

Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

March 13, 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, Inc.; Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, CPAC Vice Chair & Pebo Crop.; Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Constance DeV Vaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Pamela Strickland, North Jax Trout River Manor; Rhonda Boyd, NW CPAC Chair & Timber Oaks HOA; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Leroy Kelly, Carver International; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC.

Excused: None.

Staff and Elected Officials: Lieutenant Clarence Hodge, JFRD; Lisa Buggs, JPL; Lieutenant John Gay, JSO Zone 5; Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development; Jeffrey Strickland, MCCC Zone 5; Tamika Chatfield, MCCC Zone 5; Mike Pearson, MCCC Zone 5 Supervisor; Valerie Feinberg, Office of Resilience, Urban Forest Management.

Guests: Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Debra Jenkins, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Yvonne Johnson; Antonia Grant Bryant, Lake Park; V. Berel, North Riverside CDC; Naujia Easton; Marsha Jackson, COEA; Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association.

ZOOM: Brad Straley; Mawiya Charles, Parks Recreation & Community Services Department; Doretha Tompkins, Riverview; Cheryl Riddick, JTA; Rhonda-Hart Sparks, North Jax Trout River Manor; Rosalisa Harden; Tiffany Morales, Military Affairs and Veterans Department; Camika Jerido, USA Unlimited, Inc.; Christine Watson.

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the March 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 February 13, 2025, NW CPAC meeting summary was approved.
3. **Presentation: Valerie Feinberg,** City of Jacksonville, Office of Resilience, discussed the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). Ms. Feinberg described an Urban Forest as “the collection of trees, shrubs and other woody vegetation that grow within urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout the city. It is the broad ecosystem that encompasses trees, plants, and animals.”

The City of Jacksonville's Urban Forestry Program (UFP) provides and maintains a healthy urban forest by managing single trees, tree populations, and all associated vegetation making up the crucial portion of a city's green infrastructure.

The UFMP provides a framework for long-term management of trees, forests in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The elements of the Urban Forest Management Plan are:

- Define goals and objectives.
- Establish budgets and administrative structure.
- Delineate rules for planting and removing trees.
- Guide best planting and pruning practices.
- Identify tree types suitable for the setting (right tree, right place).
- Develop educational programs for all community members.

The UFMP is aligned with other city initiatives:

- Fulfills the Tree Commission's Strategic Plan to develop an UFMP.
- Implements strategies identified in Resilient Jacksonville.
- Supports the Tree Fund programs dedicated to planting trees.
- Aligns with the current city initiatives to plant more trees.
- Promotes agencies working towards a healthier Jacksonville.

Ms. Feinberg stated that anyone interested in obtaining a free tree through the city's tree program, should contact 630-CITY to request a tree. Also Ms. Feinberg discussed the importance of listening to what the community wants. There is an Urban Forest Survey that she would like everyone to take: <https://bit.ly/4anf4Ao>.

Engaging the public will be at the heart of the planning process for the city's Urban Forest Management Plan. Therefore, she requested opportunities to speak at various neighborhood and community events, to advocate for planting trees in the community.

Valerie Feinberg – (904) 612-8022 or VFeinberg@coj.net

4. Elected Officials Report: None.

5. Chair's Report: The process of becoming a member of a CPAC Subcommittee was discussed. The official appointment of a CPAC Member to a subcommittee is made by the chair.

The newly created NW CPAC Blight Subcommittee will need to hold a meeting in order to get organized. Ms. Juanita Senior, UC CPAC Vice Chair and Chair of the UC CPAC Blight Subcommittee, has invited the members of the NW CPAC Blight subcommittee to join her at their next meeting, Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 5 pm. Meetings are held at the Main Public Library and via ZOOM. Ms. Henry will forward the information to the membership.

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

- **JTA** - Cheryl Riddick, Community Engagement Manager, shared the following information:
 - Last spring (2024), the JTA Board approved a policy change where seniors, 65 and older, no longer have to have a star card to ride for free. They only need to show their Florida drivers' license or Florida ID. Since that change, senior ridership has dramatically increased.

- JTA has begun testing the U2C in the Bay Street Innovation Corridor. These autonomous vehicles are not yet carrying people.
- Please forward any questions through the Neighborhood Coordinator, and Ms. Riddick will respond.

