cindy Pearson, Duval County School Board, District 3, PearsonC1@duvalschools.org

Michael Boylan, City Councilman, District 6 reported :

- The Mandarin MAP initiative aims to determine whether the community supports forming a preservation-focused nonprofit similar to SPAR, RAP, and the San Marco Preservation Society.
- A consultant was hired through strategic funding to assess needed for preservation, restoration, and beautification in District 6.
- Resiliency efforts were highlighted, including prior service on the committee that helped establish the Chief Resiliency Officer role.
 - The City has \$40 million dedicated to tree planting and mitigation including \$28 million in the tree mitigation fund.
 - The Mandarin Road Sidewalk Project is in its early planning phase, with a consultant to assess feasibility before any decisions are made.
 - The 2001 Historic Corridor Ordinance requires review by the council member and the Urban Forest Manager, along with safeguards such as requiring an on-site

arborist during construction.

– A follow-up community meeting is expected approximately six months after consultant selection.

Michael Boylan, City Councilman District 6 - (904) 255-5206 or MBoylan@coj.net

Evin Herzberg- Executive Assistant for City Councilman, Rual Arias, District 11, reported :

- Councilman Arias held several recent town halls throughout the district, gathering community input on local needs and beautification priorities.
- Based on feedback, the office is exploring landscape enhancements, including trees and shrubs at neighborhood entrances.
- Residents are encouraged to submit service requests to 630-CITY for issues such as roadside debris and tree concerns. The Councilman's office will also submit and help expedite requests.
- District 11 park improvements are under review, including potential upgrades to Fort Family Park and rehabilitation needs at Deerwood Rotary Park.
- The grand opening of The Block drew heavy attendance and caused towing issues; the office is working with the owner to identify additional parking solutions for busy days.
- Councilman Arias's office will follow up on previously dedicated park land in the Southpoint/Dave & Buster's area to determine its status.
- The office is monitoring early discussions around potential affordable housing initiatives in the Phillips Highway/Avenues area and will share updates if any formal proposals emerge.

Evin Herzberg- Executive Assistant for City Councilman, Rual Arias, District 11-

(904) 255-5174 or EHerzberg@coj.net

6. Staff Reports:

JSO (Jacksonville Sheriff's Office) - Commander Petena Tillman reported:

- Crimes against persons are trending down by 4%, while overall property crimes have increased slightly by 1%, largely driven by a 35% increase in auto burglaries.
- Auto burglaries are the primary contributor to rising property crime, particularly in apartment complexes and hotel areas where vehicles are more concentrated and easier to target.
- Recent law enforcement efforts led to major arrests related to ongoing tool thefts and vehicle burglaries across multiple districts, contributing to a 19% decline in auto burglaries over the past seven days.
- Additional arrests were made involving suspects caught in the act of burglarizing vehicles, reflecting increased patrol efforts, surveillance, and coordination between patrol and investigative units.
- Residents are encouraged to follow the "9:00 pm routine," which includes securing vehicles, removing valuables, and remaining vigilant to reduce opportunities for theft.

- There has been an increase in aggressive driving and road rage incidents. Residents are advised to avoid engaging, allow aggressive drivers to pass, and contact 911 if they feel threatened or are being followed.
- Safety guidance emphasizes remaining calm, avoiding escalations, avoiding confrontation, and stopping only in well-lit, populated areas if necessary.
- Cybercrime and identity theft remain ongoing concerns, and incidents continue to evolve with technology. Residents are advised to safeguard personal information, avoid clicking on unsolicited links, and verify communications directly with financial institutions.
- Individuals who suspect fraud or identity theft should report incidents to law enforcement, notify their financial institutions, and place alerts with credit bureaus to protect their accounts.
- Overall, enforcement efforts, community awareness, and proactive safety measures are key to reducing crime and improving public safety as well as community engagement, and coordination with local dealers to promote safety awareness among youth and parents.

Commander Tillman – (904) 630-8100 or JSODistrict3@jaxsheriff.org

JFRD (Jacksonville Fire & Resue Dept.) Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez reported:

- Outdoor burning is currently prohibited in Duval County due to elevated drought conditions.
- Restrictions include bonfires, fireworks, and any non-grill-related burning. Only limited exceptions apply to campfires, cooking fires, warming fires, and ceremonial fires.
- Residential violations may result in fines starting at \$250, while commercial violations may start at \$8,000.
- Violations can be reported by calling 630-CITY (630-2489), which connects to the Fire Marshal's Office.
- The area is experiencing a significant drought, with an index of 600–649 out of 750 .
- Nationally, more than 22,000 fires have occurred this year, exceeding the 10-year average.
- Recent rainfall has helped contain approximately 80% of active fires.
- Residents are encouraged to take preventative measures, including clearing gutters and removing debris from eaves and soffits to reduce fire risk and maintaining a minimum five-foot non-combustible perimeter around homes.
- Ladder safety guidance includes maintaining a 4:1 ratio (one foot out for every four feet up) and always ensuring three points of contact.
- Jacksonville ranks among the top U.S. cities for lightning strikes. Lightning can travel up to 10 miles from a storm.
- Between 2015 and 2024, there were approximately 50 lightning-related fatalities nationwide.

