

North Citizens Planning Advisory Committee April 8, 2026, Meeting Summary

Oceanway Community Center, 12215 Sago Ave. W
Zoom Webinar ID: 812 5463 0846
Passcode: 225227

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Charles Barr, Chair; James Matchett, Co-Chair; Sharon Bivins, Blue Grass Northwood; Catherine Del Re, The Cape Association; Tommy Ruffin, Council Appointee District 8; Herlena Washington, Greater Works Church, Inc; Michael Wozniak, Shelley Wozniak, Lydia Estates; Larry Henderson, Victoria Preserve HOA.

CPAC Members via Zoom: Sylvester Wilkins, Alta Lakes CDD; Kevin Postell, Greater Works Church, Inc.; Ronnda Jamison, Greene Meadows Association.

Excused Members: Scott O'Connor, Heckscher Drive Community and Vicki Drake, Duval County Council of PTS/PTA Association

Visitors: Russ Vranicar, Edwards Creek NA.; Mark Bivins, Blue Grass Northwood; Cassandra Bush, Northridge; John J. Nooney Pottsburg Creek; Rodger Belcher, Kids Hope Alliance; M'Liss Stewart, Heckscher Drive Community; Risa Grant, Josh Cockrell, The StellaRea Group.

Zoom Visitors: Brian Shaw, Donna Philbrick, L. Cunningham, Tiffany Morales, Lynn Vandenhoy; Ernest Smith, 904-924-7357.

Staff and Elected Officials: Reggie Gaffney Jr., Councilman District 8; Joyce Morgan, Duval Property Appraiser; Kwasi Dingle, JFRD; Dylan Ragsdale, JPL; Scott Lundquist, JSO; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Vanessa Jefferson, Neighborhood Services Office; Alec Barnes, MCCD; Erin Abney, Planning and Development; Dan Durbec, Environmental Programs.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Charles Barr called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. A quorum was verified by Michelle Godwin-Ware.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** Approval of the March 2026 summary will be deferred to the May 2026 CPAC Meeting.
- 3. Elected Officials Report Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr., District 8,** reported that he had no updates at this time but remained available to answer any questions. A question was raised regarding expired HOA's. The matter will be submitted in writing and forwarded to Council member Gaffney's office. Once he receives the details, he will follow up to determine how his office can assist.
Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr. -(904) 255-5208 or RGaffneyJr@coj.net.
- 4. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO)- Commander Scott Lundquist** reported there was an overall decrease in crime city-wide, with a slight increase in robberies. He reminded residents not to leave keys or firearms in vehicles. Commander Lundquist provided updates on two homeless encampments. The encampment near Lem Turner Road and I-95 has been cleared.

Efforts are underway to obtain the property owner's permission to access the second encampment near RPM at River City Marketplace.

- Commander Lundquist encouraged CPAC members to follow JSO on social media for updates. He shared that a recent tip led officers to seize large quantities of drugs and firearms, and to arrest two individuals on trafficking charges. Commander Lundquist responded to concerns regarding the recurring issues of prostitution near the laundromat on Monaco Drive. He advised that his Vice Unit is aware and following up. Concerns about vehicles without tags and cars left abandoned for more than 24 hours will be addressed further after the meeting to determine whether they fall under the Jacksonville Sheriffs office's authority or should be addressed by the Municipal Code Enforcement Department.

Commander Scott Lindquist- (904) 696-4335 or jsodistrict6@jaxsheriff.org

- **Presentation/ Guest Speaker- Joyce Morgan Property Appraiser**- Ms. Morgan reported that the Florida Legislature is currently in special session and has not yet approved a budget; therefore, there are no updates on the proposed bill to eliminate property taxes. She noted that discussions continue regarding reviewing possible options, including slowly eliminating the homestead exemption. However, no action can occur until legislative decisions are finalized. Property taxes account for approximately 53 percent of the City's budget, and eliminating this revenue source would create significant financial challenges across Florida's 67 counties. Ms. Morgan reiterated that the primary responsibility of the Property Appraiser's Office is to appraise real and tangible property to produce the City of Jacksonville's tax roll.

Ms. Morgan reviewed how the homestead exemption function and how property tax bills are calculated. Proposed tax notices are mailed in late August, with final bills issued on November 1, 2026. She also reminded residents that those unable to pay their tax bill in full may set up quarterly payment plans through the Tax Collector's Office. She also shared that the option of portability remains available for homeowners who sell their property, allowing deferred value to transfer to a new Florida home. She encouraged residents to enroll in the Fraud Alert System, which notifies property owners of attempted quit claim deed filings or other unexpected activity. For any questions, residents may contact her office at (904) 255-5900, visit Jacksonville.gov - Property Appraiser or emailpacustserv@coj.net

Joyce Morgan (904) 255-5900 or joycemorgan1@coj.net

- **Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) – Lieutenant Kwasi Dingle** reported that the city continues to experience drought conditions. Due to recent high winds, he advised residents to clear leaves from their roof gutters, as accumulated debris can become a fire hazard if embers land on the roof. Lieutenant Dingle also noted that we are entering a season of frequent thunderstorms and extreme heat, making it important to store combustible materials properly. Propane tanks and similar items should be kept outside in a well-ventilated area, not in garages, as garages normally don't have smoke detectors and improper storage increases fire risk. Lieutenant Dingle advised that he will distribute home safety checklists at the next CPAC meeting.

