

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 13, 2025

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

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Vice Chair Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, PEBO Corp.; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Elaine Billips, Better Living Community Association, Inc.; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; and Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association.

Excused: Chair Rhonda Boyd, Timber Oaks HOA; and Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club.

Staff and Elected Officials: Briana White, Executive Council Assistant for the Honorable Tyrona Clark-Murray, City Council District 9; Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools; Lieutenant Clarence Hodge, JFRD; Lisa Buggs, Jacksonville Public Library; Commander Harry Massey, JSO Zone 5; Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development; Chris LeDew, Public Works; and Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Services Office.

Guests: Robert Stafford, Edgewood Manor; Leo and Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens Neighborhood Association; Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; LaCressa Wilson; Antonia Bryant, Lake Park; Cantrece Jones, ADG; Yvonne Ward, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; and Kat Wright, Cultural Council.

ZOOM: Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Christine Waston; Rosalisa Harden; Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Brad Straley; Joni Alexandre, Groundwork Jacksonville; Lana Suggs Champion, Carver International; Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Neighborhood Association; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; Motorola; Samsung SM-57; iPhone.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The NW CPAC Vice Chair, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, called the February meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.
- 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** The November 2024 Meeting Summary was approved with the following correction: "Page 2, under Staff Reports, #5 should state invite the "new superintendent" to come out and meet the NW CPAC. There was a motion to amend the 11/14/2024 Meeting Summary with corrections as discussed. The January 9, 2025, Meeting Summary was accepted.

Pledge of Allegiance

3. Presenter a) Cantrece Jones, Acuity Design Group – Update on Parks Master Plan

- The City of Jacksonville Parks Department is conducting a Master Plan Improvement Plan to look at the 405 parks that the City has to maintain.
- After her presentation, Ms. Jones would like members to go online and provide input on any information you would care to share in regard to your neighborhood parks.
- The Acuity Design Group's assignment was to create a blueprint for the future of parks for the City of Jacksonville, to ensure that all parks are equitable and improve and/or enhance the community, as well as remain sustainable and resilient.
- Public engagement and input are an integral part of the Parks Master Plan. There is a project website, where you can leave public comments and tell us what your concerns are about parks in your neighborhood. www.imaginejaxparks.com

Cantrece Jones – (904) 710-0301 or cjones@adgmark.com

Presenter b) Kat Wright, Public Art initiative, Cultural Council, announced that the Cultural council has \$25,000 for public art to be spent in each of the six (6) CPAC districts.

- Ms. Wright noted that all six (6) projects must be completed by September 30, 2025, which places a very tight timeline in which to build consensus on what the piece should be, the location, but also the design and development of the project.
- Ms. Wright's presentation consisted of a curated list of locations and art forms that could reasonably be accomplished with \$25,000:
 - **Charles Boobie Clark Community Center** – wall mural
 - **Beverly Hills Park** – sculptural bike racks
 - **Crystal Springs Park** – ornamental privacy screen

Paper surveys were distributed and made available for those present to indicate which project they would like to see move forward.

Kat Wright – (904) 944-3606 or kwright@culturalcouncil.org

4. Elected Officials Report: Ms. Brianna White, Executive Council Assistant to Council member Tyrona Clark-Murray is in attendance. She will be here until the end of the meeting, if there are any questions for her.

5. Chair's Report:

- **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Requests** – The CPAC Membership has presented two submissions, and both will be presented to the CIP Administrator:
 - 1. The Carver International Neighborhood Association is requesting that a dedicated left turn lane be added on Moncrief Road at its intersection with Soutel Drive, in front of the Walgreens Drug Store. This improvement will add safety, as well as improve traffic flow.

This was actually a request which was not selected last year and is being resubmitted for consideration.
 - 2. A request to resurface Cleveland Road from Moncrief Road to 45th Street. The poor condition of Cleveland Road detracts from housing values, it is unsafe for pedestrians, especially people with mobility challenges, hampers access to local businesses, such as the Johnson Branch YMCA, in addition to causing damage to motor vehicles.

- **CPAC Attendance** – For CPAC Members, it is critical to notify Ms. Henry if you are unable to attend meetings, so that your absence can be excused. Keep in mind that three unexcused absences will result in the automatic removal of the organization from the CPAC, as per the Executive Order
- **Diane Janney Kerr**, former NW CPAC Member recently passed. She was a resident of North Riverside and was the founder of the North Riverside Community Development Association.

6. Staff Reports:

Patricia McCollough, Special Assistant to the Mayor, Civic Engagement and Youth Participation, is also in attendance.

- Ms. McCollough spoke about the role she plays in the Mayor's Office, and one of the projects she is currently working on is the Civil Rights Trail Project. She also added that she works with student interns and they are currently working on a Young People's Summit to be held on 2/20/2025, at the Main Public Library.
- Mayor Deegan's focus is on building a healthy, safe and strong Jacksonville. And as such, the Mayor's Team will be depending on the community to provide feedback.

Patricia McCollough – (904) 255-5010 or PMcCollough@coj.net

JFRD – Lieutenant Clarence Hodge stated that this has been a very busy fire season, with over a dozen people displaced in an apartment fire on the West Side of town, and there was one family who perished.

- Lieutenant Hodge stressed the importance of having both a fire extinguisher and a smoke detector in your homes. For those who need smoke detectors, please call 630-CITY to request one. Please be sure to replace the batteries as needed, as well as replacing the smoke detector itself, as needed.

