

# Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

## November 13, 2023, Meeting Summary

Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd. 32210

Zoom Meeting ID: 821 7431 0303 Passcode: 693048

### Meeting Attendance

**CPAC Members In-Person:** Dr. Willie Crosby, Chair; Christina Purdy, Vice Chair; Len Burroughs, MHPA; Bernice Gremer, Fishweir Sheriff's Watch; Shirley Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Bill Fonferek, Westland Communities HOA; Sandy Simpson, Chimney Lakes HOA

#### CPAC Members Via Zoom:

**Visitors:** David Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace; Phyllis Mattox, NEFHSC; Charles Garrison, Planning Commission; Linda Fonferek, Westland Communities HOS; Jermaine Noble; Jason Roberts; Jessica Wilkerson, Oakleaf Quality Homecare; Lewan Brunson, Blue Zone Project.

**Visitors via Zoom:** Thomas Martin, Watermill HOA; Ernest Surmons; Angelica Wallace; Linda Holmes, Potters House; Jermaine Jones, Potters House.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray, District 9; Jessica Denson, Executive Council Assistant, Council Member Tyrona Clark Murray, District 9; Willie Coleman, Executive Council Assistant, Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Al Ferraro, Interim Director Neighborhood Department; Tracy Pierce, Chief of Marketing and Public Relations, DCPS; Assist. Chief Eric Redgate, JSO; Capt. Allen Mason, JFRD; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Michael Hoffman, Planning and Development; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office.

### Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The summary for the October meeting will be approved at January's meeting.
- 3. Elected Officials' Reports:**
  - Willie Coleman, Executive Assistant to Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14, introduced himself to CPAC members. Mr. Coleman had no report. Willie Coleman may be reached at (904) 255-5160 or [WillieC@coj.net](mailto:WillieC@coj.net).
  - Charles Garrison, Planning Commission Chair, introduced himself to the CPAC.
  - Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray, District 9, reported:
    - She and Executive Assistant Jessica Denson are working on the items brought before them during the Mayor's Community Conversation on Thursday, October 26, 2023. Council Member Clark-Murray asked those who submitted a question or concern during the community meeting to please provide their contact information to Ms. Denson to ensure proper follow-up. CPAC members who were absent may also leave their concerns and contact information with Ms. Denson.
    - Her number one priority is to prevent violence in the city through legislation or working with nonprofits and faith-based organizations.
    - Continued communication with the Valencia Way Apartments management company is taking place to devise solutions to discourage violence in that apartment complex along Cassat Avenue.
    - District 9 has many ditches, both natural and man-made. Council Member Clark-Murray has legislated \$440,000 to conduct an outfall impact study to help property owners whose homes are impacted by drainage issues.
    - City Council members voted 16 - 1 to purchase the Brentwood Liquor store for \$1.8 million. The proximity of the liquor store to KIPP School was a concern for the Brentwood community before the store was constructed. The proposed new use for the building is a community center.

Council Member Tyrona Clark-Murray may be reached at (904) 255-5209 or [TClarkMurray@coj.net](mailto:TClarkMurray@coj.net).

Executive Council Assistant Jessica Denson may be reached at (904) 255-5161 or [JCDenson@coj.net](mailto:JCDenson@coj.net).

**4. Presentation:** None

**5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) –** Assist. Chief Eric Redgate reported:

- Crime against property increased by 5 percent. There was also a 5 percent increase in robbery and a seven percent increase in aggravated assault. Arson is up 75 percent. Violent crime against a person is down 5 percent. There is a 26 percent reduction in murder and manslaughter. Kidnapping was reduced by 10 percent, and there was a 7 percent reduction in enforceable sex offenses.
- The maintenance of ditches and landscaping is primarily the City of Jacksonville's responsibility. However, JSO's Corrections Department will try to assist if asked.
- The homeless encampment at Firestone Road and Wheat Road is on the list for JSO's Blight unit to address.
- JSO officers have been assigned to patrol Lane Wiley Park to ensure people experiencing homelessness are no longer setting up homeless encampments.
- District 4 had an increase in restaurant burglaries along the Lane Avenue, Roosevelt Boulevard, and San Juan Avenue corridor. The suspect has been arrested and could be charged with 23 separate counts of burglary.