Kwasi Dingle -(904) 763-0170 or KDingle@coj.net

5. **Chair's Report-Charles Barr** reported that on April 8, 2026, he attended a meeting with CPAC chairs and the Director of the Neighborhood Department, Thomas Waters, where he provided an update on the North CPAC, noting strong attendance and active discussion, and highlighted the excellent work of the previous Neighborhood Coordinator, Michelle Godwin.
- Chair Barr reported that several City departments were represented at the meeting and provided brief updates on their respective operations. He noted that Chris Billings from the Municipal Code Compliance Division is available to attend Homeowner Associations (HOA) meetings and answer residents' questions. Contact Chris at cbillings@coj.net or (904) 255-7085. Chair Barr shared announcements regarding the upcoming CPAC Block Party for District 2 on April 25, 2026, and the City of Jacksonville's hiring of lifeguards and other part-time positions within Parks, Recreation, and Community Services.

6. **Staff Reports:**

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)- Dylan Ragsdell reported on upcoming events and activities at the Jacksonville Public Libraries. He announced the annual Book Review Writing Contest for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade, with winners receiving a \$100 prize. Winners will be announced on April 25, 2026, during the Family Reading Day at the Main Library located at 303 N. Laura Street, from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. The event will celebrate literacy and include a variety of family-friendly activities. He also highlighted an upcoming Life Lab workshop for adults focused on genealogy and ancestry research. This session will be held at the Highlands Library located at 1826 Dunn Ave from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Mr. Ragsdell provided flyers for distribution.

Dylan Ragsdell- (904) 255-6088 or dragsdale@coj.net

- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) -Cheryl Reddick** reported that Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) offers free rides for seniors age 65 and older. The only requirement is to show a Florida driver's license, Florida State ID or Senior Star Card. Also new bus fares took effect on February 1, 2026, as part of a six-month pilot program. Information regarding new fares can be found on the [JTAFLA - Home website](#). Ms. Reddick provided information and flyers for other services, such as the paratransit service options, which provides both door-to-door service for an additional fee for those unable to use fixed-route services due to mobility challenges. She also provided information on the newly launched JTA Connection Uber Opt-In Program which is curb-to -curb for customers with no advance booking required.
- Ms. Reddick encourages residents to always check the JTA app to ensure there is a route that suits their transportation needs as sometimes there is not a route available to get them from point A to B. She advised that the NAVI, which is an autonomous service, is normally available on weekdays 7am-7pm, and not on weekends. She also advised that, unfortunately, if you utilize Navi to attend events that end after 7:00 pm, you will need to find other options for your return trip. Ms. Reddick advised that Jacksonville Transportation Authority(JTA) reviews all routes three times per year in an effort to assess the need for changes and improvements.
- Ms. Reddick advised that she would provide an updated about the number of electric buses that are available and would report this information to the CPAC.

- **Ms. Reddick** emailed the Neighborhood Services Coordinator, Vanessa Jefferson, and advised that two electric buses are in service daily.
Cheryl Reddick- (904) 568-4869 or criddick@jtafla.com
- **Municipal Code Compliance- (MCCD)** -Alec Barnes reported that his office handled 468 cases last month, and 2,623 cases have been reported year-to-date in the North CPAC District. The highest volume of complaints continues to be nuisance-related issues , including overgrown grass and other property maintenance issues. Additional cases include zoning violations, such as junk vehicles and unsafe structures, which remain a priority due to safety risks. Mr. Barnes reports that he and staff are actively working to reduce the backlog to ensure cases are addressed as quickly as possible.
Alec Barnes- (904) 903-0001 or Abarnes@coj.net
- **Military Affairs and Veterans-** Tiffany Morales reported recently partnering with the Jacksonville Public Libraries to provide Flag Retirement Drop Boxes. The current drop box is located at the Charles Web Wesconnett Library at 6887 103rd Street. Residents may drop off American or state flags for proper retirement. The drop box will rotate to other libraries every three to four months, with the next location scheduled for the Pablo Creek Region Library, 13295 Beach Blvd.
- Upcoming events: Memorial Day Observance- May 25th, 2026, at 8:30 am at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall, 1145 E. Adams St. Spouses Night Out, June 4,2026, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd. This is a free event to honor spouses of active duty and retired service members. Registration is available at <http://www.jacksonville.gov/msno>
Tiffany Morales (904) 255-5524 or tmorales@coj.net

