

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee September 10, 2024, Meeting Summary

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

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Bryant Shumaker, UC CPAC Chair, SPAR Council; Juanita Senior, UC CPAC Vice Chair, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Dimitri Demopoulos, Churchwell Lofts; Ernest Smith, III, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood; Bill Hoff, SAMBA; Tiffany Clark, Parents Who Lead; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile Ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Tajuana Carmichael, Parents Who Lead.

Excused: Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville.

ZOOM: Kim Pryor, Preservation SOS; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville.

Elected Officials and Staff: The Honorable Warren Jones, Duval County Public School Board Member; Michael Wilson, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; Lieutenant Michael Senterfitt, JSO; Garrett Callis, Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Bruce Lewis, Planning and Development.

Guests: Paul Houchens, Cathedral HOA; Kady Yellow, Downtown Vision, Inc.; Richard Lewis.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Very Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The CPAC Members approved the August 14, 2024, meeting summary.
- 3. Presenter:** Kady Yellow, Senior Director of Placemaking and Events – Downtown Vision, Inc. – Business Improvement District
 - Placemaking Jax is a highly collaborative process for the people of Jacksonville to engage in the creation of pop-up activations or large-scale interventions in Downtown Jacksonville to transform underused public spaces into celebrated community places.
 - Placemaking Jax projects begin with residents who have ideas for a more vibrant Downtown. The projects are resident-led and made possible by a strong collaboration between community partners, city agencies and funders. The vision behind the program is to open doors for residents, artists and neighborhood groups to come to the table and be creative in addressing community needs and aspirations.
 - Ms. Yellow noted that there is a world-wide problem of public parks sitting empty, underfunded and inadequately programmed. Placemaking involves an open call for community ideas for public spaces.

- In 2023, the program’s pilot year for Placemaking JAX, Downtown Vision received 59 applications and selected eight (8) projects, which received \$10,000 each.
- The Second Open call received 200 applications and funded another eight (8) projects and selected projects received either \$5,000 or \$20,000.
- Placemaking has an open, transparent and participatory focus, utilizing a Task Force to identify projects.
- The Budget for this current year is only \$260,000. The project area will be one central location.
- Ms. Yellow’s working definition of “Success,” how people are educated about the process and how to permit their parks. Teams, without this program, being able to go to city hall, go through the permitting and procurement processes and bring a project to fruition.
- An example from the pilot year – videographers and photographers from the Moncrief Neighborhood, took a vacant storefront and turned it into their Podcast Studio. Through that process they learned how to obtain funding through matching grants, process paperwork, obtain insurance, navigating the city’s permitting process and seeing a vision through to completion. The Studio is in the Phoenix Art District.

Kady Yellow (904) 634-0303 X 1229 or kady@downtownjacksonville.org

- 4. Elected Officials Report:** The Honorable Warren Jones, School Board Member, Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), provided the following updates:
- Superintendent has taken up the challenge of “Know the Line,” so that DCPS employees know what employees should and should not do with students. [Video – Superintendent Dr. Bernier discusses Know the Line campaign – Team Duval News](#)
 - Cell phone use – in the classroom, students must have their phone in the off position and put away, so that they are not a distraction. [Duval County Public Schools / Homepage \(duvalschools.org\)](#)
 - Duval County Schools changed its policy; now middle and high school students living less than two miles from school are no longer eligible for bus transportation.
 - The Duval County School Board is reviewing the school consolidation plan. There will be an opportunity on 9/24/2024 for community input. Board is schedule to take action during its regular Board meeting in October 2024. [Master Facility Plan Revision Process / Home \(duvalschools.org\)](#)

The Honorable Warren Jones (904) 390-2372 or Jonesw2@duvalschools.org

- 5. Chair’s Report:** Chair Shumaker shared the following:
- The CPAC Chairs’ Quarterly Meeting is Friday, September 13, 2024, please send any items you would like me to address, please forward them to Ms. Henry.
 - Ms. Senior’s request for a no dumping sign
 - CIP feedback on projects selected
 - A request was made to have a representative from the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA) be invited to a CPAC Meeting to bring project updates.
 - Welcome two new members to the UC CPAC: Tiffany Clark and Tajuana Carmichael from Parents Who Lead. We now have 15 member organizations.

6. Staff Reports:

JSO – Lieutenant Mike Senterfitt gave the following updates:

- The new “Unauthorized Public Camping and Public Sleeping,” Ordinance (HB 1365) comes into effect on October 1, 2024. It should provide more resources for JSO to assist those who are camping outdoors, and also enable JSO to remove those who refuse assistance. [House Bill 1365 \(2024\) - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)
- The City is still working out the details for the local ordinance. The State of Florida gives local authority to enforce the ordinance, as long as notification has been given to outdoor campers and that certain provisions have been met.

Lieutenant Mike Senterfitt – (904) 924-5361 or JSODistrict1@jaxsheriff.org

JTA – Not Present – sent report via E-mail – Cheryl Riddick, Director Customer Experience:

- Reminder about MyRide2School – free rides on JTA buses for middle and high school students that show their school ID.
- Reminder about Gameday Xpress – the most efficient way to travel to Jaguars games from Downtown and Suburban parking lots.
- Brooklyn AV Circulator – Autonomous Technology – travels to 14 lunch spots in Brooklyn from the JRTC, Monday through Friday, from 11 am – 2 pm. The Circulator is in testing mode but should return to service shortly. Watch for notices/signs.

