

Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee October 7, 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; Becca Dinger, 2nd Mile ministries; Marcia Ellison, New Town Success Zone; Cory Haynes, JASMYN; Ernest Smith, III, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Marlo Zarka, Blue Zones Project-Jacksonville; Terry Canty, Planet Watch Neighborhood Association; Kelly Frazier, Northside Coalition of Jacksonville; Michael Haskins, SPAR Council.

Excused:

ZOOM:

Elected Officials and Staff: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Duval County Public School Board Member; Michael Wilson, Municipal Code Compliance Division; Captain Charles Johnson, JFRD; Sergeant Jeffrey Straight, JSO; Keli Likins, Jacksonville Public Library; Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office; Al Ferraro, Manager, Blight Initiatives.

Guests: Richard Lewis; Cantrece Jones; Tiphonie Mattis; Jonathan Bishop; Larry Zwain; Joe Porter; J. Stratt.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Shumaker called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The September 10, 2024, Meeting Summary was approved with the following correction: Page 2, Section 5 – Chair’s Report: DIA change Downtown Investment Authority to Downtown Improvement Authority.
- 3. Presenters:** **A) Cantrese Jones**, Acuity Design Group, Community Outreach Coordinator: Recreation Master Plan, and
B) Al Ferraro, City of Jacksonville – Manager, Blight Initiatives

3A) Cantrese Jones gave a PowerPoint presentation which provided an overview of the 10 year plan to update the City of Jacksonville’s 405 city parks and 195 playgrounds.

- Ms. Jones indicated that the assessment of the parks still needs public input. She stated that she is attending all CPAC meetings to provide information for input.
- The goal is to ensure quality equity and resilience for all parks. Riverfront parks are not included in this study.
- Ms. Jones invited everyone to visit www.imagineJaxParks.com to view the information and take the survey to provide input.

Cantrece Jones – (904) 619-8605 or cjones@alladg.com

3B) Al Ferraro gave a brief overview of his role as Manager, Blight Initiatives, and indicated that there are many types of blight, ranging from graffiti to trash and that he coordinates with various city departments and other agencies, such as Public Works, Municipal Code Compliance Division, FDOT, JEA, AT&T, Comcast and others, to address blight issues.

- Mr. Ferraro also addressed different ways that citizens can help curtail blight in their neighborhoods:
 - Participate in KJB – Keep Jacksonville Beautiful
 - Participate in or organize Community Clean-Ups
- UC CPAC Vice Chair and Blight Subcommittee Chair, Juanita Senior, stated that most of the blight concerns she has encountered are overgrown easements, and listed the following:
 - Ms. Senior cited that 8th Street to Boulevard to 16th Street has pristine cutting, but the Shands Hospital area is awful.
 - MLK Parkway to the Hospital; Davis and Union; St. Stephens AME Church to Cookman School – are areas in need of attention from the Mowing and Landscaping Division. She further stated that the appearance of all neighborhoods is important.
- Mr. Ferraro would like to work with the UC CPAC Blight Subcommittee to map out some of those areas. He will be in contact with Ms. Senior and the Blight Subcommittee.
 - With respect to the distribution of trash cans, mowing of easements, etc., all issues to be addressed should be funneled through the Blight Subcommittee.
- Mr. Ferraro is interested in collecting information on what needs to be done and having a discussion on how to leverage resources. He is open to suggestions that he can present to the Mayor’s Office.

Al Ferraro – (904) 255-8746 or AlbertF@coj.net

4. Elected Officials Report: The Honorable Darryl Willie, Duval County Public School Board Member, announced the following:

- In preparation for Hurricane Milton, The Honorable Mr. Willie, stated that the Duval County Public School District will open five shelters. He also stated that 300 people utilized shelters during Hurricane Helene.
- He also provided an update on the Master Facilities Plan and stated that the Duval County Public School Board will vote in November on what action to take, with respect to the consolidation and construction of schools.
- There were two student-pedestrian fatalities recently. The school district will focus on educating students on school safety zone and pedestrian walkways. The school district will also undertake some traffic studies.
- Stanton College Preparatory School is a 2024 National Blue Ribbon School. This recognition highlights the school’s commitment to excel academically and make strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups.
- When asked about plans for vacant school buildings, School board member Willie stated that the school district will identify those buildings which are past their useful life and those will be demolished.

The Honorable Darryl Willie – (904) 390-2000 or willied@duvalschools.org

5. Chair’s Report: Chair Shumaker shared the following information:

- At the September CPAC Chairs Quarterly Meeting, the Chairs' requested feedback on the CIP Projects submitted. A two-page hand out listing the District 1 funded projects is included in the agenda packet.

6. Staff Reports:

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

- In preparation for Hurricane Milton, please consider downloading the JAXReady App in order to obtain current information on evacuation zones, and other storm related information.
- Additionally, Captain Johnson reminded everyone to register their loved ones with special needs through the JAXReady App, along with any pets in the household.

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

JSO – Sergeant Jeffrey Straight provided the following updates:

- JSO is still meeting with the city administration about the newly passed, Unauthorized Camping Ordinance, which went into effect October 1, 2024. At present there are no updates as to how the Ordinance will be enforced. Currently JSO is still giving out warnings.
- Sergeant Straight stated that overall crime in the district is down.
- CPAC Chair Shumaker shared with Sergeant Straight that the CPAC has a Homelessness Subcommittee, so naturally the CPAC would be interested in knowing more about how and when the Ordinance will be enforced.
- Sergeant Straight indicated that press releases and announcements will be forthcoming.