Lieutenant Jorge Hernandez- (904) 630-0434 or JorgeH@coj.net

JPL (Jacksonville Public Library)-Jackie Spiritas reported:

- The Beaches Branch Library, located at 600 3rd Street Neptune Beach, will host its 11th annual Comic Festival. The family-friendly event will be held on May 2, 2026, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Activities will include comics, cosplay, face painting, and karate demonstrations. The event is recommended for children, families, and comic enthusiasts. Residents seeking a quiet study environment are advised to avoid the library during this period due to increased activity. The event is supported annually by the Friends of the Beaches Branch Library, which helps fund activities and associated costs.
- The James Weldon Johnson Young Writers Festival will run from June 10, 2026, through June 13, 2026, and is open to students in grades 3 through 12. Submissions are due by May 16, 2026, and must include either a poem or a dramatic monologue based on the theme "Our Voices Matter: What Peace Looks Like to Me." Approximately \$6,400 in cash awards and scholarships will be available. The event is inspired by Sharon Coon, founder of the Friends of the Brentwood Library.
- The South Mandarin Branch Library, located at 3330 Kori Road, will host its semiannual used book sale on May 21–23, 2026. Sale hours will be 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Thursday and Friday, and 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday. The library hosts two book sales annually, and all proceeds directly support library programs and services for all ages.

Jackie Spiritas – Spiritas@coj.net

JEA (Jacksonville Electric Authority) – Shay Hill shared:

- Informational materials covering various topics, including cost-saving tips, available rebates, proper disposal practices, and general utility guidance. These materials are intended to provide residents with helpful resources and practical information.
- Residents were reminded not to flush wipes or other non-flushable items, as doing so can cause sewer blockages and backups that may damage homes and require service intervention.
- Information was provided regarding the [MyJEA](#) App, which allows customers to conveniently pay bills, report outages, and access account information.
- Additional resources were shared on power restoration following storms and on utility billing to help residents better understand their services.

Shay Hill – 904-665-6000

MCCD (Municipal Code Compliance Dept.)- Rudy McCain reported:

- Hurricane season is approaching, leading to more nuisance complaints such as overgrown grass.
- Assistance is requested to report vacant properties, especially vacant gas stations and buildings in the Southeast District, so that issues can be addressed promptly.
- The Southeast zone backlog has been reduced to 160 cases in preparation for the expected rise in complaints.
- MCCD is complaint-driven and aims to respond as reports come in, with 850–900 inspections expected this month.
- MCC Officers have collected 141 snipe signs and issued 62 citations along Phillips Avenue, Town Center Avenue, and Gate Parkway. Additional signs are expected

during the growing season, including lawn care and pressure washing advertisements.

- Community reporting is essential, because staff cannot proactively monitor all areas across the city.
- The Florida Department of Transportation will begin placing “Watch for Motorcycles” snipe signs at the start of May 2026 as part of a statewide safety awareness campaign.
- Residents and community members have been instructed not to remove or tamper with these signs, because they are part of an official initiative and will be collected at the end of the month. Approximately 350 signs will be placed statewide, including 48 for Duval County. The campaign aims to increase driver awareness and improve roadway safety for motorcyclists in May 2026.

Rudy McCain- (904) 903-0003 or MRudy@coj.net

PW (Public Works) – Scott Carter reported:

- Residents are encouraged to utilize the [MyJax](#) system to report issues such as ditch cleaning, traffic signals, and damaged street signs, as it is the primary method for tracking, prioritizing, and responding to service requests.
- [MyJax](#) reporting ensures accountability, by tracking requests by response time, and helping City departments manage maintenance across Jacksonville's large geographic area.
- The Hartley Road project is scheduled to begin construction in December, with an estimated construction timeline of approximately two years due to space limitations and the need to build within existing right-of-way boundaries.
- The LaSalle Street drainage project in San Marco is nearing completion, with major infrastructure improvements, including deep stormwater pump installations, expected to be finalized soon.
- The Plummer Grant Road sidewalk project is currently in the design phase, with construction anticipated to begin after final design and utility assessments are completed.
- Drainage improvement work is underway along Sunbeam Road, with underdrain systems being installed to reduce roadway flooding and pavement damage from excess groundwater.
- A pedestrian crosswalk with flashing beacon signals is being installed at the intersection of Loretto Road and Mandarin Road to improve pedestrian safety, with no traffic signal planned for the intersection.
- Tree and vegetation clearing along Loretto Road was limited to what was necessary for construction, with work conducted within the City's right-of-way to accommodate drainage and sidewalk installation.
- Public Works emphasized its commitment to transparency and community engagement, offering to meet with residents to address concerns and clarify projects.