Assist. Chief Redgate may be reached at (904) 573-3165

**6. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue (JFRD) –** Chief Allen Mason reported:

- Please fry your turkeys outside and make sure they are completely thawed out.
- Place no more than five strings of lights on a power strip. Do not use extension cords; however, unplug them at night if you must use them.
- It is essential to have good ventilation when using heating devices. Some heaters can cause a buildup of carbon monoxide. JFRD will provide those who qualify with free carbon monoxide and smoke detectors or replace batteries in an existing device. For more information, call (904) 630-CITY (2489) or register by visiting the MyJax website [MyJax Customer Help](#).
- Smoke detectors should be tested monthly and are only good for ten years. Newer smoke detectors now come with a 10-year battery.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything flammable.
- Place the heater on a level floor and never leave it unattended.

Chief Allen Mason may be reached at (904) 255-3281.

**7. Chair's Report:** Chair Crosby attended the Mayor's Community Conversation at Lane Wiley Senior Center on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at 6 p.m. Mayor Deegan did an excellent job answering questions. Chair Crosby stated he appreciates her willingness to be accessible to the community. The CPAC chairs met with the mayor's staff on Friday, November 3, 2023, where many of your concerns were brought to their attention. Please continue to invite those you meet to CPAC meetings. Continue to talk about what takes place during a CPAC meeting to spark interest and let citizens know there is a place to speak with various city staff.

**8. Staff Reports:**

- **Neighborhoods Department** – Al Ferraro, Interim Neighborhood Director, encouraged CPAC members to submit their issues by calling 630-CITY (2489) or using the MyJax app <https://myjax.custhelp.com/>. Mr. Ferraro reported that:

- Animal Care and Protective Services (ACPS) is overcrowded and desperately needs volunteers, fosters, and those willing to adopt a pet. Several positions are also available at the center. November adoption prices and discounts are available. Dogs over six months old are free; dogs six months and younger are \$40. All cats over one year old are free; kittens under one are \$40.
- The Neighborhoods Matching Grant application cycle is open. The application cycle closes on December 11, 2023. If interested in applying, please get in touch with Robert Ownby at (904) 255-8283 or [ROwnby@coj.net](mailto:ROwnby@coj.net).

Al Ferraro may be reached at (904)255-8200 or [Ferraro@coj.net](mailto:Ferraro@coj.net).

- **Duval County Public Schools (DCPS)** – Tracy Pierce, Chief Marketing and Public Relations, reported that:
  - DCPS is in the process of building nine schools. All of them are rebuilds of existing schools except for Chaffee Trail Middle School, which will be new. Rebuilds include Rutledge Pearson Elementary, Highlands Elementary, Southside Estates Elementary, Jean Ribault High School, Englewood Elementary, Pickett Elementary, Sheffield, and Spring Park Elementary.

- Major renovations are also happening, addressing safety, security, and deferred maintenance.
- Major renovations currently underway are at Westside Middle School, Fletcher High School, Loretto Elementary, Mandarin High School, North Shore Elementary, and R.L. Brown Elementary
- Salary enhancements are going to teachers this year. Salaries will increase from \$5,400 to \$7,000 depending on the teacher's circumstances.
- The police force in the schools has expanded this year. Canines have been added to sniff out firearms and narcotics to help prevent these types of things from coming on campus.
- The Duval County School Board voted to extend Dr. Kriznar, the current superintendent's contract for an additional six months through the end of this school year.

Tracy Pierce may be reached at [PierceT@duvalschools.org](mailto:PierceT@duvalschools.org).

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant Library Services I, reported:
  - The Bill Brinton Murray Hill Branch Library will be closed for renovations starting Monday, November 27, 2023, through Monday, December 11, 2023.
  - The exterior of the Charles Webb Wesconnett Regional Library has been painted.
  - All Library branches will be closed in observance of Veterans Day on Friday, November 10, and Saturday, November 11, 2023. They will also be closed for Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23, and Friday, November 24, 2023.