Cheryl Riddick – (904) 632-5522 or criddick@jtafla.com

JPL – Keli Likins, Senior Manager, Main Public Library, shared the following information:

- Saturday, September 14, 2024, at 2 pm in the 4th Floor Map Room, the main library will host a community leaders panel discussion on the Eastside’s Future with Florida Main Street.
- September 20-21, the JAX Book Fest 2024 returns to the Main Public Library:
September 20: A Day for Writers – free writing and publishing workshops.
September 21: A Day for Readers – Lit Chat Interviews and opportunities to meet and support Jacksonville-based authors. There will also be fun giveaways, etc.
- For more information, go to www.jaxpubliclibrary.org

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

Parks, Recreation and Community Services – Garrett Callis, Parks Community Program Manager, reported on programming activities.

- Mr. Callis indicated that the Division is developing programming around the Friendship Fountain, the Artist RIM and trying to get more people out along the Riverwalk.
- Programming is also underway for the Lift Every Voice and Sing Park.
- Mr. Callis will ask about the chain linked fence at McPherson Park.
- Parks and Recreation Activities Information can be found at:
www.jacksonville.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-and-community-programming

Garrett Callis – Gcallis@coj.net

***Blight concerns and complaints MUST be accompanied with Care Ticket through 630-CITY and/or raised at the Blight Subcommittee Meetings. ***

MCCD – Michael Wilson, Code Compliance Supervisor, Zone 1, reported the following:

- Since August, Zone 1 completed 1,208 total inspections (with only 3 officers);
- Cited 649 nuisance cases;
- 69 vacant structure board-ups;
- Cited 24 junk vehicles, 52 dead trees, 51 commercial inspections and 89 litter signs.
- Zone 1 completed a special project at the Norwood Shopping Plaza, which resulted in 23 warning citations and 2 rolling fines on the parking lot.
- The JAR Program – assistance for nuisance liens that property owners are not able to abate on their own. There is an application process and several criteria which needs to be met. Applications are available in the Municipal Code Office, 214 N. Hogan, 7th Floor.
- Mr. Wilson attended the UC CPAC Blight Subcommittee Meeting on August 15, 2024, along with the Chief of Mowing and Landscaping, Mr. McDaniel, to try to address some of the delays people may experience after calling in a nuisance and the time it takes to get resolved.

Michael Wilson – (904) 219-2718 or MPWilson@coj.net

JFRD – Captain Charles Johnson, Fire Prevention and Inspection, shared the following:

- His unit ensures buildings are used for permitted purposes; engages in plan reviews for new and existing businesses, to ensure all building and fire codes are met.
- His unit also permits Food Trucks.

Captain Charles Johnson – (904) 255-8560 or JohnsonC@coj.net

Military and Veterans Affairs – Tiffany Morales – Not present.

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, gave three reminders:

- Ethics Training – there are two remaining dates for 2024: September 19, 2024, by ZOOM and November 21, 2024, in person at City Hall. Please forward a copy of your Certificate of Completion.
- Nominations Subcommittee still needs members. The subcommittee will meet in October to develop the slate of candidates for UC CPAC 2025 Chair and Vice Chair.
- The 2024 Neighborhood Awards Program is Thursday, November 7, 2024, at the Main Public Library in the Auditorium. The Program is open to the public. Award finalists will be notified during the first week of October.

Edwina Henry – (904) 255-8260 or EHenry@coj.net

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Subcommittees and Liaison Reports:

- **Governmental Affairs** – Dimitri Demopoulous, Subcommittee Chair. The subcommittee reviewed one application: 2024-0724, 6th Street W, and recommended to the full CPAC that a “Minor Modification” review be requested of the Planning Department, should the parcel at 216 W. 6th Street eventually be developed into a multi-unit dwelling. The Motion passed unanimously. It was also requested that during the review process, the Planning Department specifically address the issue of appropriate screening between the proposed parking lot and the adjacent house to the west. Motion passed.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – Juanita Senior, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the August 15, 2024, Blight Subcommittee was an important and informative meeting. Present were Michael Wilson, Zone 1 Supervisor – MCCD, and Dave McDaniels, Chief of Mowing and Landscaping Division. Ms. Senior wanted to have a thorough understanding of the process by which a complaint moves from MCCD to another division.
 - After discussion, the Blight Subcommittee recommended sending a letter to Mayor Deegan advocating for budget increases for both MCCD and the Mowing and Landscaping Division for the next budget year.
 - The Blight Subcommittee Chair made the recommendation to the full CPAC. After discussion the motion carried. A letter will be sent to Mayor Deegan advocating for budget increases for MCCD and Mowing and Landscaping.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Cory Haynes, Subcommittee Chair, indicated that the Homelessness Subcommittee is interested in scheduling a tour of the Sulzbacher Center to better understand the services they provide and the in-take process.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Kim Pryor, Representative, stated that the August Meeting focused on budget concerns. Ms. Pryor also stated that if CPAC Members have questions about how city dollars are being spent to please send an email to Ms. Henry, who will forward the concerns to her for follow-up.

10. Public Comments and Announcements (three-minute time limit): None.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7 p.m.