

Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 12, 2024, Meeting Summary

Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd. 32210

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 1986 6982 Passcode: 636927

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members In-Person: Christina Purdy, Chair; Bill Fonferek, Westland Communities HOA, Vice Chair; Len Burroughs, MHPA; Bernice Gremer, Fishweir Sheriff's Watch; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Dr. Willie Crosby, Sweet Water Church of Christ; Shirle Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace; Jacquelyn Woods, Cedar Hills Estate Community Association.

CPAC Members Via Zoom: Chris Ramseyer, Watermill HOA; Ernest Surmons, Glenda Meadows HOA; Sandy Simpson, Chimney Lakes HOA; Tameka Wolfe-McKenzie, Tamika's School of Epicure.

Visitors: David Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace; Phyllis Mattox, NEFHSC; Rae Walker, Sheriff's Watch; John Chapman; Lewen Brunson, Blue Zones Project Jacksonville; Devan Green; Bill Tardiff; Harlo Watkins; Zoltan Ness; Jason Roberts; Sheriff's Watch Zone; Susan Baker, St John Point; Debbie O'Neal, MHRC; Hank Rogers, School Board Candidate.

Visitors via Zoom: Sandy Simmons; Jermaine Noble, Cecelia Evans, Thomas Martin, Watermill HOA; Linda and David Barrow, Cynthia.

Staff and Elected Officials: Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Andrew Powers, Executive Assistant to Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Jessica Denson, Executive Assistant to Council Member Tyrone Clark-Murray, District 8; Thomas Waters, Acting Director of Neighborhoods; Asst. Chief, Eric Redgate, JSO; Tracy Pierce, DCPS; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Brian Naples, MCC Supervisor; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Tiffany Morales, MVA; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Purdy called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The January 8, 2024, summary was approved by the CPAC.
- 3. Elected Officials' Reports:**
 - Jessica Denson, Executive Assistant to Council Member Tyrone Clark-Murray District 9, announced that Council Member Tyrone Clark-Murray will host several community events for seniors 60 years and over. This year's event will be a spring fling. The Spring Fling will be held in the Lane Wiley Senior Center on March 22, 2024. Those who are interested in attending must register. Ms. Denson will provide more details about the event to Mrs. Godwin-Ware soon. Ms. Denson introduced Debbie O'Neal, Vice President of Community Support Services at the Mental Health Resource Center (MHRC).
 - **Debbie O'Neal** announced that MHRC is holding outreach clinics and bringing mental health resources to the community. Currently, outreach clinics operate once a week on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Mary Lena Gibbs Community Center. During March, services will be provided on Wednesdays. Individuals are screened for behavioral health services, substance abuse, and mental health services. MHRC links individuals to services that they may need. The screening is free, and all services are based on income. Those who meet the maximum gross income limit may qualify to receive free medication and services.
 - **Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14**, introduced his new Executive Assistant, Andrew Powers. Council Member Johnson provided an update regarding the widening of Old Middleburg Road and advised that they are waiting on two parcels of land to go through eminent domain proceedings. He has spoken with Public Works and School Board member Charlotte Joyce about the possibility of adding a turning lane along Old Middleburg Road for entering Enterprise Learning Academy in the hopes of easing traffic during drop-off and pickup. He has asked the Traffic Engineering Division for a traffic study of the area and will provide the CPAC with the results when he receives them. He has spoken with the Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, Daryl Joseph, about a senior center for the Argyle,

Collins, Old Middleburg area, as well as State Representative Wyman Duggan and Senator Tracy Davis, who have agreed to put the appropriation for the project in the State budget. Council Member Johnson had the former Lucky Food Mart in mind, but the property is still under lease. He is working to identify another building.

Council Member Rahmon Johnson may be reached at (904) 255- 5214 or Rahman@coj.net.

4. Neighborhoods Department: Thomas Waters, Acting Director of Neighborhoods, introduced himself to the Southwest CPAC as the new Acting Director of the Neighborhoods Department. He provided a brief history of his experiences within and outside of the City of Jacksonville. Mr. Waters told the CPAC about some programs he would like to bring back, such as the neighborhood conferences. He said he would like to improve the neighborhood directory to better disseminate information to various communities and pull in information. ITD is updating the platform so the neighborhood webpage will be more interactive. Mr. Waters hopes to generate more contacts in the community, bring individuals in for workshops through charrettes, and to do some community building. The Neighborhoods Department would provide the training and the resources necessary to address these issues. He is also bringing in one or two interns to the Neighborhood Services Office to assist with updating the Neighborhood Directory. Thomas Waters may be reached at (904) 255-5400.

