

## **Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

### **April 10, 2025**

Hybrid Meeting: Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Drive, 32208 and via ZOOM Webinar

#### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC Members:** Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association; Victor Coleman, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, NW CPAC Vice Chair; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jaqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Rhonda Boys, Chair; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International.

**Excused:** Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools; Lieutenant Clarence Hodge, JFRD; Lisa Buggs, JPL; Commander Harry Massey, JSO; Dr. Rudy Jamison, Jacksonville Human Rights Commission; Michael Pearson, MCCD; Mawiya Charles, Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

**Guests:** Gwendolyn Harris, Timber Oaks; Dr. Murphy Nmezi, Royal Terrace Community; Gwen Nmezi, Royal Terrace Community; Carol Gamble; Mike Sittner; Ola Carolle; Velma Rose; Leo and Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens; Jeanette Coleman; Central Fairfax; Brent Hyskell; Leola Williams, Sherwood Forest; Mike Cobb; Thomas Parrish, Harborview; Ernest Smith, Urban Core CPAC; Sabrina Aikens, North Jacksonville Trout River; Staci Anderson, Biscayne Villas.

**ZOOM:** Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Brad Straley; Derek Dixon, FDOT; Marsha Jackson; Hayley Spring, Blue Zones Project – Jacksonville; Doretha Tompkins, Riverview.

#### **Meeting Summary**

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the April meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The March 13, 2025, NW CPAC meeting summary was approved.
3. **Presentation:** None.
4. **Elected Officials Report:** None.
5. **Chair's Report:** Chair Boyd gave the following report:
  - After a discussion about building CPAC awareness in the NW community, Chair Boyd asked for suggestions on engaging the community.

- One suggestion was to have an information table at Aldi's Market, Winn Dixie Market, etc.
- Another suggestion was to have NW CPAC members attend HOA and other community meetings to bring CPAC literature.
- Chair Boyd would like a list of neighborhood organizations in the NW district so she may send out invitations to an upcoming NW CPAC meeting.
- Asking the City of Jacksonville's Public Affairs Department to develop a media outreach strategy was another suggestion.
- Other suggestions included asking for a literature table at an upcoming JSO Safety Fair and perhaps holding a Fall Festival an inviting the neighbors.

#### 6. Staff Reports: (three-minute time limit)

- **Jacksonville Human Rights Commission (JHRC)** – Dr. Rudy Jamison, Executive Director, announced that the Commission will be holding a Fair Housing Expo on Saturday, April 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. He distributed a flier and indicated that additional details would be available soon.

**Dr. Rudy Jamison** – [Rjamison@coj.net](mailto:rjamison@coj.net)

- **FDOT** - Derek Dixon responded to previously submitted questions by NW CPAC members:  
The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway is expected to be completed in 2026.  
Work has been scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> and Davis Streets.  
He did not have specific information on road patches and curb inlets on Beaver Street, near the Farmers' Market.  
Biscayne Estates are not state roads, so he will pass along the information onto 630-CITY for a response.

**Derek Dixon** - [Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Derek.Dixon@dot.state.fl.us)

- **DPCS** – Paula Renfro reported that the current state legislative session has dealt DCPS an unfortunately blow: opposition to earning college credits in High School; The State House voted to cut by 50% training for teachers, etc. She will continue to stay on top of the issues and urged members to use their voices as a community, to write letters to the people they elected to let them know how the community feels about these actions and the negative impacts to public education.

Ms. Renfro also stated that the school board building is officially up for sale.

The Lake Forest School has been purchased and will be turned into affordable housing; however, the purchaser has not closed on the sale and the school district is looking to better secure the property to protect against vandalism.

The Carter G. Woodson School is up for demolition, in spite of a purchase plan. Ms. Renfro will continue to provide updates.

The A. Philip Randolph School is declining in enrollment; however, there is no conversation about closing the school.