Cheryl Riddick (904) 632-5522 or CRiccick@jtafla.com

- **Parks, Recreation and Community Services** – Mawiya Charles, Senior Recreation Services Manager, gave the following report:
 - The Legends Center operates 8 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday, and 9 am to 6 pm on Saturdays. There is a daily use fee of \$2.15 (includes tax). The Center also offers individual, annual memberships, which are \$120 for individuals and \$150 for the family membership, with up to four members on the plan. The Senior Membership, ages 60 and older, is \$90 annually and a monthly membership for youth of \$10.75 (with tax). The use of the facility includes: access to the walking track, the gymnasium, computer lab, the weight room, fitness classes, line dancing, etc.
 - A few of the upcoming events are:
 - The first Egg Palooza at Lonnie Miller Park, on Saturday, April 5, from 11 am to 2 pm; it is a free family fun event.
 - The Summer Camp Voucher Lottery system will open on Monday, April 7 at 12 noon. Available online at jaxparks.com. Fliers are available at the front desk. The camp fee is \$95 per person and camp hours are from 8 am to 5 pm.
 - The Third Annual Monopoly Tournament will take place at the Legends Center, Saturday, May 31, from 8 am. There is a \$5 registration fee and registration is now open online. www.jaxparks.coj.net.

Mawiya Charles (904) 255-7904 or CMawiya@coj.net

- **Military Affairs and Veterans Department** – Tiffany Morales, Veterans Outreach Manager, stated that the department is working on two major events:
 - Memorial Day Observance on Monday, May 26, 2025. It is the second largest in the nation, next to the event in Washington, DC.
 - Military Spouses Night Out. It is a free night event at the arena and this year the event will have more fun pampering events. They are hoping to have a DJ and a dance floor.

Tiffany Morales (904) 255-5524 or TMorales@coj.net.

- **JPL** - Lisa Buggs, Branch Services Manager, reported on several upcoming activities:
 - An elementary school art exhibit opening on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at the Main public library. Artwork will also be exhibited at the Highlands Regional Library, Brentwood Branch and Bradham and Books Branch. The artwork will be on display from Thursday, March 27 through Tuesday, April 29, 2025.
 - At the Highlands Regional Branch, on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 10:30 am, there will be a live performance entitled “Just Add Rhythm.”
 - For additional information www.jaxpubliclibrary.org or (904) 255-BOOK (2665)

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

- **MCCD** – Michael Pearson, Zone 1 Supervisor, reported his team completed 1,140 inspections, six (6) of those were snipe signs. These are signage on the side of the road and are considered illegal and fines can range from \$50 to \$350. Members of the public can remove these types of signs if they are in the public right of way. Mr. Pearson reminded members that they can call 630-CITY or send in a complaint through myjax.com and MCCD will inspect the sign, write a fine.
 - State Bill 60 requires the public to provide their name, number and address. MCCD is not allowed to investigate anonymous complaints. The caller's information is kept confidential and is not shared with anyone, unless it is requested through a public records request..
 - Mr. Pearson introduced two new members of his staff, Officers Chatfield and Strickland. The Zone 5 Officers make a point to call every complainant with updates, or outcomes, following each inspection. He stressed that patience is the key as the goal is voluntary compliance.
 - Duplicate complaints will be closed with an email statement, including the original case number. Mr. Pearson highly recommends citizens set up their own MyJax account because doing so would also allow them to see all MCCD comments about cited properties.

Michael Pearson (904) 255-627-6080 or MPearson@coj.net

- **JFRD** - Lieutenant Clarence Hodge took the opportunity to speak about electrical safety and stated that the top three causes for fires in the home are: cooking, heating appliances and electrical fires.
 - JFRD recommends that houses 50 years or older have a licensed, certified electrician perform a check on the electrical system. The older the home, the more likely it is to have an electrical fire.
 - Possible signals of an electrical issue in the home include: tripped electrical breakers, flickering lights.
 - Across the U.S., there are roughly 5,000 civilian fire deaths each year. Roughly 15,000 people sustain injuries during fires and about 100 firefighter deaths each year. In Duval County, we have a working structure fire at least one every day.
 - JFRD recommends households take a more proactive approach to prevent fires. For example, do not overload extension cords, do not run the cords under rugs or through a window. Ensure the extension cords are in good repair, no frayed ends. Make sure the household has at least one working fire extinguisher and a smoke detector.
 - Do not overload power strips or electrical sockets
 - In the event of a fire, leave the home and call 9-1-1. Do not return into a burning house.

