

# Southwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

October 9, 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; Bernice Gremer, Bill Fonferek, Westland Communities HOA; Bruce Tyson, Trinity Ministries; Jacquelyn Woods, Cedar Hills Estates Community Association; Len Burroughs, MHPA; Shirley Lowry, Hyde Grove Terrace, Tamika Wolfe-McKenzie, Tamika's School of Epicure.

**CPAC Members Via Zoom:** Chris Ramseyer, Watermill HOA.

**Visitors:** Rae Walker, Sheriff's Watch Zone 4; John Chapman, Freedom at Arbor Mill; Harlow Watkins, Jason Roberts, David Lowry, Alberta Hipps, Bill Tardiff, Rae Walker, Jessica Wilkerson, Carson Wackrow, Hank Rogers.

**Visitors via Zoom:** Earnest Surmons, Angela Wallace, Thomas Martin.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Council Member Rahman Johnson, District 14; Asst. Chief Eric Redgate, JSO; Chief Allen Mason, JFRD; Lynne Baldwin, JPL; Andy Hetzel, Planning and Development; Michael Wilson, MCCD; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Matt Bocchino, Cecil Field; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Tiffany Morales, MVA; Jackie Gregson, Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

## Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Crosby called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The August and September summaries were approved by the CPAC.
- 3. Presentation:** Matt Bocchino, Director of Cecil Airport & Spaceport, presented on Cecil Airport. Mr. Bocchino briefly shared the history of the airport and its transition from the Navy to Cecil Field. He discussed the various types of tenants occupying the facility and the services or products they provide. He also explained the Cecil Airports Master Plan. Cecil Spaceport is one of 13 commercial spaceports in the US and one of nine horizontal launch sites.

Matt Bocchino may be reached at [Matt.Boocchino@cecilairport.com](mailto:Matt.Boocchino@cecilairport.com).

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

- October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. JSO can direct anyone who is experiencing or knows someone who is experiencing domestic violence to many services. October is also Hispanic Heritage Month; October 9, 2023, is Indigenous People Day.
- An investigation involving two shootings, one along Hugh Edward Street and the other along Herlong Road. It is unclear if they are related.
- Over the last 30 days, violent crime remains down 9%. That includes a 40% reduction in murder, a 20% in kidnapping, 11% in simple assault, and a 7% reduction in forcible sex offenses.
- Aggravated assault is up 6%, crimes against property 1.4%. The increase in crimes against property is driven by motor vehicle theft. Theft has increased by 4%
- CPAC visitor Harlow Watkins asked if inmate cleanup crews could be used to help clear out the retention ponds. Asst. Chief Redgate said Municipal Code Compliance could advise if the pond is on City of Jacksonville property.

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

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

- The weather is cooling down. Citizens using space heaters should remember to:
  - Keep space heaters at least three feet from anything flammable.
  - Place the heater on a level floor and never leave the heater unattended.
  - Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet and unplug them when unused.
  - Inspect heaters regularly for damaged cords before use.
  - Keep kids and pets away from space heaters.

- Kerosene heaters and chimneys should be inspected. Chimneys should be swept out. Many resources are available online.
- 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 ten-year battery.

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

6. **Chair's Report:** Chair Crosby reported that the next quarterly CPAC Chairs meeting with the Mayor's staff is scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2023. Citizens may give him their concerns to bring to the mayor's staff. Mayor Deegan will hold a "Community Conversations" meeting for Council District 9 on Thursday, October 26, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lane Wiley Senior Center, 6710 Wiley Rd.

7. **Staff Reports:**

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Lynne Baldwin, Executive Assistant Library Services I, reported:
  - The Willow Branch library is hosting a Lit Chat interview with Author Cat Sebastian on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. The friends of the Willow Branch Library are sponsoring the program.
  - The Bill Brinton Murray Hill Branch Library is hosting a drop-in Halloween party on Tuesday, October 31, 2023, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. There will be trick-or-treating, face painting, games, and more for kids of all ages.
  - A Veteran Service Officer from Military Affairs and Veterans will be at the Web Westconnett Library on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to meet and assist veterans with different veteran services. This ongoing service will be provided on the second Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
  - The Main Library is hosting the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibit from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The exhibit will run through October 13, 2023.
  - The library issued 3,155 new library cards during the National Library Card Sign-up Month. This is a 16% increase over last year. Residents of Duval County may still sign up for a library card in person at any Duval County Public Library or online by visiting the Jacksonville Public Library website: <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org/services/get-library-card>.

