

North Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

September 13, 2023, Meeting Summary

Oceanway Senior Center, 12215 Sago Ave. W

Zoom Meeting ID: 869 9318 1164

Passcode: 595972

Meeting Attendance

CPAC Members: Dr. Donald Green, Chair; Deborah Green, Captiva Bluff HOA; Bob Austin, Blue Grass Northwood; Sharon Bivins, Blue Grass/Northwood NA; Jim Sumara, HDCC; Dot Mathias, Charter Member; Tommy Ruffin, Council Appointee District 8; Bessie Williams, Copper Hill Assoc.; Joseph Tate, Copper Hill Assoc.; Mike Getchell, Eagle Island; Jane Love, Amelia View HOA; Pat Hilleman, Amelia View HOA; Vickie Drake, Duval County Council of PTS/PTA Assoc.; Glenn Fowler, Northside Business Leaders.

Zoom: None

Visitors: Herlena Washington, Greater Works Church; Mark Bivins, Blue Grass Northwood; Robertha Walley; Mary Sperow; Sylvester Wilkins; Charles Barr; Catherine Delre; Donald Drake; Kelvin Postell, Greater Works Church; Jackie Cruse; Paul Forte.

Zoom: Donna Philbrick, SMN, Inc.; Lenell Cunning; Sharon Sumlar; Renee Marina; Cheryl Stewart; Victoria Schultz; Janetta; Pat Medley; Vera Jones-Wilkins; Earnestine Johnson; 904-924-7357.

Staff and Elected Officials: Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr., District 8; Capt. Byron Jackson, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department; Assistant Chief Chuck Ford, JSO; Don Tuten, JEA; Jackie Spiritas, JPL; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Office; Caroline Fulton, Planning and Development Department; Charles Benson, MCCC; Dave McDaniel, Public Works; Pedro Melendez, JEA.

Meeting Summary

- 1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Chair Dr. Donald Green called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified a quorum.
- 2. Approval of the Previous Meeting Summary:** The August 9, 2023, summary will be approved by the CPAC at the October meeting.
- 3. Elected Officials Report:** Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr. Council District 8 reported that:
 - Mayor Donna Deegan's community conversation for District 8 was held Monday, September 11, 2023, at Florida State College at Jacksonville's North Campus, 4501 Capper Rd., from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There were over one hundred citizens in attendance.
 - In late October, Council Member Gaffney is planning a community meeting with the community and Public Works regarding a new traffic light and constructing a four-lane road scheduled for Duval Road and Armsdale Road.
 - Public Works has plans to make the bridge on Harts Road larger. Construction will start this fall.
 - The plaza located on Lem Turner Road and Dunn Avenue has been purchased. Council Member Gaffney Jr. has spoken with the new owner and discussed perhaps placing a grocery store on the property. He is also having discussions with Aldi's Discount Supermarket.
 - A Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen will be constructed on Dunn Avenue.
 - Council Member Gaffney Jr. is on the Land Use and Zoning Committee and the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee has been busy reviewing the budget.
 - Council Member Gaffney Jr. reminded citizens of the importance of attending the City Council, Land Use and Zoning, and the Planning Commission meetings when they have concerns or questions. Seeing the number of citizens concerned and their perspectives helps Council Members make a more informed decision.

Councilman Gaffney may be reached at (904) 255-5208 or RGaffneyjr@coj.net.

4. Chair Report: Chair Green reported that:

- During the CPAC Chairs Mayor's Quarterly meeting, the Chairs met with several Neighborhood Department staff members and Kelli O'Leary, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer. Chair Green asked about the Capital Improvement Plan and the problem of flooding on Owens Road. There is a problem with beavers causing Cedar Creek to back up. They are on private property, and the property owners reside in California. Communication has begun with the property owners, Public Works, and General Counsel to work toward solving the problem. Chair Green also brought Sheffield Park to the mayor's staff attention. The fence continues to be removed so residents can drive their pickup trucks through the area.
- Chair Green selected Sharon Bivins, Mike Getchel, and Tommy Ruffins to serve on the Chair Nominating Subcommittee.
- The first meeting for the DCPS Surtax Citizen Oversight Committee is scheduled for October 12, 2023, at the Schultz Center from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

1. Presentation: Pedro Melendez, Vice President of Planning Engineering and Construction, presented on JEA's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Mr. Melendez explained that the IRP analyzes a combination of existing and new energy supply resources, energy conservation, and other demand-side resources that serve the highest possible public good. JEA's IRP goals for the year 2030 include:

- JEA's power supply portfolio will be 35 percent clean energy.
- JEA will retire less efficient generating assets.
- JEA will use 100 percent clean energy to serve JEA facilities.
- JEA will increase and enhance energy efficiency programs to offset growing demands for electricity used by homes, businesses, and vehicles.
- These goals will result in an 80 percent reduction in JEA's overall carbon emission since 2005. Donald Tuten may be reached at Tutedf@jea.com.

