

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee April 1, 2024, Meeting Summary

Hybrid Meeting: Jacksonville Main Public Library, 303 North Laura Street, Conference Level, Multipurpose Room, and on ZOOM.

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts at East Bay Condo Association, Inc.; Becca Dingler, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Ernest Smith; Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Deloris Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Cory Haynes, JASMYN: Bill Hoff, SAMBA; Johnny B. Swain, Grand Boulevard Crime Watch.

Excused: Juanita Senior, Planet Watch Neighborhood.

ZOOM: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Duval County Public School Board Member; Cathy Reed, Parks at the Cathedral; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Michael Haskins, SPAR; Hank Rogers, Jacksonville Housing Authority; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Chip Harper, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; bfore.

Elected Officials and Staff: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Duval County School Board Member; Dr. Dana Kriznar, Superintendent, Duval County Public Schools; Chris Billings, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Captain James Croff, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; Lieutenant Jason Moore, Jacksonville Sheriff Office; Sergeant Abigail Ellis, Jacksonville Sheriff Office; Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Manager; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department.

Guests: Wiley Page, North Florida TPO; Marci Larson, North Florida TPO; Marjorie Wilson; Joni Turner, Groundworks Jacksonville; Nancy Cleveland; Ava Patterson; Roslyn Parker; Ariane Randolph, Historic Eastside Neighborhood Association; Jakumi Randolph, Historic Eastside Neighborhood Association; Zindchi Randolph; Alice Nelson, Historic Eastside Neighborhood Association.

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum: Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Edwina Henry verified a quorum was present.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary: CPAC Members approved the March 4, 2024, Meeting Summary, with a correction on page four: change dates of Veterans Affairs attendance at the Home and Patio Show from March 2 and 3, 2024 to March 22 and 23, 2024.

3. Presenters: Marci Larson and Wiley Page, North Florida TPO – Ms. Larson provided background on the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization:

- The North Florida Transportation Planning Organization is established by Federal law to do regional transportation planning in four counties: Clay, Duval, St. John's, and Nassau Counties.

- The organization operates several committees: a Citizens Advisory Committee, a Technical Advisory Committee (comprised of engineers and transportation planners from the municipalities and counties that make up the NFTPO), and the decision-making body is the TPO Advisory board, a 15-member board made up of elected officials from the four counties, as well as the five transportation board members from the five transportation agencies (Jacksonville Transportation Authority, JAX Port, the Aviation Authority, the Regional Airport in St. John's County, and the Port in Nassau County.)
- One of the most important functions of the NFTPO is to develop a long-range transportation plan, every five years, with a twenty-year horizon.
- For more information please visit: www.NorthFloridaTPO.com
- The website has a series of studies covering a variety of transportation issues, listed geographically, and based on available funding. There are currently 200 regional projects.
- Because community input on projects is extremely important, CPACs were asked to participate in a survey to indicate how they would like transportation dollars spent. North Florida TPO would like to know preferences for more bicycle, pedestrian facilities, more roadways, to have more roads widened, to see more technology, see more transit (transit meaning more than just buses), etc.
- Each person was asked to participate in the survey, and to encourage others to participate, as well. The survey will be open through the month of April. The website is www.2050pathforward.com – click on "updated survey."

4. Elected Officials Report: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Schoolboard Member, Duval County Public Schools, gave the following report:

- April is Celebrating Military Families Month. Schoolboard member Willie noted that Jacksonville has many military families whose children attend the schools, and the school district does whatever it can to ensure that it is a smooth transition for the students. He also acknowledged that he was a military kid, as his father was in the army. Duval County Public Schools has seven (7) Purple Star Schools, which signifies a school which has received exemplary marks for taking care of military families.
- The Duval County Public School Board Building - there were two offers being considered: JTA with a property in LaVilla and Florida Blue with a property in Riverside. The Board recently voted to not sell at this time but to leave all options and conversations open.
- The Superintendent Search for Duval County Public Schools launched on March 15, 2024, and applications will be accepted through April 15, 2024. The semi-finalists will be selected from that group of applicants and narrowed down to the finalists. The Superintendent finalists will be in town on May 13 and 14, 2024, and there will be opportunities for the public to "meet and greet" the finalists. It is the desire of the Schoolboard to have the school Superintendent be selected by the community. Schoolboard member Willie also acknowledged Dr. Kriznar as the perfect person to have right now "to hold the ship steady to be ready to help transition the new superintendent and work with them to be able to start the new school year." It is the Schoolboard's goal to select the finalist by June and vote in July, and then have this person in place and ready to lead into the next school year.
- Graduation dates have already been set and can be found on the Duval County Public School's website: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org>.
- Schoolboard member Willie discussed the changing landscape of education and the challenges facing "traditional" public schools. The board is discussing school consolidations and potential consolidations in many parts of the city. He wants the public

