

## **Northwest Citizens Planning Advisory Committee**

### **August 14, 2025**

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

#### **Meeting Attendance**

**CPAC MEMBERS:** CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, Timber Oaks HOA; CPAC Vice Chair Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, PEBO Corp.; Sallie Barnes, Robinson's Addition; Elaine Billups, Better Living Community Association; Victor Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Constance DeVaughn, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Jacqueline Harrington, Grand Park; Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Marie Barney Boston Scholarship Foundation; Roxie McLeod, Panama Park Neighborhood Association; Bervinda Mincey, Moncrief Springs Neighborhood Association; Velma Rounsville, Timber Oaks HOA; Pamela Strickland, North Jacksonville Trout River Manor; Ginny Winters, Pickettville Civic Club; Cynthia Brown, Robinson's Addition Neighborhood Association; Leroy Kelly, Carver International.

**Excused:** Roxsan Currier, Marietta Senior Center; Bettye Scott, Ribault Manor; Shirley Thomas, North Riverside CDC; Henry Scott, North Riverside CDC.

**Staff and Elected Officials:** Paula Renfro, Duval County Public Schools (DCPS); Jim Culbert, Chief of Schools, DCPS; Yuri Blackburn, JPL; Lisa Buggs, JPL; Commander Harry Massey, JSO; Chad Owens, MCCC; Stephen Nagbe, Planning and Development Department (PDD); Sophie Fogg, PDD; Chris LeDew, Public Works Department; Lieutenant Scott Holecheck, JFRD.

**Guests:** Cheyenne Watts; Carol Gamble, Moncrief Springs Association; Toni Piccolotti; Rochelle Gross, Woodstock Neighborhood Association; Leo Brown, Metro Gardens; Marilyn Brown, Metro Gardens; Dr. Antonia Bryant, Lake Park; Mildred Jennings, Sherwood Forest; M. Wellington, Riverview CCO; Jeanette Coleman, Central Fairfax Community Association; Daniel Brown, Jr., Emanuel M.B. Church; Darlene Neal; Toinette Wells, Lake Forest Next Door Network.

**ZOOM:** Doretha Thompkins; Jonathan Marc; Cheryl Mock, JEA; Tiffany Morales, Military and Veterans Affairs Department; Lana Suggs Champion; Brad Straley.

#### **Meeting Summary**

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** The Northwest CPAC Chair, Rhonda Boyd, called the August 14, 2025, meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Edwina Henry verified that a quorum was present.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summaries:** The April 10, 2025, May 8, 2025 and June 12, 2025, meeting summaries were approved.
3. **Presentation:** None.
4. **Elected Officials Report:** None.

**5. Chair's Report:** Chair Boyd gave the following report:

- A reminder for ZOOM participants to please raise their hand to be recognized by the Chair to speak or ask questions. It is requested that the questions and/or comments from the audience be held until the public comments.
- All six (6) CPAC Chairs will be meeting with Mayor Deegan in September, please forward any concerns that you would like to have addressed to Ms. Henry no later than August 22.
- Council member Rahman Johnson will be our speaker at the September 11, 2025, NW CPAC Meeting and the topic will be his proposal to codify the Neighborhood Bill of Rights. Please be sure to read through his proposal, it is in your meeting agenda packets. Be sure to encourage your neighbors to attend.
- Nomination for CPAC Membership, please contact Ms. Henry for the application.
- CPAC Member Attendance – please be sure to notify Ms. Henry prior to the CPAC Meeting if you are unable to attend, so that you may receive an excused absence. Most Neighborhoods have an alternate member, who should attend meetings in the absence of the primary member. The CPAC Executive Order and the Model Bylaws stipulate that three consecutive unexcused absences warrant immediate removal from membership of the organization.
- For organizations wishing to rotate out representatives, they will need to complete the Nomination for CPAC Membership form and begin the process of attending three consecutive meetings. Also, if an organization is substituting the current president over the newly elected president, a copy of that discussion in the form of meeting minutes, showing a vote or approval of the membership must accompany the Nomination for CPAC Membership form.
- A Nominations Subcommittee will need to be formed by September, with a meeting prior to October 9, 2025, to prepare the slate for the November elections of CPAC Chair and Vice Chair.
  - Jacqueline Harrington agreed to serve but not chair the subcommittee; Leroy Kelly and Velma Rounsville, will round out the Nominations Subcommittee and will work with Ms. Henry to set a date for their meeting.
- The Blight Subcommittee needs to coordinate a meeting date and time with Ms. Henry so that they can begin their work.
  - Members of the Blight Subcommittee are: Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Roxsan Currier, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, Sally Barnes, Ginny Winters, and Henry Scott.

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

- **JEA** – Cheryl Mock, representing Jenelle Milton, shared the following:
  - JEA is holding a Senior's Day on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, from 9 am to 3 pm, at the JEA Headquarters on 225 N. Pearl Street. Senior Day is held the Third Wednesday of each month and is open to the public. There will be many partner resource companies present, such as United Way, Elder Source, JTA, Lutheran Social Services, etc. They are there to help seniors who might need some financial assistance and to talk about creating efficiencies in their JEA bill.