5. Jacksonville Sheriff's Office (JSO) – Asst. Chief Chuck Ford reported that:

- The realignment of zones is going well. Citizens should expect quicker response time to their calls. New patrol officers have been added to District 6. JSO will monitor the response times to calls for the next 90 days. The number of officers will be adjusted if the response time does not decrease.
- Asst. Chief Ford expressed his distress about the tragic shooting that occurred two weeks ago at the Dollar General Store in New Town. He said that Sheriff T.K. Waters has asked that everyone in the City of Jacksonville work together as a community.
- The Connect Duval Camera Registration Program and Unsolved Crimes Database website have been created to assist with cutting back on and investigating crimes. The Connect Duval Camera Program allows residents with video surveillance systems to connect to JSO. Registering your cameras does not allow the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office access to your live video stream - it only enables investigators to know a camera is present at your location and quickly request video evidence should an incident occur. You can visit the JSO website for more information and to register: <https://connectduval.org/>. The Unsolved Crimes can be found on the JSO website: <https://unsolvedcrimes.jaxsheriff.org/>. Hundreds of pictures of those who have committed thefts and misdemeanor crimes can be found on the Unsolved Crimes website. The program allows a citizen to identify the person in the picture anonymously.
- The Sheriff's Watch meeting for Sectors U, V, W and X will be held at the Highlands Branch Library, 1826 Dunn Ave., on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6 p.m. Please call District 6 Substation at (904) 630-8688 for more information.

Asst. Chief Chuck Ford may be reached at (904)696-4335.

6. Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department (JFRD) – Capt. Byron Jackson reported that:

- Hurricane season runs through November 30, 2023. If you haven't already done so, download the JaxReady App, which is brought to you by the Emergency Preparedness Division and Information Technologies Division of the City of Jacksonville. The app provides news feeds for emergency preparedness, weather updates, threat levels, and evacuation and shelter information. Citizens may also register for special needs evacuation assistance. Please visit <https://www.jaxready.com/> for details.

- To keep children safe during Halloween, adults should decorate costumes and trick-or-treat bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. If possible, choose face paint and makeup instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision. Children should carry glow sticks or flashlights so drivers can see them.

Capt. Byron Jackson may be reached at (904) 255-3283 or ByronJ@coj.net.

7. Staff Reports.

- **Jacksonville Public Library (JPL)** – Jackie Spiritas, Executive Assistant 1, reported:
 - September is National Library Card Sign-up Month. Jacksonville Public Library encourages residents to sign up for a library card if they don't have one. Residents of Duval County may 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>.
 - The Main Library is hosting the Americans and the Holocaust traveling exhibit from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The show will run through October 13, 2023.
 - The Jax Book Fest will return on September 22 and 23, 2023. The event will be held at the Main Library, 303 N. Laura St. This year, the library has added free workshops on writing, self-publishing, and networking opportunities with local writers' groups. Visit the JPL website at www.jpl.com to reserve seats for one or more Lit Chat author events.

Jackie Spiritas may be reached at (904) 255-6463 or Spiritas@coj.net.

- **Municipal Code Compliance Division (MCCD)** – Charles Benson, Code Compliance Supervisor, introduced Alec Barnes, a new Senior Code Compliance Officer. Mr. Benson reported that 1,400 inspections were completed in August 2023. A total of 14,000 inspections have been completed year to date. A total of 346 snipe signs have been removed. Anyone can remove these signs when seen on City right-of-way. Mr. Benson announced that:
 - A systematic inspection will be conducted along the Main Street corridor.
 - Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program (JAR) applications are still available. The JAR program assists with required abatement services at no cost to qualifying citizens. The program only prevents liens from being placed on property after the abatement occurs. Visit the Municipal Code Compliance Department website for more information: [https://www.coj.net/Jacksonville Assistance and Relief Program](https://www.coj.net/Jacksonville%20Assistance%20and%20Relief%20Program)
 - Mr. Benson provided the following updates:
 - The property on Renne Drive in San Mateo has been addressed. As well as the recreation vehicles on Avery Drive.
 - MCC Officers regularly monitor the Sunoco Gas Station at 1052 Dunn Ave. It was cleaned on August 28, 2023, and is in bad shape again. The property has been cited again. Dunn Avenue is on MCC's regularly scheduled rotation for major projects in January. A mini project in the area is planned for October.