5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Assistant Chief Eric Redgate provided crime statistics for January 2023.

- Over the last 30 days, crime has decreased in many crime categories, with homicides decreasing by 14%. However, there was a slight increase in kidnappings or abductions.
- JSO conducted a Sheriff's Walk in the Jacksonville Heights neighborhood. Community members, JSO and pastors walked the community for an hour. Three of the main concerns expressed by the residents during the walk were trash on the side of the road, speeding and running stop signs, and drug abusers walking the streets late at night. JSO submitted a 630-City ticket regarding the trash, which was picked up. A traffic operation was conducted, and traffic district officers wrote 70 citations, primarily for speeding and a few for running the stop sign. The midnight officers did deployments in the neighborhood to stop the wandering of the drug abusers.
- Another Sheriff's Walk will be conducted in the area because the first one went well. Sheriff Waters will visit District 4 in Timothy's Landing at 10 a.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024.
- Valencia Way Apartments, aka Eureka Gardens Apartments, located at 1214 Labelle St., was declared a public nuisance and went before the Public Nuisance Abatement Board last month. Officers from JSO's Blight Squad are conducting crime prevention through an environmental design study, and Municipal Code Compliance is conducting safety inspections. A building inspector has been conducting inspections all week. The property owners must improve their security and are required to obtain a security camera system quote. They must also provide JSO with rent rolls listing the vacant apartments so officers can ensure they are not used for criminal activity. The property owners will be under the Board's jurisdiction for a year.
- Officers now have Narcan in their vehicles in the event of an overdose case and to assist while waiting for JFRD to arrive on the scene.
- Tractor-trailers parking in residential areas or along intersections is a district-wide problem. JSO is working on training officers on how to find the needed information to cite these vehicles properly.
- Sheriff's Watch meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd.

Assistant Chief Eric Redgate may be reached at (904) 573-3165

6. Chair's Report: Christina Purdy reported that CPAC Chairs were invited to an open house hosted by JTA, were given a tour of the facility, and had the opportunity to speak with the Chief Executive Officer, Nathaniel Ford, Sr. Each CPAC Chair had the chance to provide Mr. Ford with concerns or ideas that will help JTA offer better service. Chair Purdy also announced that the CPAC Chairs had their first quarterly meeting with the Mayor's staff. Time was spent with everyone introducing themselves and meeting the new Acting Neighborhoods Department Director, Thomas Waters.

7. Staff Reports:

- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS)** – Tracy Pierce reported:
 - In 2023, Duval County Public Schools had a non-pandemic record graduation rate of 87.2%, increasing 30 % since 2010. All subgroup's graduating rates increased. This includes African American, Hispanic, English language learners and students with disabilities.
 - Superintendent Dana Kriznar wants everyone to know that the DCPS Administrative Building is not sitting on a gold mine. The highest bid received was 10 million dollars, which is insufficient to purchase

a building with adequate space and pay for operation costs and maintenance. If the DCPS chooses to lease a building, a 20-year lease would cost 68 million, and at the end of the lease, there would be no equity and the possibility of having to relocate.