to know that there are no formal plans, only discussions by the school board as to possibilities. The public will have the opportunity to weigh in before any final decisions are made.

5. Chair's Report: Chair Shumaker began his report by stating that the next CPAC Quarterly Chairs' Meeting is in May and asked if the membership had issues of concern they would like for him to raise to please forward those items in writing to the Neighborhood Coordinator.

- Chair Shumaker acknowledged the following new Urban Core CPAC Members:
 - Ernest Smith – Northside Coalition of Jacksonville – Primary
 - Kelly Frazier – Northside Coalition of Jacksonville – Alternate

6. Staff Reports: Chair Shumaker reminded everyone that in the interest of time to keep remarks to three minutes.

Neighborhoods Department – Lisa Ransom, Neighborhood Services Manager on behalf of Thomas Waters, Director Neighborhoods Department, shared the following information:

- CommUniverCity, a free community leadership training program offered by the Neighborhood Services Office, starts Tuesday, April 2, 2024. The class is full at 45 participants, representing each of the six (6) planning districts, and hopefully some will pursue CPAC Memberships after completing their training.
- The Neighborhood Awards program is November 7, 2024, and applications have been sent out. The event will be held in the Main Public Library Auditorium, and it's open to the public. Each organization is encouraged to apply to highlight the amazing work and projects and other things each neighborhood/community completed in 2023. The evening is designed to be a great time of acknowledging and supporting all the hard work that happens, and how people make their communities wonderful places to live.
- The Situation Report is a list of outstanding issues that is shared with the mayor at the CPAC Chair's Quarterly Meeting. Just as Chair Shumaker requested, please forward your concerns to Edwina – especially those concerns that have been entered into the MyJax system and be sure to include the tracking/care ticket number.
- The Urban Core CPAC used to meet in the Ed Ball Building first floor training room, prior to utilizing the Main Library. The Training Room has now been converted into a formal hearing room, utilized by a specific department, and may not be available for other uses. Therefore, the Urban Core CPAC will continue to meet at the Main Library, unless something else becomes available. Additionally, the Blight Subcommittee has been meeting in the Ed Ball Building on the fifth floor. That space is not open to the public after 5 pm, so the Blight Subcommittee will be meeting in the main library.
- Entering the Main Public Library from the Main Street Doors. The library has already stated that, it is not feasible now, to allow persons to enter from the Main Street doors due to budgetary and security concerns. The doors must be staffed by security personnel, and it is not in their budget to do so, so while it may be inconvenient for some, please cooperate and enter from the designated doors.

Lisa Ransom – Neighborhood Services Office – (904) 255-8250

FDOT – Derek Dixon, Transportation Manager, responded to a previously submitted question by a CPAC member:

- A CPAC Member wanted to know if FDOT could improve the retention pond at the southeast corner of Pearl Street and Golfair, as well as remove the barbed wire on top of the fence. Dixon's response was that FDOT would not be making any changes to the pond in question. He also stated that he would contact their maintenance department, so the overgrowth problem should be taken care of.
- Mr. Dixon offered a statement on the collapse of the Key Bridge in Baltimore, MD – The Florida Department of Transportation extends their deepest sympathies to those affected by the recent incident. FDOT also sends their sincere thanks to the first responders engaged in the search and rescue operations. Mr. Dixon went on to discuss the various methods used by FDOT to ensure the safety and integrity of the bridges in our State, including continuous coordination with local law enforcement, including the U.S. Coast Guard and Seaport Authorities to ensure comprehensive safety measures are in place.

Derek Dixon – (904) 360-5457 or Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us

JPL – Keli Likins, Executive Assistant II, Library Services, began her update with a comment about having CPAC Members enter through the library's back doors during library hours while the library is open.

