

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
April 9, 2026

Hybrid Meeting: Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208 and via ZOOM Webinar.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association, Inc.; Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, CPAC Vice Chair & Pebo Corp.; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Pamela Strickland, North Jax Trout River Manor; Rhonda Boyd, NW CPAC Chair & Timber Oaks HOA; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC.

Excused: Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association

Staff and Elected Officials: Lieutenant Scott Holechek, JFRD; Yuri Blackburn, JPL; Commander Harry Massey, JSO; Paula Renfro, DCPS; Paige DeBold, FDOT; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Chad Owens, MCCD; Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development; Dan Durbec, Keep Jacksonville Beautiful; Jenny Hinton, Planning and Development; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Supervisor; Vanessa Jefferson, Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

Guests: Jamie Williams, City Rescue Misson; Ernest Smith, Urban Core CPAC; Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Jeanette Coleman, Darnell Napoleon, Central Fairfax; Amaris Fuller-Avellan, Woodlawn Place; Yvonne Day, Riverside Collective Community Organization (RCCO); Terrence McGee, St. Paul Catholic School and Church; Leo Brown, Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens; Marshiray Wellington, Riverview Community Credit Union (RCCU); Solomon L., Lincoln Estates; Robin Williams-Bivins, Antonia Bryant.

ZOOM: Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Brad Straley, Rolling Hills Neighborhood; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC; Lana Champion, Carver International; Dr. Brenda Boston-Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the April meeting to order at 6:03 pm. Vanesa Jefferson verified that a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** March 12, 2026, NW CPAC meeting summary was approved.

3. Presenter: Jennifer Hinton, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer- provided an overview of the Resilient Jacksonville Initiative Plan and highlighted three key projects currently underway:

- Urban Forestry Management Plan
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Green Infrastructure Re-Prioritization Initiative

Ms. Hinton emphasized the role of tree planting in strengthening the city's resilience, reporting that more than thirty acres of land have been identified as potential tree planting sites. If residents desire to learn more about the projects or give input regarding tree-planting locations, they can visit website: [Jacksonville.gov - Office of Resilience](https://jacksonville.gov) or email Resilience@coj.net for updates or input.

Ms. Hinton shared that careful consideration is given to ensure the tree species selected are appropriate and best suited for each specific location. She also noted the City is seeking funding for long-term tree maintenance, and explained limitations of the Mitigation Tree Fund, which may only be used for planting on public property. Future plans include green stormwater infrastructure efforts—such as green roofs and bioretention rain gardens. Ms. Hinton Also, shared information on Greenscape's annual tree giveaway event available to homeowners. Details: [Greenscape Great Tree Giveaway - Greenscape of Jacksonville](#)

Jennifer Hinton- jmhinton@coj.net

4. Elected Officials Report: None

- **Chair's Report: Chair Rhonda Boyd** announced that Rochelle Gross has been appointed as a new member, serving as an alternate for the Woodstock Neighborhood Association. Ms. Gross was not present at the meeting however, Chair Boyd asked anyone familiar with the new member to inform her that her membership is official and that the CPAC members look forward to recognizing her at the next meeting.
- Chair shared information about two upcoming events: The Cookout on the Block, April 18, 2026, 2pm-7pm at James Weldon Johnson Park, 135 W. Monroe Street and the Greater Arlington Beaches, District 2 CPAC Neighborhood Block Party, April 25, 2026 10am-2pm at the Ed Austin Regional Park located at 345 Monument Road. and encouraged members to note the dates, attend if available and share the information within the community. She also explained that city staff typically attend meetings on a rotating, quarterly schedule. Members who would like a specific organization or individuals added to a future agenda were asked to notify the Chair, who will coordinate with the Neighborhood Services Coordinator to schedule presenters. Chair Boyd recognized Dan Durbec and gave him an opportunity to share regarding upcoming event.

Dan Durbec-Environmental Program Specialist- shared upcoming contest presented by the Jacksonville Litter League. This is an opportunity for neighborhood groups to help clean up the city, while earning a chance for contest winners to attend a Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game. Sign-ups and additional information regarding the contest can be found on the website:

[Jacksonville.gov - Jax Litter League](https://jacksonville.gov)