- School bus transportation has been a challenge for the last two years. DCPS has a shortage of drivers and needs roughly 100 bus drivers. Please share with your neighborhood organizations and community groups that DCPS is hiring. Those who are interested in applying or would like more information about the job can visit the website to learn more: <https://dcps.duvalschools.org/Page/26581>
- **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Derek Dixon responded to a concern about Chair Purdy's windshield getting cracked on I-10 by a rock that hit the windshield. Maintenance officials have instructed crews to enhance sweeping along the I-10 corridor. Crews will perform additional street sweeping at least once daily to address motorists' concerns. If a driver experiences damage to their windshield, they may file a claim through the FDOT website at www.FDOT.Gov./legal and fill out the claims form. There is no guarantee that the claim will be paid, but another option is to contact your insurance company, where you may be able to get the windshield replaced at no cost.
 - Resurfacing between the Nassau County line and the First Coast Expressway will begin in Spring 2024. Construction is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2025.
 - Resurfacing from I-10 between Chaffey Road and I-295 will begin in the Summer of 2024. Construction is expected to be completed in early 2026.
- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant Library Services I, reported:
 - Mayor Donna Deegan's River City Readers program was successful on Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Main Library. Over 1,300 people attended the event. JPL issued 50 new library cards.
 - The Friends of the Murray Hill Library will present the screening of "Just Another Bombing" by Hal Jacobs. After viewing the film, a group discussion will be led by Donal Godfrey, Hal Jacobs and Iona Godfrey King. Registration is required. This event is for adults. A library card and PIN are required for registration. To register, please visit the JPL website at www.jpl.com.
 - The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) free tax preparation is taking place at the Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library on Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 12, 2024. Tax assistance will be provided at Lakeshore Baptist Church from March 8 through March 15 during early and regular voting. You must register online or by phone at (904) 701-3462. For more information, please visit the Jacksonville Public Library website at www.jpl.com.
 - Early voting begins on Friday, March 8, 2024, and will run through Saturday, March 16, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at various branches throughout the county.Lynne Baldwin may be contacted at (904) 338-4383 or LBaldwin@coj.net.
- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** – Brian Naples, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported that 472 inspections were completed in February.
 - A total of 64 inspections along 103rd Street, beginning at Wesconnett Boulevard to Ken Road, were completed. MCCD has addressed multiple complaints about the loitering and trash along Noroad. A total of eight cases were created.
 - A total of 15 cases, primarily nuisance issues, were created along MacBeth Road.
 - A dead tree at Herlong Road at Old Middleburg Road was reported. The owners of the property where the tree is located have been cited.
 - Currently, there are a total of 18 MCC Officers working on the Valencia Apartment project. They will be there for the remainder of the week or until as many apartments as possible can be visited, as well as the common areas. As of now, a total of 36 cases have been created.
 - A systematic inspection is scheduled for March in the Hyde Park neighborhood.
 - The main number for the Municipal Code Compliance Office is (904) 255-7000.Brian Naples may be contacted at (904)255-7083 or BNaples@coj.net.

8. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **LUZ Subcommittee & Planning and Development** – Chair Purdy reported that the subcommittee reviewed two applications. The Southwest CPAC's LUZ subcommittee had no opposition to any of the applications. CPAC members passed the following applications.
 - **Ordinance V-24-01 – Zoning Variance – 581 Halsema Rd., RE# 001517 0610:** The applicant seeks to increase the size of an accessory structure beyond 50% of the primary structure.

- **Ordinance 2024-0066 – Sign Waiver – 3719 Blanding Blvd., RE# 102972 0020:** The application seeks to reduce the setback to improve an existing identification sign from 10 feet to 0 feet. Andy Hetzel may be contacted at (904) 255-7821 or AHetzel@coj.net.
- **Capital Improvement Project Recommendations** – The Chair reviewed the submitted 2024 CIP recommendations submitted by the community with the full CPAC. After some discussion, CPAC members voted to submit the following recommendations in the order listed.
 - The total rehabilitation of Fiddler Green Golf Course at Cecil Field. The facility is in poor condition.
 - Installation of sidewalks on Lambing Road from Noroad to Wagenhals Lane.
 - A JSO substation for the Argyle Oakleaf area. The use of land located at 7965 Old Middleburg Rd. S. was suggested for use or joining Fire Station 61.

9. Unfinished Business - None

- **New Business** – None

10. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report: Michelle Godwin-Ware reminded everyone that applications are still being accepted for NSO's neighborhood leadership training program, CommUniverCity. The training will take place on April 2, 4, 11, 16, 18, 23, and on Saturday, April 27, a bus tour and graduation ceremony will occur. Applications were available, and electronic copies will be emailed out again. Michelle Godwin-Ware may be reached at 904-255-8236 or Michelllegw@coj.net

11. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:

Military Affairs and Veterans Department (MAVD) – Tiffany Morales, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, announced that:

- The Players Championship 2024 Military Job Fair will occur on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL.
- CareerSource will now be in the Military Affairs and Veterans Department Office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Three Rivers Legal Services, Inc. has partnered with the City of Jacksonville's Military Affairs and Veterans Department to host a series of Ask-A-Lawyer events for veterans. The first event will occur on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, in City Hall, 117 W. Duval St., Suite 175. To schedule an appointment or for more information, please call the MAVD at (904) 255-5550.
- The Veterans Stand Down event was successful. There were 100 vendors, and more than 500 Veterans were served.

Tiffany Morales may be contacted at (904) 255-5524 or tmorales@coj.net.

12. Adjourn: Chair Purdy adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: March 11, 2024, 6:30 p.m. In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Next Land Use and Zoning (LUZ) Subcommittee Meeting: March 11, 2024, 5:30 p.m. In person at Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd., and via Zoom, Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048. A formal email notice will be emailed to members.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8236 or michelllegw@coj.net.

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

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1-2 business days for notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact Disabled Services Division at VM-(904)255-5466, TTY-(904)255-5475, or email your request to ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net.