Lynne Baldwin may be contacted at (904) 338-4383 or [LBaldwin@coj.net](mailto:LBaldwin@coj.net).

- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)** – Cheryl Riddick, Community Engagement Manager, reported that:
  - The Game Day Express is available for round-trip transportation to the Jaguars home games and other select events at the Ever Bank Stadium. Visit [www.JTAFLA.com](http://www.JTAFLA.com) for the details.
  - Citizens may locate information and videos about phases of JTA's Ultimate Urban Circulator (U2C). Visit the JTA website <https://u2c.jtafla.com/> for more details.  
Cheryl Riddick may be reached at (904) 632-5522 or [CRiddick@jtafla.com](mailto:CRiddick@jtafla.com)
- **Military Veterans Affairs (MVA)** – Tiffany Morales, Veterans Outreach Coordinator, reported:
  - The Celebration of Valor began Sunday, October 9, 2023, with the 10k Challenge and Freedom 5K Run at 288 E. Bay St.
  - Wednesday, October 25, 2023, The City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department (MAVD) and the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation press conference will be held in the City Hall Atrium, 117 W. Duval St., at 10 a.m. The mayor will give the opening remarks. The event is open to the public.
  - During the Celebration of Valor, many events are scheduled between October and December. For a list of events, please visit the MAVD website: <https://www.coj.net/departments/military-and-veterans-affairs/events/all-events>.
  - The Veterans Stand Down occurs Friday, January 27, 2024, and Saturday, January 28, 2024, at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds, 510 Fairgrounds Place. Services provided on Friday include employment, medical, shelter, and housing from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Services provided on Saturday include dental, food, clothing, and veteran services from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on January 28, 2023.

Tiffany Morales may be reached at (904) 255-5524 or [tmorales@coj.net](mailto:tmorales@coj.net).

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** – Michael Wilson, Senior Code Compliance Officer, reported that:
    - A total of 1,194 inspections were completed in Zone 4 during the month of September. A total of 486 nuisance yard violations, 54 commercial properties, 82 unsafe or condemned buildings, 16 nuisance pools, and 80 junk vehicles were cited.
    - A special project was conducted at the Colonial Forest Apartments, 5928 Firestone Rd. A total of 40 cases were opened. Several units that were burned out have been condemned, along with several staircases, balconies, and porches that were found to be unsafe.
    - Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) applications are available. The program assists qualifying citizens with required abatement services at no cost. The program only prevents liens from being placed on the property after the abatement occurs. For additional information, visit the Municipal Code Compliance Division website: <https://www.coj.net/Jacksonville> Assistance and Relief Program or call (904)630-CITY (2489)
    - Citizens may contact MCC if an issue has been closed and they feel it was a mistake. The primary point of contact is the officer assigned to the case. Residents may also email Code Enforcement at [CodeEnforcement@coj.net](mailto:CodeEnforcement@coj.net).
    - You must provide a name and address when reporting an issue using the MyJax app or (904) 630-CITY (2489). Additional information that is helpful to MCC officers is a contact number, email, a description of the violation, and where and when it is observable.
  - Concerns/Questions/Comments:
    - Rae Walker of Southwest Sheriffs Watch inquired about how long a citizen who receives a nuisance citation has before they are cited. Mr. Wilson said it depends on the violation. Nuisance violations have 15 days to comply, and Internal and external issues with structures are given 30 days to comply if the problem is not life-threatening. If the property manager or owner is making progress, MCC Officers can reevaluate the property at the end of the 30 days and decide whether to give more time if they are progressing.
    - Earnest Surmons of Glenda Meadows HOA thanked the MCC Division for addressing the nuisance mobile home on Fire Tower Road and Ken Road. The property has been cleared, and the grass and weeds need to be mowed.

Michael Wilson may be contacted at (904)255-2718 or [MPWilson@coj.net](mailto:MPWilson@coj.net).
  - **Parks, Recreation, and Community Services** – Jackie Gregson, Parks District Manager, reported:
    - The motor for the Cecil Aquatic Centers Pool was repaired last week.
    - The Equestrian Center had a fantastic turnout for its Recreation Vehicle (RV) show on Saturday, October 7, 2023.
    - The Cecil Aquatic Center offers swim programs for all ages. Those interested may contact Ms. Gregson at (904) 255-7936 for more information.
    - LSI and Boeing employees can now use the Cecil Gym and Fitness Center to work out.