7. Subcommittee/ Liaison Reports: Governmental Affairs (GA) and Planning & Development

- James Matchett, Chair of the Governmental Affairs Committee and Erin Abney- Chief of Current Planning reported that the Governmental Affairs Committee reviewed a total of five land use applications and recommended the approval of all five applications. The full CPAC reviewed and made the following motions on the five applications:
 - **Ordinance 2026-0210- PUD located at 0 Owens Road.** The application seeks rezoning of approximately 4.62 acres from PUD to add in the option for a nursing home, assisted living facility and housing for the elderly. A motion was made for no objection and seconded. The full CPAC passed the motion unanimously.
 - **Ordinance 2026-0211-Zoning exception located at 11247 Alta Drive.** The application seeks to allow for the use of a restaurant serving full alcohol within an existing shopping center. A motion was made and seconded to take no action. The full CPAC passed the motion.
 - Companion applications **Ordinance Z-6914 conventional rezoning and AD-26-20 (Z-6914) Administrative Deviation both located at 9801 Heckscher Drive.** The applications seek to rezone approximately 0.7 acres from CCG-2 to RLD 100A to build 1 single family

dwelling and also to increase the height of the dwelling from 35 feet to 45 feet and allow the existing 8-foot fence to remain within the front yard. A motion was made and seconded for approval of both applications. The full CPAC passed the motion.

- **Ordinance WRF-26-07 Waiver of Road Frontage located at 15364 WRF-26-07 Waiver of Road Frontage located at 15364 Yellow Bluff Road.** The application seeks to reduce the required road frontage from 80 feet to 0 feet in order to develop the property with 1 single family dwelling. A motion was made for approval and seconded. The full CPAC passed the motion.

10. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report- Michelle Godwin-Ware / Vanessa Jefferson. Chair Charles Barr recognized Michelle-Godwin-Ware for the great work she has done over the last 10 years serving as the Neighborhood Service Coordinator for the North CPAC. Neighborhood Coordinator, Vanessa Jefferson reminded CPAC members of the upcoming District 2 Neighborhood Block Party, scheduled for April 25, 2026, and encouraged members to begin planning for the North CPAC's Block Party. Members discussed possible challenges with a December date, including weather and holiday-related scheduling conflicts. This item will be placed on next month's agenda for additional review and consideration of alternatives.

Vanessa Jefferson- (904) 255-7834 or VJefferson@coj.net

11. Unfinished Business: None

12. Public Comments/ Concerns/Announcements:

Kids Hope Alliance (KHA)- Roger Belcher, Chief Strategy Officer, reported that Kids Hope Alliance (KHA) is responsible for funding youth programs throughout Duval County.

On May 1, 2026, a listing of summer camps will be available on the KHA website [KHA - Welcome](#): A search is underway for a new CEO to replace interim Dr. Dana Kriszar. The process should be completed by June or July of this year. He also advised that Request for Proposals (RFP) cycle is in progress and will allow for additional programs and services, including juvenile justice and programs for pre-teens and teens, which focus on education and job readiness. Mr. Belcher advised that he will be able to provide more detailed listings during the next CPAC.

Rodger Belcher- (904) 301-3803 or rbelcher@coj.net

Dan Durbec, Environmental Programs Specialist, City of Jacksonville, shared the Upcoming Jax Litter League Competition. This is an opportunity for neighborhoods to help clean up the city, while earning a chance to win tickets to attend the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp game. Residents may sign-up, for additional information found on the city website at [Jacksonville.gov - Jax Litter League](#)

Dan Durbec -(904) 255-8276 or ddurbec@coj.net

The Litter League in Oceanway is inviting the public to join their cleanup efforts.

For more information can be found on their FACEBOOK page under the name Collect and Connect Keep Oceanway Beautiful.

[Collect and Connect - Keep Oceanway Beautiful | Facebook](#)

Public Comment Request: Mr. John Nooney commented on the importance and value of residents gaining public access to waterways throughout the City of Jacksonville.

13. Meeting Adjourned: Chair Charles Barr adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: *Wednesday, May 13, 2026*, 5:30 p.m. Hybrid - **Oceanway Community Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W., 32218, and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 812 5463 0846
Passcode: 225227

Next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Meeting: *Wednesday, May 13, 2026*, 4:30 p.m. **Oceanway Community Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W. 32218 and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 811 5393 8941. Passcode: 083694.

Summary prepared by Vanessa Jefferson, Neighborhood Coordinator, Neighborhood Services Office, (904) 255-7834 or VJefferson@coj.net.

A copy of the audio recording of this North 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: [COJ Public Records Request](#).