Lieutenant Clarence Hodge – (904) 255-3284 or Hodge@coj.net

JPL – Lisa Buggs, Manager Branch Services, shared the following information:

- The PreSchool Palooza, for children ages 1 – 4, will take place at the Highlands Regional Library, Saturday, February 15, 2025, from 2 – 4 pm. Mayor Donna Deegan will be there, along with book characters.
- This year marks the 125th anniversary of “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing.” The Friends of the Brentwood Branch Library have sponsored a week of activities. One event is a luncheon with the civil rights activist and award-winning author, Rodney Hurst, Sr. Please visit: www.FriendsofBrentwoodlibrary.com for additional information.
- A reminder that all public libraries will be closed this coming Monday, February 17, 2025, in observance of President's Day.
- For more information on events, etc., please visit <https://jaxpubliclibrary.org>

Lisa Buggs – (904) 255-6463 or Lbuggs@coj.net

MCCD – Michael Pearson, Code Compliance Supervisor, reported on the following:

- Since January 2025, MCCD has completed 1,432 inspections (which was 300 more inspections than the next closest MCCD Team – They are crushing it!) Specific projects include Panama Park Road, Lincoln Hills Neighborhood.
- In addition to residential inspections, Municipal Code Compliance also conducts commercial inspections, such as the Norwood Shopping Center.
- Mr. Pearson encouraged everyone to continue using the MyJax App and calling 630-CITY to report code violations. Please be sure to provide your name, address, phone number and email so staff can contact you if additional information is needed, or to provide you with an update.

Michael Pearson – (904) 627-6080 or MPearson@coj.net

JSO – District 5 Commander, Harry Massey announced that District 6 has a new Commander, Robert Silcox.

- Most crime statistics can be found on the JSP Transparency Portal:
<https://transparency.jaxsheriff.org>
- Total service calls for January 2025 were 8,732. Total traffic citations were 1,425. Crimes against persons are down by 111.6% - a really big drop.
- Commander Massey encouraged everyone to attend their Sheriff Watch meetings. Information on schedules and locations are also available on the JSO website.

District 5 Commander Harry Massey – JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org

Public Works – Chris LeDew, Chief of Traffic Engineering, distributed information on changes in traffic calming techniques. Additional information shared included:

- Changes in traffic calming techniques were implemented in January 2025.
- Petitions for traffic calming will be sent by mail to property owners and if no reply is received, it will be assumed that the property owner agrees with the proposal for traffic calming measures.
- Capital Improvement Projects (CIP), are also submitted by the Public Works Department and projects must be approved. Some of those projects include:
 - Trout River at Lem Turner, adding turn lanes.
 - Edgewood Avenue S – Murray Hill, I-10 and Cassett – lane elimination to help slow speeds.
 - Garden Street at Immerson Road – turning lanes.
 - Edgewood and McDuff – high crash areas and speeding, proposal to add speed humps and mini roundabouts.

Chris LeDew – (904) 255-7528 or CLeDew@coj.net

Duval County Public Schools – Paula Renfro, brought forth several important updates:

- About 400 high school students attended several of the Black History Month programs sponsored by the Friends of Brentwood Library, and an additional 200 students will participate tomorrow (February 14, 2025).
- Saturday, February 15, 2025, students will be attending and participating in the Piano Competition in the afternoon and the art exhibit at 5 pm at the Main Public Library, and there will be a student art auction.

- At the January NW CPAC Meeting it was asked if the fatal pedestrian accident had anything to do with the fact that middle and high school students have an increased distance to walk to school. Dr. Renfro made the inquiry and while the accident was very sad and unfortunate, the accident did not happen in any of the Duval County School Zones – but the school district is being watchful.

Paula Renfro – renfrop@duvalschools.org

Neighborhood Services Office – Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator shared updates on the planning of the Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) Conference, being hosted by the City of Jacksonville, May 20-23, 2025. There will be neighborhood tours, etc. Registration is open and she will bring fliers to the March meeting.

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

7. Old Business:

CIP Requests were covered during the Chair's Report.

New Business: Vice Chair Cullins Hopkins spoke on the Ash Remediation Site that Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director, Daryl Joseph wants to turn into a park. And Ms. Cullins Hopkins asked those who will be participating in the Parks Master Plan online survey to please mention: Disposal Area: Gold Merit and Pope Place (Ash Remediation).
http://apps2.coj.net/City_Council_Public_Notices_Repository/20180328%20Handouts%20Spec%20Comm%20Safety%20Neigh.pdf

8. The neighborhood wants this land turned into a park and not sold to developers. Ms. Cullins Hopkins will obtain the site toxicology report and send it to Ms. Henry for dissemination to the CPAC.

9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee** – Roxsan Currier, Subcommittee Chair reported that there were two applications to review and no actions taken.
- **T.R.U.E. Commission** – Velma Rounsville, Liaison – no report.
- **Blight Subcommittee** – no meeting scheduled. CPAC Members interested in participating are: Rhonda Boyd, Henry Scott, Velma Rounsville, Sallie Barnes and Roxsan Currier.

10. Public Comments and Announcements:

- Robert Stafford – reported loitering at a neighborhood convenience store, but the owner is not willing to file trespassing charges. Mr. Stafford is working with JSO to address the issue. MCCD Supervisor Pearson stated that they are aware of the situation and noted that the owner has complied with all citations.
- Elaine Billups asked a question about the 20th Street Expressway construction at I-95. That question needs to be forwarded to Mr. Derek Dixon of FDOT.

11. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.