Jackie Gregson may be reached at (904) 255-7936 or [JGregson@coj.net](mailto:JGregson@coj.net).
  - Concerns/Questions/Comments:
    - Bill Fonferek of Westland Communities HOA asked for a better copy of the plans for COJ parks that are part of the Direct Regional Impact (DRI) that is available. The document he received was hard to read. The park will be developed near Cecil Field. Ms. Gregson said she would find out if a better copy of the plan is available. Mr. Fonferek also expressed a need for a Senior Center in the Oakleaf/Argyle community.
    - Thomas Martin of Watermill Master HOA asked if there were any updates regarding the park for the Plantation Parkway. Ms. Gregson took Mr. Martin's information.
    - Earnest Surmons thanked the Parks Recreation and Community Services for starting the installation of the new playground equipment in Lynn Park along Landing Road.
- 8. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports:**
- **LUZ Subcommittee & Planning and Development** – Chair Crosby reported that the LUZ subcommittee reviewed eight applications. Two of the applications were deferred. Recommendations were made to oppose two of the applications:
    - **2023-0416 – PUD Rezoning: 911 Halsema Rd. S.: (Deferred)** This applicant seeks rezoning from RR-Acre, RLD-100A, and RLD-90 to PUD to permit the existing single-family dwelling to remain and allow 147 recreational vehicle spaces on the property. The applicant has deferred this application. The

Southwest CPAC opposes the application based on the history of this type of development, encouraging semi-transient residents. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.

- **2023-0651 – PUD Rezoning: 4837 Collins Road:** The applicant seeks to rezone from IBP, CO, IL, PBF-1, RMD-A and RMD-B to PUD. The PUD is being sought to allow for a mixed-use development with a max of 20 units per acre and 1.7 acres of commercial uses along Collins Road. The Southwest CPAC is opposed to the application because it is very close to the railroad tracks, and there is no alternate access point, which will cause additional congestion along Collins Road, inhibiting the egress and ingress for businesses, Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and Highway 17. The CPAC would like the developer to revisit the design and closely examine an alternate egress and ingress for the development. The CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.

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 TRUE Committee met at 4 p.m. on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at City Hall in the Don Davis room. There are two new members, bringing the total number of commission members to eight. Due to ongoing budget discussion and preparation, no audits were brought forward for review. Nina Sickler, the new Director of Public Works, was the guest speaker for the T.R.U.E. Commission. The discussion was primarily around the oversight of construction projects and the required qualifications for the engineers. Mr. Tyson will provide the T.R.U.E. Commission meeting minutes to Mrs. Godwin-Ware, which will be shared with CPAC members.

9. **Chair and Vice Chair Nomination Subcommittee** – Len Burroughs presented the slate of nominees for the 2024 Southwest CPAC Chair and Vice Chair positions. The nominating subcommittee recommends the nomination of Christina Purdy of Cecil Pines Adult Living Community as Chair and Bill Fonferek of Westland Communities Homeowner Association as Vice Chair. Voting and nominations from the floor will take place at November's meeting.

10. **Unfinished Business** - None

11. **New Business** – None

12. **Neighborhood Coordinator's Report:** None

Michelle Godwin-Ware may be reached at 904-255-8236 or [Michellelegw@coj.net](mailto:Michellelegw@coj.net).

13. **Elected Officials Report:** Council Member Rahman Johnson, Council District 14, reported:

- He is part of the City Council's Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee and is very interested in hearing the Southwest CPACs recommendations.
- Council Member Johnson agreed that a new Senior Center is needed in District 14, which he is working on.
- The mayor has hired a new Chief of Information Technology who will work with the public relations team to create or revamp the City of Jacksonville website.

14. **Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:** Bill Fonferek of Westland Communities HOA advised the CPAC that a revised Homeowners Bill of Rights can be viewed on the Florida Senate website <https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/bills/summaries/2023/html/3113>.

15. **Adjourn:** Chair Crosby adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

**Next CPAC Meeting: November 13, 2023, 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: November 13, 2023, 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.

**The summary was prepared by** Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, 255-8236 or [michellelegw@coj.net](mailto:michellelegw@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).