

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC)

June 1, 2026

Hybrid Meeting: Main Public Library, 303 N Laura Street 32202 and via Zoom Webinar

Meeting Attendance:

CPAC Members: Ernest Smith (Chair), Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Tiffany Clark (Vice Chair), Parents Who Lead; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Assn. Inc; Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Michael Haskins, SPAR Council; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Marcia Ellison, New Town

Excused: None

Staff and Elected Officials: William Hanks, MCCD; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD; Keli Likins, JPL; Lieutenant Warren Fleeman, JSO; Daniel Piastuck, Parks; Dana Krisnar, KHA; Chip Harper, MVA; Cory Wright; DCPS

Guests: Peter Borenstein, Michelle Dennis, Zach Hanson; SPAR; Richard Lewis, Hanif Kissoonlal, John J, Nooney, Ariane Randolph, Lorrinn Cassandra

Zoom: Sarah Ashbrook, Becca Dingler, Maronda Davis, Bryant Schumaker, Willis, (904)982-2897

Meeting Summary:

1. Chair Ernest Smith called June 1, 2026, Urban Core CPAC Meeting to order at 5:32 pm and Martinique Glover verified that a quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** May 4, 2026, meeting summary was approved.
3. **Presenter: Zach Hanson of Springfield Preservation and Revitalization:** Springfield Preservation and Revitalization Council, presented plans for a new urban arboretum in the Springfield neighborhood. The project will identify and label approximately 100 trees representing more than 90 species throughout the community and feature a series of guided walking tours highlighting Springfield's urban ecology and natural environment. The initiative is funded by Florida Humanities with support from local businesses and community partners to produce educational materials and tree identification markers
4. **Elected Official Report:** No Elected Officials Present
5. **Chair's Report:** Chair Smith announced that there will be no July meeting and that the next Urban Core CPAC meeting will be held on August 3, 2026. He also reported that Ordinance 2026-0364, previously opposed by the Urban Core CPAC, is expected to be withdrawn due to public opposition. Members and residents were thanked for their participation and feedback regarding the legislation.

6. Staff Reports:

- **JPL: Kelly Likens:**

- announced the launch of its annual Summer Learning Program, "Unearth a Story," with kickoff events scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026, at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202. A children's kickoff event was held at 3:00 p.m., followed by a teen kickoff event at 6:00 p.m. The program features reading challenges, educational activities, book giveaways, and incentive prizes designed to encourage youth reading throughout the summer and help prevent summer learning loss. Participants can track their reading and earn rewards throughout the program. She also announced a special youth event on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 11:30 a.m., at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202, where children and teens ages 9–18 will have the opportunity to play Xbox and PlayStation games with Jacksonville Sheriff's Office officers using a mobile gaming truck. Representatives from the Jacksonville Police Athletic League (JaxPAL) will also be on site to provide information about youth programs and recreational opportunities available throughout the community.

For more information visit: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/summer-learning>

Kelly Likens: KLikins@coj.net

- **Parks: Daniel Piastuck:**

- reported that 30 public pools would be open for the summer season and highlighted a new teen recreation program offering extended evening hours at select community centers, flyers were left at the desk. He provided updates on several major projects, including Shipyards West, Metropolitan Park, Riverfront Plaza, and future improvements at Springfield Park. Mr. Piastuck also discussed efforts to enhance park maintenance, customer service, and community engagement through the expansion of Park Ranger programs. Additional information was shared regarding summer recreation opportunities, youth programming, and ongoing park improvements throughout Jacksonville.

For more information visit: <https://www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/jaxparks>

Daniel Piastuck: DPiastuck@coj.net

- **MVA: Chip Harper:**

- provided updates on upcoming Military Affairs and Veterans Department events, including the annual Spouses Night Out at VyStar Ballpark and Freedom Fest at Friendship Fountain. He also highlighted ongoing services available to veterans, including Ask-A-Lawyer sessions and Veteran Service Officer outreach events at local library branches. Mr. Harper left informational flyers for attendees and encouraged veterans and their families to take advantage of available programs and resources.

Chip Harper: ClarenceH@coj.net

- **KHA: Dr. Dana Krisner:**

- provided updates on Kids Hope Alliance summer programming, including available summer camp opportunities, free golf camps through First Tee of

North Florida, and Bookmobile services in partnership with the Jacksonville Public Library. She also announced an upcoming family literacy event at the Jacksonville Zoo July 18, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.-2:00p.m. She also shared information about Little Free Libraries located throughout the community. Informational flyers were made available for attendees interested in participating in these programs and resources.

For more information visit: <https://www.kidshopealliance.org/>

Dr. Dana Krisnar: DKriznar@coj.net

- **JSO: Lieutenant Warran Fleeman**

- JSO reported that overall crime was down approximately 3% citywide, with the downtown patrol district experiencing an 8% reduction and the downtown sector reporting a 9.5% decrease. The Homeward Bound program assisted approximately 55 individuals experiencing homelessness with transportation to reunite with family or access stable housing. During May, JSO continued enforcement of the City's camping ordinance, issuing more than 700 warnings, 64 arrests, and 14 citations or notices to appear. Officers also addressed noise complaints, and unauthorized youth gatherings in the downtown area. In response to resident questions, JSO advised that excessive noise complaints may be reported to JSO and reminded businesses to comply with applicable noise ordinances and permit requirements.

