

**Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC)
March 2, 2026**

Hybrid Meeting: Main Public Library, 303 N. Laura St., 32202 and via ZOOM Webinar

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: CPAC Chair Ernest Smith, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; CPAC Vice Chair Tiffany Clark, Parents Who Lead; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Assn.; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Bryant Shoemaker, SPAR Council; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Latrice Carmichael, Parents Who Lead; Bill Hoff, SAMBA.

Excused: Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association.

Staff and Elected Officials: Martinique Glover, Neighborhood Services Office; William Hanks, Zone 1 Supervisor – MCCD; Keli Likins, JPL; Lieutenant Fleman, JSO; Daniel Piastuck, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD.

Guests: Bobbie O’Connor, Interrupt Redlining.com; John J. Nooney; Kim Black, Historic Eastside Residents Alliance; Ivan Mote, Johnson Commons; Vincent Haut; Alice Nelson, Historic Eastside Resident Alliance; Richard Lewis; Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside resident Alliance; L. Harris, Together Eastside; Barney Roberts, North Springfield.

ZOOM: Becca Dingler, 2nd Mile Ministries; Chelsey Bailey Washington; Chip Harper, MAVD; Tina Stanton; Dennis Stone, Urban League.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Ernest Smith called the March 2, 2026, Urban Core CPAC Meeting to order at 5:33 pm and Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The February 2, 2026, meeting summary was approved.
3. **Presenter:** Daniel Piastuck, Parks Recreation and Community Services

- **Presented on the status of Downtown Parks.**

i. Number of Events in 2025

Park	#of Events	# of Visitors
Artist Walk	35	175,000
River Front Plaza	17	75,000
Rivers Edge Park	25	40,000
Friendship Fountain	57	750,000

ii. Projects currently under Construction

Park	Construction Completed
Riverfront Park Music Plaza	2026
Shipyards West	2028
Metropolitan Park	2027
James Weldon Johnson Park	Construction Starting 2027

4. Elected Officials Report: None.

5. Chair's Report: UC CPAC Chair Smith gave a brief report on the Neighborhoods Department District 1 Block Party event – the first ever, and it was a huge success. There are photos from the event in your meeting packets (several event photos are included below). Each CPAC will have an opportunity to organize their own District Block Party.



(Photo: UC CPAC Chair, Vice Chair, and other attendees) (Photo: Neighborhoods Department tent with attendees) (Photo: Equestrian Unit)



(Photo: Representative from Brentwood Neighbors) (Photo: Members of Northside Coalition of Jacksonville) (Photo: UC CPAC Chair Smith)

Chair Smith thanked all of the Urban Core CPAC Members who came out, tabled, and enjoyed the day – photos don't do the day justice, it was an excellent time. While the District 1 Block Party, held in conjunction with the Melanin Market; Parks, Recreation and Community Services; the Neighborhoods Department and a host of other COJ Departments and area vendors and non-profit agencies, the event brought everyone out. Chair Smith said there were people and families from the Eastside, Arlington the Northside, Arlington and the Beaches. Most of all he enjoyed seeing all of the children. Everyone enjoyed the day, in an environment where they felt safe.

UC CPAC Member Dimitri Demopoulos commented that he was there and saw everyone. He said he missed the parade but stayed to watch some of the bands battle. He stated the Neighborhoods District 1 Block Party was impressive and he had a great day. It was lots of fun.



(Photo: Marching Band)



(Photo: Raines High School Marching Band)



(Photo: Marching Band Playing)

Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside Residents Alliance, was also in attendance and had a table with information about her community organization. She commented that she appreciated the opportunity to fellowship with neighbors and to hear about the different programs. She concluded that it was nice to see city leaders out in the community.

6. Staff Reports:

- **JPL** – Keli Likins shared the following:
 - Saturday, March 7, 2026 – History Chat at the Main Library: The Impact of Holst & Tchaikovsky on Film. 2:30 to 3:30 pm. The event is free, but reservations are required.
 - Saturday, March 7, 2026 – Civic Orchestra of Jacksonville: Music Inspired by Literary Giants. 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Main Library Multipurpose Room. This event is free – reservations required.

Keli Likins – KLIKINS@COJ.NET

- **Military and Veterans Affairs Department (MAVD)** – Chip Harper listed several events:
 - January 23-24, 2026 – Veterans’ Stand Down: 587 veterans attended.
 - January 7, 2026 – Military Job Fair, from 10 am to 2 pm, at the Players Tourney.
 - January 6-8, 2026 – Free tickets to the Home and Patio Show at the Prime Osborn. He stated to contact Ms. Henry for his information if anyone would like tickets.
 - The MAVD also has legal services for veterans twice a month at the Charles Webb Library and the Pablo Creek Library.
 - Mr. Harper also noted that he participated in the District 1 Block Party and thoroughly enjoyed it, especially the live music.