- The Main Street entrance is not a public entrance, so it must be staffed by security officers and the library did not budget for that this fiscal year. She also stated that the library is looking into whether they can find additional security officer funds added for the next fiscal year, however, she cannot make any promises.
- Ms. Likins then wished everyone a Happy National Poetry Month. This April the library is having a porch-related program called a History Chat collecting AI and Justice. The program will highlight the life and poetry of Allen Justice, who lived from 1943 to 2011. He is a celebrated Jacksonville poet whose works have been recently acquired by the Jacksonville Public Library Special Collections. The program will include a talk about Justice's life and legacy, poetry, readings and a preview of an upcoming documentary about him. The date is Saturday, April 27 at 2 pm, upstairs in the Ann Spock or Map Room on the fourth floor.

Keli Likins – (904) 255-6090 or klikins@coj.net

Duval County Public Schools – Dr. Dana Krizner, Superintendent Duval County Public Schools, wanted to highlight the school related employee of the year. This year's winner is described as an "exceptional leader who goes over and beyond to remove language barriers in her school community and make her students feel validated and loved."

- Grisel Fuentes, an ESOL paraprofessional at Lake Lucina Elementary School, was recently recognized as Team Duval's School-Related Employee of the Year.

Dr. Dana Krizner – (904) 390-2000 or kriznard@duvalschools.org

JFRD – Captain James Groff stated that he did not have any new directives to share with the CPAC, but he is open to questions the CPAC might have.

- Captain Groff was asked about the extent of the electrical fire at the Hyatt Hotel. He was not aware of the incident and said he would investigate and report back. He stated that there's an official report for every fire.

Captain James Groff – (904) 255-8320 or JGroff@coj.net

MCCD – Chris Billings, Code Compliance Supervisor, gave the following report:

- Since March 4, 2024, MCCD has completed 1,230 inspections within the Urban Core.
- MCCD introduced a targeted systematic project in the 29th and Chase Neighborhood, resulting in 51 properties that were cited.
- The goal for the 29th and Chase Neighborhood was to focus on residentially owned properties to ensure uniform compliance and address issues that had typically gone unreported. Fifty-one properties were cited.
- A "ride through" was conducted in the Moncrief Neighborhood after MCCD received several complaints about excessive garbage, major automobile repairs, commercial vehicles, and abandoned properties. After assessing the area there were 200 potential code violations. A Moncrief targeted systematic is scheduled for May to help address some of the concerns.
- A corridor project is scheduled for April 16, 2024, starting from Main Street down to Eighth Street and up to Talleyrand. These inspections will target businesses, zoning issues and other ordinance violations.
- As a reminder, with spring underway, Municipal Code requires that all property owners maintain their property free of overgrowth vegetation, grass, weeds exceeding 15 inches in height to maintain their exterior properties free of trash debris, including yard debris.
- MCCD also inspects swimming pools, making sure that the pool, water quality and pool equipment are maintained and functional.
- MCCD is unable to always patrol all areas and therefore encourages and appreciates any help from citizens. He asked that property owners be vigilant with checking and maintaining their property and helping to notify MCCD of issues in their community.
- For reporting, please call the city's Customer Service Center at 630-CITY or visit Jacksonville.gov and access the MyJax reporting application – www.MyJax.custhelp.com or stop by the Ed Ball Building at 214 N. Hogan Street, on the first floor. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.
- Mrs. Swain raised the issue that she has called 630-CITY a couple of times about stray dogs in her community, and nothing has been done. Mr. Billings responded that MCCD is not equipped to handle stray dogs and that Animal Care and Protective Services is the right department to respond. Mrs. Swain will forward her Care Ticket number to Ms. Henry for follow-up.

Chris Billings – (904) 497-9543 or CBillings@coj.net

JSO – Lieutenant Jason Moore, Watch Commander, Zone 1, reported that:

- Year-to-date, violent crime is down in District 1 by 15%. Automobile theft is up within the district. He advises everyone to be sure to lock their car doors and set alarms, etc.
- Starting in April 2024, JSO will conduct "hotshot" deployments – sending patrol units into areas where there have been multiple occurrences of violent crimes.