- During Hurricane Season, [www.JEA.com](http://www.JEA.com) has a Storm Center tab, which contains information on preparation, shelter listings and evacuation zone information, among other important information.
- The [www.JEA.com](http://www.JEA.com) website also has information on payment assistance programs.

**Cheryl Mock – (904) 665-5102**

- **Duval County Public Schools** – Paula Renfro gave the following updates:
  - Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) has earned an A rating. She thanked the community for their support and noted that this October marks six (6) years of her being part of the NW CPAC.
  - Friday, August 8, 2025, was the ribbon cutting ceremony for the beautiful new Jean Ribault High School. Former DCPS Superintendent Diana Greene was present and received a standing ovation, as she was a catalyst for the new building.
  - Ms. Renfro introduced Jim Culbert, DCPS Chief of Operations, who addressed questions about school consolidations, buildings that have been closed, etc.
  - Rutledge Pearson is an amazing new elementary school, built with state-of-the-art equipment. Jean Ribault High School has 1,600 seats and it's a really cutting-edge technical, career technical education and advanced learning environments.
  - DCPS has invested in safety and security across the district, covering 110 schools across the whole district. Upgrades include advanced camera systems, improved door access control systems, secured entrance ways and upgraded emergency communication systems.
  - The following consolidations have been completed: Annie R. Morgan elementary into Biltmore Elementary; Susie Tolbert Elementary into S.P. Livingston Elementary; Kings Trail Elementary into Beauclerc Elementary.
  - Demolitions are not set in stone. Some buildings will be put up for sale. Lake Forest has been declared as surplus. Carter G. Woodson demolition has begun.
  - Regarding a question asked about the West Jacksonville Elementary School being purchased for the purpose of converting it into a community center for the neighborhood, Mr. Culbert indicated that he would have to research that question and get back to the CPAC on that.
  - Mr. Culbert will also get back to the CPAC with information on the Lake Forest building being purchased for affordable housing.
  - The School District would like to add language to sale contracts that if the purchaser does not redevelop the property within a certain amount of time, the property will revert back to DCPS.
  - Bus transportation concerns are being closely monitored by DCPS. They are working closely with the bus companies and will be putting their own GPS on buses to better monitor what goes on.
  - The School District has a team fielding calls on bus issues. Please check the DCPS Transportation page to register bus complaints. It was noted that the district transportation staff stays on the job until every bus returns. Call (904) 858-6200.

- <https://dcps.duvalschools.org> for additional information.

**Paula Renfro / Jim Culbert**

- **JPL** – Yuri Blackburn, Manager Highland Regional Branch Library, reported on:
  - The Summer Learning Program was successful and there were hundreds of young people attending the Closing Parties held at the various branches.
  - There is a Lit Chat scheduled for Saturday, August 16, 2025, at the University Park Branch, from 1 to 2 pm. Interview with Jasmin Graham, marine biologist and author of “Sharks Don’t Sink: Adventures of a Rogue shark Scientist.”
  - JAX Book Fest 2025 will take place over two Saturdays at the Main Public Library: Saturday, September 13 – Writer’s Day, from 10 am to 3:30 pm, for free writing and publishing workshops and Saturday, September 20 – Young Readers Day, from 9:30 am to 2 pm. Fliers are on the sign-in table.

**Yuri Blackburn** – [Yjewitt@coj.net](mailto:Yjewitt@coj.net)

- **MCCD** – Chad Owens, Zone 5 Supervisor, shared the following information:
  - Within the last 60 days, 2,423 cases were completed in the northwest zone. 14,00 cases have been completed for the fiscal year.
  - Due to a loss in personnel, Zone 5 is working on a backlog of cases.
  - There has been an uptick in tree cases, due to hurricane season.
  - The King-Soutel-Crossing Community Redevelopment Area is a new overlay that will focus on the commercial district, new businesses in the area.
  - For any complaints, please call 630-CITY or log onto MyJAX. Please be sure to provide your name and address, along with a brief description of the problem, and one of the MCCD Zone 5 Officers will reach out to you.
  - The NW CPAC has formed a Blight Subcommittee and wants to encourage members to call in complaints to 630-CITY or post on MyJAX in order to obtain a care ticket number, so that blight complaints can be tracked and monitored. The Subcommittee will assist with follow-up on unresolved matters.

**Chad Owens** - [ChadO@coj.net](mailto:ChadO@coj.net)

- **JFRD** – Lieutenant Scott Holechek stated that he is the new NW CPAC JFRD Representative. The Fire Marshal has assigned monthly topics to discuss:
  - September: the importance of developing fire safety and evacuation plans. This stemmed from a recent structure fire where children safely evacuated the burning structure, but the parents were unaware and went back into the house and were endangered but extracted shortly thereafter by the responding engine company. It is important to have reunification places for family members.
  - Burglar bars can make egress from the home challenging due to double-sided locks. JFRD discourages the use of double-sided locks, but if they are a necessity, make sure neighbors, family and friends know how to work with them.
  - Hurricane Evacuation – please be sure to pick up a copy of the JAX Ready Preparation Guide, if you haven’t already received one in the mail. There is a lot of good information inside. Call 630-CITY to request one.