**Paula Renfro** – [renfrop@duvalschools.org](mailto:renfrop@duvalschools.org)

- **JPL** – Lisa Buggs wished everyone a “Happy Library Week” and announced several library events:  
Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 2:00 pm, there will be a History Chat at the Main Public Library. Mitch Hemann, archivist at the Ritz Theatre and Museum, will speak about Matthew R. Ward’s life and poetry, as well as Jacksonville’s role in great migration.

**Lisa Buggs** - [LBuggs@coj.net](mailto:LBuggs@coj.net)

- **MCCD** - Michael Pearson, Municipal Code District 5 Supervisor, encouraged everyone to utilize 630-CITY to request service calls. Mr. Pearson provided a progress report on the following:  
  
3615 Clyde Drive has been cited and the property owner has failed to comply. The property is currently in abatement and the city has placed on lien on it. The cars will be towed.  
  
45<sup>th</sup> and Moncrief, reported for illegal dumping behind the closed Family Dollar store. MCCD will remove the debris, but the Environmental Quality Division will need to be involved.  
  
The temporary housing situation on Soutel Drive is still not in compliance and the property will need to be reassessed.  
  
The NW CPAC Chair commended Mr. Pearson and MCCD for the tremendous amount of work that they do with only 40 code enforcement officers.

**Michael Pearson** – [Mpearson@coj.net](mailto:Mpearson@coj.net)

- **JFRD** - Lieutenant Clarence Hodge announced that he will be retiring after 34 years on the job and will be replaced by Lieutenant George Hernandez.  
  
Lieutenants Hodge and Hernandez gave a demonstration of adult choking and how to respond. Lieutenant Hodge stated that more than 5,000 people die each year due to choking. He also gave a demonstration on how to respond to pediatric (ages 1-8) choking, and stated that foods such as grapes, peanuts and hard candies present choking hazards to young children.

**Lieutenant Clarence Hodge** - [Hodge@coj.net](mailto:Hodge@coj.net)

- **JSO** – District Commander Harry Massey reminded everyone that the crime statistics are available online at [www.JaxSheriff.org](http://www.JaxSheriff.org), under the Transparency Portal tab.  
  
The Commander stated that District 5 responded to 9,072 calls for service. Crimes against persons are down 17%; Crimes against property are down 16.5%; 1,474 traffic violations were written.  
  
There were 9,237 service calls in District 6. Crimes against persons are down 3.65% and crimes against property are down 25%.

Additionally, Commander Massey reported 988 mental health calls were reported.

**Commander Harry Massey** – [JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org](mailto:JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org)

- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services** - Mawiya Charles reported that the department is hiring for summer positions:
  - The Summer Program runs June 16, 2025, through July 25, 2025. She also noted that life guard positions have an age requirement of 15.
  - On April 17, 2025, the department started a voucher application program for summer camp, for ages 6-12. Information can be found on [www.JaxParks@coj.net](http://www.JaxParks@coj.net)
  - There will be a lottery held on April 25, 2025, to select voucher distribution. Summer Camp fees are \$95 per session for \$285 for the full summer.
  - On April 18, 2025, the department will host a “Hop Into Spring” event at the Kennedy Center.
  - Mayor Deegan’s Book Mobile will be at Friendship Fountain the Saturday before Easter.
  - Free Swim is available – check community pools for details.

**Mawiya Charles** – [Cmawiya@coj.net](mailto:Cmawiya@coj.net)

**7. Old Business:** None.

**8. New Business:** None.

**9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:**

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee:** Roxsan Currier, Subcommittee Chair reported the following: five (5) applications were reviewed and no action taken.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission:** Velma Rounsfield will defer her report to the May meeting.
- **Blight Subcommittee:** CPAC Chair Boyd urged members to use the MyJax application or to call 630-CITY to report blight.

**10. Public Comments/Announcements:** None.

**11. Adjournment:** It was properly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 8:09 pm.

**The Next Northwest CPAC Meeting is May 8, 2025, at 6 pm at the Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Dr., 32208**