Lieutenant Jason Moore – (904) 924-5361 or Jason.Moore@JaxSheriff.org

- 7. Old Business:** Review feedback from the 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Kathleen Collins, Capital Improvement Plan Administrator, returned the UC CPAC original submission with comments on the various projects that were listed and requested that the revised CIP be returned by April 30th to ensure it is presented to the Mayor's Budget Review Committee.
 - After discussion, a motion was made to adopt the changes as discussed and to revise the CIP letter and return it to Ms. Collins. It was properly moved and seconded. The motion carried.
 - Chair Shumaker made an amended motion to include installation of the pickleball courts to the revised CIP. The motion was properly seconded, and the motion carried.

8. New Business: None.

9. Subcommittees and Liaison Reports:

- **Governmental Affairs/LUZ Subcommittee** – Dimitri Demopoulos: the Subcommittee had one application to review. The subcommittee was hesitant to make a recommendation without knowing community preferences. The subcommittee passed a motion to recommend for approval the modification presented in MM-24-01 but with the condition that the perimeter chain link fencing be limited to 6 feet in height, in the hopes that it would spur discussion amongst the full CPAC.
 - Ms. Randolph, an Eastside Community Advocate, was invited to give comments on the proposal prior to the full CPAC taking a vote on the matter, to better inform the CPAC of what the neighborhood feels about the project.
 - Ms. Randolph stated that today was her first time hearing details about the project. Her feeling is that the developer needs to have a discussion with community residents.
 - City Planner, Caroline Fulton, stated that the hearing for this application is scheduled for April 18, 2024, at 1 pm in the Ed Ball Building, Hearing Room, before the Planning Commission.
 - Ms. Randolph was encouraged by the CPAC to get community representatives to attend the hearing to voice their preferences. If they are unable to attend in person, they can provide a letter or a written statement to either our City Planner or the Subcommittee Chair.
 - Subcommittee Chair Demopoulos stated that if the community can be informed, and the people who are affected can inform the Planning Commission of what they would like, then maybe the subcommittee's motion should be withdrawn and allow the community to express their preferences.
 - Motion to recommend approval of MM-24-01 is denied.
 - Chair Shumaker took the opportunity to, once again, invite Ms. Randolph to join the CPAC as a representative from her community organization.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes: First meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 29, 2024, at 5 pm. The Public Notice of Meeting will be emailed.
 - Mr. Haynes attended the Northwest Corridor Meeting and spoke with City Councilmember Jimmy Peluso who indicated the City Council recently voted on a Trust for Homelessness. Details to follow.

- **T.R.U.E. (Taxation, Revenue, and Utilization of Expenditures) Commission** - Kim Pryor:
 - Requested a report on what properties were given to nonprofits and when.
 - Investigating who does follow-up or manages the contracts with nonprofits.
 - Next meeting is Thursday, April 4, 2024.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Chair Shumaker: The next meeting is Monday, April 22, 2024, in the main public library, Meeting Room 429. The Public Notice of Meeting will be emailed.

10. Public Comments and Announcements:

- **Military Affairs and Veterans Department** - Chip Harper made the following announcements:
 - Food Pharmacy - April 11, 2024, from 10 to 11 a.m. at 390 Mayport Road
 - Free Legal Services will be offered twice a month – April 9, 2024, is Three Rivers Legal Services – Ask a Lawyer, April 19, 2024, will be Jacksonville Legal Aid. Both sessions are from 9 am to 12 noon.
 - Free Tax Preparation Services for veterans and active military service personnel will continue to be available Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 am to 2:20 pm, at the Military Affairs and Veterans Department Offices located at 117 W. Duval Street, Suite 175, through April 15, 2024. Call for an appointment. (904) 255-5551.
 - Military Spouses Night Out is June 20, 2024, from 5 pm to 8 pm at the Vystar Arena.

Chip Harper – (904) 255-5537 or ClarenceH@coj.net

- CPAC Member Delores Swain would like to have Animal Care and Protective Services make a presentation to the CPAC and discuss how to enhance rules and regulations about stray animals in the neighborhoods.
- CPAC Chair Shumaker reminded members to submit their concerns/issues they would like addressed at the upcoming CPAC Chairs Quarterly Meeting.

11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm