

# CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1001 IDLEWILD AVENUE, GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024 – 6:30 PM



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## MINUTES

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Call to Order 6:30 PM

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Charles Sohm, Vice Chairman Chris Gay, Secretary Lesley Davidson, Christina Treadway, Donna Snelling, Janey Fox, Jerry Casale, Pamela Lewis, Kevin Hurley, Daniel Nichols, Sharon Wright, Teresa Crockett, Lynn Powers, and Micah Barth.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Raymon and Ramona Ferrara

Chairman to call on members of the audience wishing to address the Council on matters not on the Agenda.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Discussion and approval of CAC and Beautification Sub-Committee meeting minutes for March and April 2024.


### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

2. Beautification Subcommittee update:
  - a. Chris Gay gave an update on the city owned parcels at Walnut/Palmer and Magnolia/St. Johns.
  - b. Chris Gay gave an update on a possible code enforcement issue regarding cars blocking the new sidewalk trail at various locations along Palmetto Avenue. It was reported that the businesses are not obstructing the sidewalk, but some owner/tenants on the south side of SR16 are parking on the sidewalk.
  - c. Update on status of historic 1880 Judge Thomas Judson Rivers house at 219 Spring Street. The city has issued another RFP for contractor bids. An open house will be held on April 18 from 11am until 3pm. Members of the CAC asked why the Public Works employees ripped siding off of the Rivers House and why they won't replace it to make it look better before restoration. Secretary Lesley Davidson also stated that Robert Wood, a local attorney interested in preservation, submitted information regarding grants; Historic Preservation Grants from Florida Trust, Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources Grant News, Florida Main Street Guide to Grants, and National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund. Lesley Davidson will provide these documents for member review.
  - d. Pam Lewis stated she would champion contacting the town of Orange Park about the electric box wraps.

3. Old Business. Guests Raymon and Ramona gave an update on the Magnolia Point tower parcel and possible sale and use of the land.
4. New Business. Chairman Sohm discussed the new barrier wall project at Spring Park. The gravity wall project to protect the area from flooding/storms was discussed. Alternatives were discussed including a suggestion by Lesley Davidson to use a combination mix of Bald Cypress plantings, as recommended by Chris Gay, with a concrete bulkhead gravity wall area that preserves the view and allow access to the river. Chairman Sohm remarked that the combination would save the city money on wetland mitigation/permitting.
5. Jerry Casale asked about the clearing along the north and south of the Shands Bridge and was concerned about housing growth. Chairman Sohm and others remarked that the clearing is for the new First Coast Expressway Shands Bridge and that the preserved lands there will remain but are shifted for the new Shands Bridge and future park access at the old bridge. A discussion on Clay County and development approval/or disapprovals occurred and future topics was referred to Clay County boards.
6. CAC members have asked what the status of the grant writer of which had funds allocated during the last budget cycle. Did the city hire a grant writer?
7. Chris Gay presented the topic of the condition of the strip mall on US 17 adjacent to the Burger King/ Dairy Queen. It was determined that this is a private property and at most will be a code enforcement issue.
8. Janey Fox brought cookies from the Village Improvement Association to thank members of CAC for their hard work. Ms. Fox also announced that the VIA is hosting a show "Suffrage" as their event during Cala Vida Festival, especially for the city's Sesquicentennial. The VIA is 140 years old.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

  
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Lesley J. Davidson, PE, Secretary, CAC

  
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Charles Sohm, Chairman, CAC