Mr. Benson encouraged CPAC members to call 630-CITY (2489) to report issues or submit a complaint by visiting the MyJax website, www.myjax.cust.help.com. Mr. Benson also reminded CPAC members that complaints must have names and addresses associated with them. Citizens may contact MCCD if they feel an issue was closed in error. The primary point of contact is the officer assigned to the case. Residents may also email Code Enforcement at CodeEnforcement@coj.net.

Charles Benson may be reached at CBenson@coj.net.

- **Public Works (PW)** – Dave McDaniel, Chief of Mowing and Landscape Maintenance, reported that:
 - Nina Sickler is now the new Director of Public Works.
 - Public Works will receive \$11 million to increase the mowing budget. Edging and mowing will occur 21 times a year, significantly enhancing Duval County's public and green infrastructure. The increase in mowing will also require hiring additional contractors.

Dave McDaniel may be reached at (904) 255-4301 or McDaniel@coj.net.

8. Subcommittee/Liaison Reports.

- **Governmental Affairs and Planning & Development** – Tommy Ruffin and Caroline Fulton, City Planner I.

The North CPAC, Governmental Affairs Subcommittee, reviewed eight applications, recommended no action be taken on seven applications, and opposed one.

- **2023-0536 – Conventional Rezoning: 10939 Biscayne Blvd.:** The applicant seeks to rezone RLD-100A to RMD-C to permit multi-family development of the 1.02-acre parcel. The CPAC opposes conventional rezoning because it does not allow community input. The North CPAC recommends a PUD to allow the surrounding community an opportunity to voice their input and concerns. CPAC members passed the motion unanimously.

Caroline Fulton may be reached at (904) 255-7827 or CFulton@coj.net.

- 9. Neighborhood Coordinator's Report** – Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Coordinator, thanked those who submitted a Neighborhood Award application. The finalist will be notified by email soon. This year's award ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Jacksonville Main Library, 303 N. Laura St., and will include the 30-year celebration of CPACs.

Michelle Godwin-Ware may be reached at 904-255-8236 or Michelllegw@coj.net.

10. Unfinished Business - None

11. New Business – None

12. Public Comments/Concerns/Announcements:

- Robertha Walley asked if there were plans for an alternate route across the Harts Road Bridge for residents while the bridge is being worked on. Mrs. Walley suggested the work be done during the evening when there is less traffic. Council Member Gaffney Jr. stated that Public Works has discussed building a stage bridge. A community meeting will be scheduled to discuss the plans in more detail.
- Paul Forte expressed his concerns with the slow progress of the opening of Owens Road. Council Member Reggie Gaffney Jr. asked Mr. Forte to call his office to schedule a meeting to discuss the problem.
- Sharon Bivins stated that the ditch on Regency Drive behind the McDonald's and Burger King on Dunn Avenue has again become a dumping ground for people experiencing homelessness. Also, the fencing for the Canopy Place Apartments that runs through the Blue Grass/ Northwood neighborhood needs repair. There are portions of the fence that are kicked in and falling over. Mr. Benson said he would send an MCC Officer to investigate the two problems.

13. Motion to Adjourn: Chair Dr. Green adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Next CPAC Meeting: **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**, 5:30 p.m. Hybrid - **Oceanway Senior Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W., 32218, and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 869 9318 1164 Passcode: 595972.

Next Governmental Affairs Subcommittee Meeting: **Wednesday, October 11, 2023**, 4:30 p.m. **Oceanway Senior Center**, 12215 Sago Ave. W. 32218 and via Zoom. Meeting ID: 869 9318 1164 Passcode: 595972.

Summary prepared by Michelle Godwin, Neighborhood Coordinator, Neighborhood Services Office, (904) 255-8236 or MichelleGW@coj.net

A copy of the audio recording of this North 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: [COJ Public Records Request](#).