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

- **JSO** – Lieutenant John Gay, District 5, representing District Commander Harry Massey, delivered the Crime Statistics for District 5, and reminded everyone that this information can be found on the Sheriff’s Transparency Dashboard at www.jaxsheriff.org. Crime statistics for the entire city, as well as District 5, can be viewed on the Dashboard.
 - Year-to-date, there have been 8,259 service calls, 1,427 uniform traffic citations and crimes against persons are 18.33% down. Crimes against property are also trending downward for the last 30 days. There is a slight uptick in the last 30 days on theft of motor vehicles.
 - Lieutenant Gay reminded everyone to keep car doors locked and valuables out of sight.
 - He also encouraged attendance at the Sheriff Watch meetings:
 - Tango and Sierra Subsectors will meet April 7, 2025, at 850 N. Central Street in Baldwin. Romeo and Quebec Subsectors will meet April 8, 2025, at 1697 Kings Road at the Schell-Sweet Community Resource Center. Go online www.jaxsheriff.org to find your subsector and where your Sheriff Watch meetings are being held.
 - Lieutenant Gay also encouraged the membership to follow JSO on social media: YouTube, Facebook, X (Instagram). The Sheriff is promoting transparency and the fact that it is important to show the public what JSO does.
 - JSO participates in a number of different community engagement activities, such as National Night Out and Sheriff Walks. If you are interested in having a Sheriff Walk in your neighborhood, contact your District 5 Commander, Harry Massey.

Lieutenant John Gay JSODistrict5@jaxsheriff.org

- **Neighborhood Services Office** - Edwina Henry, Neighborhood Coordinator – in the interest of time any updates will be emailed to the membership.

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

7. Old Business – None.

- 8. New Business** – In preparing for the CPAC Chairs’ Quarterly Meeting, are there any question or urgent matters from the membership? Please email them to Ms. Henry and she will forward them to the Chair.

9. Subcommittees and Liaison Reports:

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee:** Roxsan Currier, Subcommittee Chair reported the following: Five applications were reviewed: 2025-0173 was denied. Placing 50 units on three acres is not in keeping with the rest of the community. This application was seeking to rezone single family homes to townhouses.

- **Taxation, Revenue & Utilization of Expenditures (T.R.U.E.) Commission:** Velma Rounsville, representative, stated that she is providing two reports: January and February.
 - **In January:** Mr. Christopher Garrett, Office of the General Counsel, discussed the city's policy on foreclosures. Foreclosure is deemed as a last resort, as the city does not want to hold property.
 - The T.R.U.E. Commission also received an end-of-year auditor's report. JaxPort and JEA both finished the year with budget surpluses.
 - Meridan Waste received a 29% increase in compensation from the City Council, which they justified by citing increased operating costs due to fleet upgrades and a tight labor market. The city had been making a loan from the general fund to cover the extra cost and repaying the loan the following year.
 - The T.R.U.E. Commission is exploring ways in which to become proactive in their work versus responding to events that have already happened.
 - The Commission's final recommendations were to invite the Chief of Procurement to the February meeting and have a follow-up discussion on foreclosures in March.
 - In the interest of time, Ms. Rounsville skipped over the February meeting minutes.
 - **In March:** Mr. Thomas Register, Municipal Code Compliance Chief, provided an overview of the Municipal Code Compliance Division responsibilities.
 - A question was raised about the city losing parking revenues due to the large number of city vehicles parking for free at downtown parking meters and how that also impacts local businesses whose customers can't find parking.
 - The Commission will invite someone from the General Counsel's Office and the Director of Parking, to discuss the loss revenue.

10. Public Comments:

- **Chair Boyd** welcomed the North Jacksonville Trout River Manor as a new member of the Northwest CPAC. Ms. Pamela Strickland, Primary Representative, received her new member's packet. The alternate representative, Rhonda Hart-Sparks attending via ZOOM, was also welcomed and was told that she will be presented with her new member's packet when she attends in person. The next NW CPAC meeting is Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 6 pm.
- Chair Boyd reminded everyone of the requirements for CPAC Membership and reminded members that three consecutive unexcused absences automatically removed the organization from membership. She reminded members that if they are unable to attend a CPAC meeting they should contact Ms. Henry for an excused absence before the meeting date.
- Chair Boyd also encouraged NW CPAC members to tell neighbors about our meetings and also to try to recruit some young people, so they can help represent their neighborhood interests.

11. Adjournment: It was properly moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned. 8:01 pm.