Sergeant Jeffrey Straight – (904) 924-5361 or JSODistrict1@jaxsheriff.org

Jacksonville Public Library – Kelli Likins, Senior Manager, Main Public Library, gave the following updates:

- The public libraries will be closed Wednesday, October 9, Thursday, October 10 and Friday, October 11, 2024, because the library is migrating to a new system and will go live with the new catalog system on Thursday, October 10th, which will most likely be delayed due to the approaching storm.
- Some new features of the new system will include:
 - The ability to add your library card to your digital wallet with the JAX Library App.
 - Searching for and selecting your preferred format is going to be easier, as well as, getting author details, finding books in a series and exploring similar titles.
- Ms. Likins encouraged everyone to go online and test out the new system, next week.
- Several of the library branches will host early voting sites for this election cycle: October 21, 2024, through November 3, 2024. Please check <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org> for information on which locations. Some locations will also be voting sites on election day, November 5, 2024. That information is also available online.
- Please consider picking up a book or two when you come to library to vote.

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

FDOT - Derek Dixon – Not present. Mr. Dixon provided responses via email to previously submitted questions.

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

- For the month of September, Zone 1 officers completed 830 inspections in the Urban Core. Four hundred seventy-eight were nuisance complaints, which are typically overgrown vegetation, trash, debris, used tires on the property, dead trees, etc.
- Twenty-seven vacant structures were boarded up, 27 properties were cited to be boarded up by the property owner.
- Eighteen junk vehicles, meaning inoperable and abandoned vehicles on private property, were cited; 18 dead trees were prepped for the storm season.
- Twenty-five commercial inspections were conducted, 32 litter signs were removed from the side of the street.
- MCCD conducted a special project that focused on the Hogan’s Creek neighborhood. Forty cases were initiated in that neighborhood. Twenty-seven cases were nuisance (trash and debris) and 7 cases were reinspections, to determine compliance. 4 properties were cited for not having an address affixed to the house. Also cited were, 1 junk vehicle and one dead tree.
- It was noted that affixed addresses help first responders, including police, fire and EMS, to find your location in an emergency. Without a visible address, it may take an additional 5 or 10 minutes before the house can be identified and every second counts in response to urgent situations. The address should be posted on the property/structure, at least 4 inches high and in a contrasting color from the main color of the house, so that the address can be easily seen, day or night.
- Additionally, in the Hogan’s Creek neighborhood, MCCD opened other division tickets to get the city to come in and bring some resources to fix problems noted in the right-of-way. MCCD is also trying to get private property owners in compliance with code.
- Due to the recent storm, there is a high prevalence of dead and dying trees being reported to 630-CITY. These calls are referred to the arborists and as long as they are making an attempt to respond with 15 days, MCCD will work with them if an extension is needed.

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

JTA – Cheryl Riddick – Not present.

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator, gave the following updates:

- November 21, 2024, is the last day of this year to take the Ethics Training. The Executive Order requires that board members, and CPACs are considered a board, are to take ethics training within 6 months of appointment or every four years thereafter. The Urban Core CPAC has 8 members who are currently overdue.
- Due to the approaching storm, City of Jacksonville Offices will be closed Wednesday, October 9; Thursday, October 10; and Friday, October 11, 2024. We are hopeful that all goes well and that regular business will resume on Monday, October 14, 2024.

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

7. Old Business – None.

8. New Business – None.

9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

- **Governmental Affairs** – Dimitri Demopoulos, Subcommittee Chair. No applications and no report for this meeting.
- **Blight and Code Enforcement** – Juanita Senior, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the September 19, 2024, Blight Subcommittee Meeting was very fruitful. Ms. Senior wanted to emphasize several things:
 - Please make sure that when putting in a ticket through 630-CITY to get a ticket number and to make sure the case is not closed without being addressed satisfactorily.
 - The timeframe for tickets issued for overgrown vegetation on properties, according to Code Enforcement and Mr. McDaniel, Chief of Mowing and Landscaping, it typically takes 30 days for the work to begin, and it may take an additional two to three weeks before there is progress on your ticket. If that is not the case, please contact Ms. Henry and she will forward it to the Blight Subcommittee, who will then follow-up.
 - Lastly, Ms. Senior would like to ask everyone to please take the opportunity to beautify your property with the tree/shrub giveaways. She added that lots of blight and walking traffic could be averted if you plant a tree.
- **Homelessness Subcommittee** – Ms. Henry for Cory Haynes, Subcommittee Chair.
 - The Subcommittee met on September 16, 2024, and discussed setting up a tour of the Sulzbacher Center.
 - A representative from Changing Homelessness will be the presenter at the November 18, 2024, subcommittee meeting.
- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Subcommittee** – Kim Pryor, Representative. Not present – no report.
- **Nominations Subcommittee** – Terry Cauty, Subcommittee Chair. The Subcommittee met today at 5:00 pm. There were five members present.
 - Nominations for CPAC Chair and CPAC Vice Chair were discussed.
 - The subcommittee submitted one name for Chair and one name for Vice Chair.
 - For Chair, Bryant Shumaker was nominated, and he accepted the nomination.
 - For Vice Chair, Juanita Senior was nominated, and she accepted the nomination.
 - The election will be held at the November 4, 2024, CPAC Meeting. Additional nominations, if any, will be taken from the floor.

10. Public Comments and Announcements (three-minute time limit):

- **Becca Dingler**, announced that 2nd Mile Ministries will hold their annual Fall Family Festival on Saturday, October 26, 2024, from 11 am to 2 pm in Brentwood Park, 3465 Village Center Drive, 32206. Fliers are available on the registration table. All are encouraged to attend.

11. Meeting Adjourned