- It is important to have a hurricane kit and to be prepared.
- The CARES Program, register your pets.
- Free Smoke Detector Program, please call 630-CITY to request one, if needed. JFRD will come out to install and also change batteries.

**Lieutenant Scott Holechek** – [ScottBH@coj.net](mailto:ScottBH@coj.net)

- **JSO** – District Commander Harry Massey noted that the following statics are for District and any questions for District 6, he will need to refer.
  - Please consult the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office Website for access to the Transparency Portal for crime statistics and other important information: <https://www.jaxsheriff.org>
  - Total Service Calls: 9,277; Citations 10,408 (includes traffic citations)
  - Crimes against persons are down 12.8% for the last 30 days; only 1 murder in the past 30 days.
  - Crimes against property are up 15% for the past 30 days; Theft of motor vehicles, 47 in the past 30 days. JSO still offers free clubs for your vehicles and are available at any of the substations or police stations.
  - Commander Massey listed the next set of Sheriff Watch Meetings and stated that the meetings are also listed on the Sheriff's website. He urged members to attend the Sheriff Watch meetings and also to participate in the Sheriff Walks in their neighborhoods.

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

- **Public Works** – Chris LeDew, Traffic Engineering, gave the following updates:
  - Due to recent reorganizations with some city departments, Mr. LeDew now represents all Public Works, which includes engineering mowing and landscaping, storm water management, etc. Solid Waste is now their own department.
  - The department is getting ready for budget season, which includes attending budget hearings. Public Works is one of the larger departments with one of the bigger budgets.
  - In response to questions from the CPAC, Mr. LeDew encouraged members to utilize the MyJAX and 630-CITY resources to report problems and complaints and to keep track of ticket numbers.
  - It has been noted that the City of Jacksonville needs Truck Parking areas.

**Chris LeDew** – [CLEdew@coj.net](mailto:CLEdew@coj.net)

- **Tiffany Morales** – Military and Veterans Affairs Department (MAVD), shared the following:
  - The Purple Heart observance Day was held on August 7, 2025. It was a really nice event and is held each year.
  - Applications to participate in the Veterans Day Parade are available through September 15, 2025. Organizations are encouraged to apply.
  - On September 11, 2025, the MAVD offers Wills for Heros. Call for an appointment. Will are prepared for free.
  - The MAVD is also conducting a food drive from their office at City Hall in Suite 175. They are asking for donations of can goods which do not require

can openers. The food drive has no end date. You can drop off or call for pick up. Call (904) 255-5524.

**Tiffany Morales** – [Tmorales@coj.net](mailto:Tmorales@coj.net)

**7. Old Business:** None.

**8. New Business:** None.

**9. Subcommittee and Liaison Reports:**

- **Land Use and Zoning Subcommittee:** Velma Rounsville reported:
  - **25-0587-0588** – Applications seeking to establish an auto storage yard in CCG-2 and to rezone RMD-D to CCG-2, were recommended for denial on the grounds that 7059 Ramona Boulevard is a partial residential area and the community is concerned that the proposed auto storage will become a yard for junk vehicles.
  - **25-0592, 25-0593 and 25-0594** – Applications seeking to rezone CRO to RLD-60, establish horses and to reduce the lot area for horses from 1.5 to .00 acres, the subcommittee recommends denial of all three applications at this time and to request additional information and clarification regarding the required spaced needed for horses and how many horses are planned for the space.
  - **Both recommendations were approved and the appropriate letters will be sent stating the objections and requesting clarification/information. Revisit in September with additional information from Planning and Development.**
- **T.R.U.E. Commission:** Report will be deferred to the next meeting.
- **Blight Subcommittee:** Members identified as Dr. Brenda Boston Hudson, Geni Winters, Vanessa Cullins Hopkins, Sally Barnes, Roxsan Currier and Henry Scott. The Subcommittee will meet September 11, 2025, prior to the full CPAC Meeting.

**10. Public Comments/Announcements:**

- Jacksonville Golden 18<sup>th</sup>, the Rain Showers and Voices – to be held on Sunday, September 14, 2025, to celebrate the spirit and heritage. A concert to learn the culture of Gullah Geechee that came down from North and South Carolina and Georgia. Concert is at 4 pm.
- Moncrief Springs Community Event held on August 2, 2025. It was a beautiful event. Ms. Senior Jacksonville was honored and more importantly, the community rallied with Parks and Recreation. Special thanks to Daryl Joseph who saved the pool at Cavill park and Senior Center.

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

**The next Northwest CPAC Meeting is October 9, 2025, at 6 pm at the Legends Center, 5130 Soutel Dr, 32208.**