Lynne Baldwin may be contacted at (904) 338-4383 or [LBaldwin@coj.net](mailto:LBaldwin@coj.net).
- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** – Michael Hoffman, Code Compliance Officer Supervisor, reported:
  - A total of 949 inspections were completed in Zone 4 during the month of October. MCC is conducting an ongoing project in the Oak Hill neighborhood. A new project will begin in the Jacksonville Heights neighborhood on Tuesday, November 14, 2023. A project was completed on Firestone Road, from Morse Avenue to Wilson Boulevard. A total of 24 citations were written.

Michael Hoffman may be contacted at (904) 255-5581 or [LHoffman@coj.net](mailto:LHoffman@coj.net).

## 9. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:

- **LUZ Subcommittee & Planning and Development** – Chair Crosby reported that the subcommittee reviewed three applications, and the subcommittee recommended approving all three.
  - **E-23-61 – Zoning Exception – 8635 Blanding Blvd. Ste. 10, RE# 099094-01500-** Approve: The applicant seeks a zoning exception for a 4COP SFS License with a restaurant. This allows the applicant to sell and serve all alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption, including liquor, beer, or wine. CPAC members unanimously passed the motion for the recommendation.
  - **2023-0747 – Rezoning to a PUD – 7715 Old Middleburg Rd. S.** Approve: The application seeks to combine parcels for the proposed use of parking and a stormwater pond to complement the 9,000 SF commercial building that will be part of an existing PUD and parcel 016361-0058. CPAC members unanimously passed the motion for the recommendation.
  - **2023-0784 – Rezoning to a PUD – 0 Yellow Water Road:** Approve; The PUD is filed to facilitate flexible warehouse, recreational vehicle (RV), boat storage, and other uses permitted within the CGC land use category. CPAC members unanimously passed the motion for the recommendation.

Andy Hetzel may be contacted at (904) 255-7821 or [AHetzel@coj.net](mailto:AHetzel@coj.net).

- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Bruce Tyson reported that the Taxation, Revenue, Utilization, and Expenditure (T.R.U.E) Commission met on Thursday, November 9, 2023, in City Hall. The Chief of Procurement provided a report. The procurement code is being written and will go through the necessary cycles with City Council members and committees. The new code will tighten up the recruitment process and the processes COJ goes through to get business done for buildings, materials, etc. The number of T.R.U.E Commission members has doubled in the last three months, allowing the commission to accomplish more.
  - **Parks Safety Council (PSC)** – No Report
- ## 10. Chair and Vice Chair Elections
- Len Burroughs lead the elections for the 2024 Southwest CPAC Chair and Vice Chair. Mr. Burroughs presented the slate of officers, Christina Purdy as Chair and Bill Fonferek as Vice Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. CPAC members unanimously elected Christina Purdy as the 2024 Chair and Bill Fonferek as the 2024 Vice Chair.

**11. Unfinished Business** - None

**12. New Business** – None

**13. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report:** Michelle Godwin-Ware thanked those who attended the Neighborhood Award and 30th CPAC Anniversary program on Thursday, October 19, 2023. Photos of the Neighborhood Award winners and CPAC chairs can be found on the Neighborhood Services Office website: <https://www.jacksonville.gov/neighborhoodawards>. Additional images will be added soon. Michelle Godwin-Ware may be reached at 904-255-8236 or [Michelledgw@coj.net](mailto:Michelledgw@coj.net).

**14. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:**

- Bill Fonferek of Watermill announced he had placed a copy of the map of the recently acquired parcels of land on Oakleaf Plantation Parkway. A portion of the land will be set aside as a recreation area. Another portion of the parcel is to be given to the School Board. Unfortunately, the plans for the remaining properties are uncertain because they are considered wetlands.

**15. Adjourn:** Chair Crosby adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

**Next CPAC Meeting: January 8, 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: January 8, 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 [michelledgw@coj.net](mailto:michelledgw@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](mailto:ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net).