Lieutenant Warren Fleeman: Warren.FleemanIII@jaxsheriff.org

- **MCCD: William Hanks**

- reported on ongoing inspections of an apartment complex on North Main Street following tenant complaints about property conditions. Issues reported included rodent and insect infestations, holes in walls, exterior lighting deficiencies, and general maintenance concerns. Council Member Jimmy Peluso and City staff visited the property, and additional inspections were planned. Residents were reminded to report maintenance issues to property management before City enforcement can begin, allowing owners an opportunity to correct violations. Staff also noted that nuisance violations are generally addressed under Chapters 518 and 202 of the Jacksonville Ordinance Code.

Williams Hanks: WHanks@coj.net

- **DCPS: Corey Wright**

- Chief of Accountability, Instruction and Strategy, introduced himself and provided an update on district initiatives. He reported that preliminary academic results showed positive progress toward maintaining the district's "A" rating, with official school grades expected in July. No additional school closures were planned, although the previously approved consolidation of Long Branch Elementary into R.L. Brown Elementary was delayed until the 2027–2028 school year. The district will begin community engagement during the 2026–2027 school year to support the transition.

Corey Wright: wrightc8@duvalschools.org

- **JFRD: Captain Charles Johnson**

- JFRD provided summer safety reminders related to grilling, extreme heat, and fireworks. Residents were encouraged to practice safe grilling, stay hydrated during hot weather, use the JaxReady app for emergency information, and follow fireworks safety guidelines. The department also announced that JFRD will inspect fireworks sales tents to ensure compliance with fire safety regulations.

Captain Charles Johnson: JohnsonC@coj.net

- **Neighborhoods: Martinique Glover**

- announced a hurricane preparedness distribution event at Celebration Church, where emergency supplies would be available while supplies lasted. She also promoted the district 3 Southeast CPAC Neighborhood Block Party scheduled for June 27 at Cuba Hunter Park and encouraged residents, community organizations, and vendors to participate.

Martinique Glover: mgllover@coj.net

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: T.R.U.E. Commission Appointee

- The CPAC discussed filling its vacant representative position on the Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures (TRUE) Commission following Kim Pryor's resignation. Terry Canty tentatively volunteered to serve, pending confirmation of her availability. The Chair will follow up with Ms. Canty and present a formal recommendation at the August meeting. The representative will be responsible for attending TRUE Commission meetings and providing written reports to the CPAC.

9. Subcommittee and Liaisons:

- **Government Affairs: Dimitri Deopoulos:**

- **LUZ-7009** -Redevelop the site into a Community and Veteran Empowerment Center to provide services, resources, and support for veterans and the surrounding community. **Reviewed;** no action taken.
- **LUZ-7164**- Construct a six-story senior living facility with up to 130 residential units by rezoning approximately 1.69 acres from RMD-D to PUD. **Reviewed;** no action taken.
- **LUZ -6814**- Rezone approximately 0.46 acres from CRO-S to PUD to allow an indoor banquet hall and event space while maintaining museum operations. **Reviewed;** no action taken
- **LUZ Application 7068**- Reduce the required monument sign setback from 10 feet to 5 feet due to site constraints. **Reviewed;** no action taken

- **Blight and Code Enforcement Subcommittee: Juanita Senior:**
 - The Blight Subcommittee discussed traffic concerns at Beaver Street and McDuff Avenue. The Transportation Department agreed to conduct a 90-day traffic study to evaluate potential improvements. The subcommittee also recognized Mr. McDaniels and City crews for completing easement mowing and cleanup along Davis Street and 16th through 18th Streets, improving the appearance of the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee: Cory Haynes**
 - The subcommittee presented a proposed letter requesting City funding for a Housing First pilot program to assist approximately 10 single-parent families experiencing homelessness. The proposal recommended allocating approximately six percent of the City's annual homelessness funding, or about \$300,000, to support the initiative.
- **Taxation Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission: Vacant**
 - Chair Ernest Smith reported on the May 7, 2026 TRUE Commission meeting, including a review of the Clerk of Courts audit, the City's purchasing-card program, and proposed bylaw amendments. He also provided an update on the Public Service Grant Program and encouraged eligible nonprofit organizations to apply for future funding opportunities.

10. Public Comments:

- **John Nooney:**
 - discussed the importance of expanding public access to Jacksonville waterways, including additional access points and boat ramps. He referenced City reports identifying access deficiencies and highlighted potential park-property acquisitions, including sites near Pottsburg Creek. He also discussed several City trust funds, including the Parks Trust Fund, Veterans Trust Fund, and Artificial Reef Trust Fund, encouraging greater public awareness and use of these resources to support community projects. Additionally, he highlighted regional organizations and funding opportunities, including the Florida Inland Navigation District, that could assist with improving public waterway access.
- **Ariana Randolph:**
 - about obtaining representation for the Historic Eastside on the Urban Core CPAC. Martinique Glover explained that CPAC members must represent a qualifying neighborhood association, civic organization, business, or other eligible organization within District 1. Ms. Glover also outlined the application and appointment process, offered to provide a CPAC membership application.

11. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm. The next UC CPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2026, at 5:30 pm, at the Main Public Library 303 N. Laura Street