Chip Harper – VETSVCS@COJ.NET

- **JSO** – Lieutenant Fleman for Commander Jimmy Ricks, reported that in District 1, crimes are down by 11.8%.
 - The Homeward Bound Program assists those who wish to return to their home city. There were 35 participants in the program last month (February 2026).
 - JSO is also continuing to work on the Camping Violation Ordinance.
 - During frigid temperatures (three weeks ago with night time temperatures in the 20s) there was a special operation where approximately 40 individuals from specialized units came down to assist.
 - Following a discussion about extending drinking from 2 am to 3 am, in downtown, several members had questions about noise level monitoring, etc. One member of the public raised a question as to whether JSO Officers are properly trained to use decibel meters to monitor noise. It was suggested that the citizen attend a Sheriff Watch meeting in his community and re-ask his question, as there will be JSO personnel at the Sheriff’s Watch Meeting who should be able to provide a more definitive response. A CPAC Member shared that the District 1 Sheriff’s Watch Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, at 6 pm at the District 1 Sub Station, located at 1101 N. Main Street – call 904-630-8144 for additional information.

Lieutenant Fleman – JSODISTRICT1@JAXSHERIFF.ORG

- **MCCD** – William Hanks discussed the protocols pertaining to temporary election signs:
 - Temporary Election Signs will be allowed to be placed in the right-of-way areas for the duration of the election period.
 - Seven days after the election period is when they will become eligible for enforcement through the Municipal Code Enforcement Division.
 - A CPAC Member asked about code enforcement officers and open carry permissions. Supervisor Hanks stated that COJ HR cites the Florida Statute cannot be superseded. At the risk of badgering the Municipal Code Supervisor, the CPAC Member aggressively asked about specific training code enforcement officers have had in order to open carry. The CPAC Member was cautioned about badgering COJ Staff and that perhaps she should address her concern with the Interim Chief of Municipal Code Compliance for a more official, specific response to the question.

Supervisor Hanks – whanks@coj.net

- **JFRD** – Captain Charles Johnson reported on the following:
 - Sunday, March 8, 2026, is daylight saving time, which is a good time to remember to check smoke detectors and replace batteries.
 - Call 630-CITY to request either installation of smoke detectors or replacement batteries. It is a free program.
 - In responding to a question about whether the JFRD offers classes on open burn, overgrown vegetation and fire safety, Captain Johnson responded that he would find out and report on it.

Captain Charles Johnson – JohnsonC@coj.net

- **Neighborhood Services Office** – Edwina Henry announced and introduced Ms. Martinique Glover as the new Neighborhood Services Coordinator assigned to the Urban Core CPAC.
 - Ms. Henry also thanked everyone who attended and or participated in the Neighborhoods 1 District Block Party. It was a very fine event. The Greater Arlington/Beaches CPAC – District 2, is up next.
 - The Neighborhoods Department has launched its online Neighborhood “Good News” newsletter and the first issue should be arriving in your email boxes soon.
 - In response to a question about CommUniverCity, Ms. Henry indicated that the program is being revised and some new elements are being added. Now that there are more than two people in the Neighborhood Services Office (with the addition of the three new coordinators), time and attention can ben given to revising CommUniverCity. Details to follow.
 - In response to a question about a “new role” for Ms. Henry, she replied that both she and her colleague, Michelle Godwin-Ware, have been promoted to Neighborhood Services Supervisory and that they will be working on projects and initiatives like the Neighborhood District Block Parties, CommUniverCity and others. Director Waters has been developing a new direction for the Neighborhood Services Office. Details to follow.

Edwina Henry – EHenry@coj.net

7. Old Business: FY227 Capital Improvement Proposals (CIP) Proposals – Submissions

- At the February 2, 2026, UC CPAC Meeting, after discussion, the CPAC submitted two submissions: one from SPAR Council and one from the Planet Watch Neighborhood Association. There was a request from the 2nd Mile Ministries to have included a request for improvements to Brentwood Park, design a walking trail, infrastructure safety enhancements, adding a public restroom, reviving the bandstand and making the park more useable. After discussion, the CPAC agreed to include the Brentwood CIP Request.
 - Ms. Dingler also attended the Neighborhoods District 1 Block Party, representing Brentwood/2nd Mile Ministries. She stated that it was a good time and that she really enjoyed seeing everyone enjoying the community together.

8. New Business: None.

9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee** – Dimitri Demopoulos, Subcommittee Chair stated that there were no LUZ Applications to review for the month of March.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Juanita Senior, Subcommittee Chair reported that she is still working with MCCD Zone 1 Supervisor Hanks regarding several squatter situations, some are in vacant homes without utilities.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes, Subcommittee Chair indicated that the goal this year is to make sure the subcommittee via the UC CPAC, submit their pilot program for single families in a timelier manner so that it may be considered during the budget cycle.
- **Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission** representative Kim Pryor shared information that the council auditor presented reports for the 12 months that ended September 30, 2025, and that there were two significant mentions of unfavorable variances: JFRD was \$1.34 million over budget and the executive office of the Mayor \$66,000 over budget – both attributed to overtime for JFRD and part-time salary hours. Ms. Pryor stated the full report can be found online under the council auditor’s link.

10. Public Comments:

- John J. Nooney – expressed concern for public access to waterways.
- Bobby O’Connor – representing Interrupt Red Lining Coalition, announced a planned town Hall meeting on March 23, 2026, from 6-8 pm, at the IBEW Hall. Ms. O’Connor left flyers on the registration table.
- Daniel – concerns about noise levels downtown, in particular “bar noise” from 9 pm until 2 am.
- MCCD Zone 1 Supervisor offered a clarification: “temporary election signs may be displayed on private property.”

11. Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 pm. – The next Urban Core CPAC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:30 pm.