Scott Carter- (904) 255-8710 or SCarter1@coj.net

7. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports (3 minutes per application presented to CPAC):

LUZ (Land Use and Zoning) Kareena Mehta conducted the LUZ Subcommittee meeting – the subcommittee reviewed five applications, 3 rezonings, an exception, and a signed waiver. No motions or actions were taken.

Liaison Reports (3 minutes)

North Florida TPO – Jim Hill- **No Report**

TRUE (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission – Ramon Day-
No Report

8. Neighborhood Coordinator Report- Necole Jenkins reported:

Necole Jenkins will be the SECPAC'S new Neighborhood Coordinator. Necole introduced herself to SECPAC.

9. Chairs Report – The Chair reported that the recent meeting with the City was successful, with discussions centered on block party planning and updates on new hires. An upcoming meeting with the Mayor is anticipated later in the year, around November or December. Planning is underway for a community block party on June 27, 2026, with coordination underway to finalize the park location and organize vendors through a planning session. The event is expected to last approximately four hours, with the start time potentially adjusted due to summer heat. The block party will focus on community engagement by promoting CPAC, sharing information about City services, and providing resources through community-based vendors, along with food trucks and activities. CPAC members will be present to engage with residents and answer questions. A food drive was discussed but will instead be planned for August due to weather considerations.

10. Unfinished Business-No Report

11. New Business- Residents were advised to remain vigilant along the Bay Meadows corridor due to reports of individuals entering vehicles during the daytime and evening. Incidents have been observed throughout the area, and activity has been captured on Ring cameras. Community members were strongly encouraged to secure their vehicles, lock doors, and avoid leaving valuables inside to reduce the risk of theft.

12. Public Comment/Announcements-

- John Everett, Director of Workforce Development and Career College Readiness for the City of Jacksonville's Kids Hope Alliance, shared that summer is approaching and encouraged families to begin planning for youth programming, including

summer camps available throughout the city. Residents can visit the Kids Hope Alliance website at Kidshopealliance.org and use the program locator tool to find summer camps and youth programs in their specific area. The organization highlighted a gap in services for youth aged 18 and older and acknowledged that traditional after-school programming typically ends at that age. In response, the City is developing new, intentional programming focused on supporting youth and young adults ages 16 to 24 as they transition from high school into college or the workforce. This initiative aims to address a critical life stage by providing additional resources, guidance, and opportunities to support career and college readiness. The Kids Hope Alliance emphasized its commitment to expanding services and improving outcomes for young people during this transition period.

- Discussion included an initiative by Senior Services to identify the oldest living resident in Duval County, noting that participation is application-based and likely determined by age and birthdate verification through the official process.
- John J. Nooney, resident of Jacksonville City Council District 4, CPAC 3, and School Board District 3, addressed broader community concerns, including challenges related to property conditions, public access to waterways, and past storm-related impacts. Mr. Nooney highlighted ongoing efforts and coordination with City departments and regional organizations regarding land acquisition opportunities and infrastructure planning. It was also noted that CPACs may have access to funding allocations for capital improvement projects, with suggestions that these funds could potentially be used for initiatives such as land acquisition or other community enhancements.
- Dan Durbec Keep Jacksonville Beautiful provided a brief update on the Litter League initiative, a citywide community competition that encourages residents to collect trash and promote environmental cleanliness. The program runs from March 27, 2026, through July 3, 2026, and offers incentives such as event experiences and tickets for participation. Residents are encouraged to register online at Jacksonville.gov/litterleague and to log their cleanup efforts. The initiative will also be promoted at the upcoming block party to increase community engagement and participation.
- Gary Weise asked about the potential development of a soccer stadium and whether CPAC help address community concerns related to the project. In response, it was clarified that the project is not currently an active or confirmed City initiative and remains informal or speculative at this stage. It was noted that CPAC would become involved and provide input once more concrete information becomes available and the project is formally introduced by the City.

13. Motion to Adjourn: Chairman Scott Koslowski adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 18, 2026, at the Mandarin Senior Center, 3848 Hartley Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257