Dan Burbec - ddurbec@coj.net

5. Staff Reports:

- **JSO- Commander Harry Massey-** provided a 30-day update for District 5. The district responded to 9,542 service calls and issued 1,765 traffic citations. Crimes against people decreased from 279 to 267 cases. There were 10 robberies with three arrests, compared to seven in the previous thirty day period. Property crimes decreased from 283 to 267 cases. There were 30 thefts with one arrest, many involving unlocked vehicles: residents were reminded to lock their cars. Commander Massey announced upcoming Sheriff Watch meetings: April 13, 2026 at 6 pm at the Baldwin Center, 850 Center Street and April 14, 2026, 6 pm at Schell Sweet Community Center located at 1697 Kings Road. He also addressed reoccurring speeding concerns on Kinlock Drive and stated that officers will monitor the area.
Commander Harry Massey- jsodistrict5@jaxsheriff.org
- **FDOT- Paige DeBold-** reported progress on concerns regarding the Kings Road overhead truss lacking height markers. Interim height-restriction signage is now posted in both directions while the department responsible is determined. She also discussed delays in grass maintenance near Exit 357 at Edgewood Avenue and will follow up regarding contact information and for assigned contractors to enable neighborhood cleanup groups to more effectively coordinate their cleanup efforts. Additional concerns included the need for a left-turn signal at Norwood Avenue and W. 44th Street, as well as safety issues stemming from lane shifts during ongoing construction to I-95 near the Golfair Boulevard exit. Ms. DeBold will obtain timelines for the construction and identify appropriate departments responsible for traffic lights and report back to the CPAC.
Paige DeBold- DeBold-paige.debold@dot.state.fl.us
- **DCPS- Paula Renfro-** Duval County Public Schools reported study findings of more than 8,000 illegal passings of school buses in a single day, emphasizing the importance of awareness. There is currently a safety campaign April 1- 30, 2026. Beginning May 1, 2026, camera footage will be reviewed for violations, and \$255 fines will be issued. For the 2026–2027 school year, DCPS will add a full week for Thanksgiving break. Also, there is a Spring Hiring Fair that will take place April 25, 2026, 10 am -2 pm at the Prime Osborn Center located at 1000 Water Street. Weather days will continue due to schools serving as storm shelters. George Washington Carver Elementary will close at the end of the current school year 2026; students will be reassigned to Rufus E. Payne Elementary or may choose to attend Northwestern Legends Elementary. Updates on Career and Technical Education program offerings will be shared at the next meeting.
Paula Renfro -renfro@duvalschools.org
- **MCCD- Chad Owens-** Supervisor Chad Owens reported that more than 1,400 inspections were completed in the past month, reflecting progress across neighborhoods. As

hurricane season approaches, residents are encouraged to report problem trees early to avoid backlog and extended waiting periods.

- Supervisor Owens responded to a citizen's concerns regarding the owners of the U-Haul property near Soutel Drive attempting to establish homeless shelter; their application was denied. The case remains open until the company vacates the premises. Mr. Owens will investigate other sites in the area owned by U-Haul.

Chad Owens- ChadO@coj.net

- **JPL—Yuri Blackburn-** announced upcoming events: Life Lab's genealogy workshop 2 pm-4 pm, April 18, 2026 at Highlands Regional Library, 1826 Dunn Avenue. Reading Connection Book Club reviewing "To Kill A Mockingbird" April 25, 2026, 3 pm-4 pm at Bradham and Brooks Library located at 1755 Edgewood Avenue W. The Main Library 303 N. Laura Street will host two family events on April 25, 2026, 9 am-12:30 pm Family Reading Day: Reading is Magic! and Speak Up Jax Youth Poetry Slam (age 13-18) 2 pm -5 pm. [Jacksonville Public Library |](#)

Yuri Blackburn- Blackburn-yjewitt@coj.net

- **JFRD-Lieutenant Scott Holecek** reported there were seven structure fires. Advised these types of fires tend to increase as heat rises and thunderstorms increase heading into the summer months. Provided statistics that fires can double in size each minute and that the average response time for fire trucks to arrive is five to seven minutes.

Tips for preventing fires include trimming trees, cleaning gutters, using surge protectors on appliances and having fire detectors installed. Lieutenant Holecek reported that JFRD will provide and install free smoke alarms. Jacksonville residents can call (904) 630-2489 or visit their website at [MyJFRD - Mayor's Home Fire Safety Program](#)

A concerned citizen reported that an elderly resident visited the Fire Station on Lem Turner to have her blood pressure checked. The resident rang the bell for services, which went unanswered although all trucks were on the premises. Lieutenant Holecek advised this was unacceptable and that he would follow up on the matter.

Scott Holecek- scottbh@coj.net

- **Neighborhood Services Office-** Ms. Jefferson provided information on an upcoming event: In recognition of National Older Americans Month, the Division of Senior Services is looking for oldest living resident in Duval County. Celebration will be May 20, 2026 at 11am. Information regarding location will be emailed to CPAC members.

Vanesa Jefferson -Vjefferson@coj.net

6. **Old Business** – None.

7. **New Business** –None.

8. Subcommittee and Liaisons Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning-** Chair Roxsan Currier: No report.
- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission:** Representative Velma Rounsville reported updates from TRUE subcommittee will be provided at the next meeting.
- **Blight Subcommittee:** Vanessa Cullins Hopkins reported the number of open cases at the initial formation of the Blight subcommittee has been resolved with the help of MCCD Zone 5 Supervisor Chad Owens and staff. There are three open cases and two newly added cases. Update of new cases will be discussed at next meeting.

9. Public Comments and Announcements-

- 2nd Annual Oyster Fest – April 18, 2026 Riverview Park, 9620 Water Street (Gospel Feast at 9 am; Community meeting 11am.–5pm).
- Representative from Northeast Florida Community Action Agency(NFCCA) shared information and flyer advising of available of utility assistance. More information can be found on their website: [UTILITY ASSISTANCE – NFCAA](#)
- April 15, 2026, 9am-1:30 pm (JEA) Jacksonville Electric Authority Headquarters 225 N. Pearl Street. Hosting host Senior Day , providing utility assistance for seniors.
- Community Health Fair – April 25, 12pm–4 pm, 1759 Rowe Avenue, Central Baptist Church
- Central Baptist Institute clothing giveaway – April 11, 11 am–2 pm, 524 W. 3rd Street
- City Rescue Mission celebrates 80th anniversary and expanded services on Thursday, May 7, 2026 6 pm at the Southbank Hotel located at 1515 Prudential Drive.

- 10. Adjourn:** It was properly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 7:41pm.

Next meeting, Thursday May 14, 2026, at 6 pm the Legends Center at 5130 Soutel Drive.