Neighborhoods
DEPARTMENT
Serving Jacksonville
Block by Block

Office of the Director

Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
Dec. 15, 2003

SUMMARY

Present:
Mayor John Peyton
Chief Community Officer Pete Jackson
Director of Neighborhoods Roslyn Phillips
Lorrie DeFrank, Chief, Neighborhood Services Division

Chairs present:
Urban Core: Dr. Janetta Norman, chair; Michael Bryant, vice chair
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Gary Dickinson, outgoing chair; Marcella Lowe, incoming chair
Southeast: Angie Vannatter
Southwest: Carl Moore Jr.
Northwest: Diane Kerr
North: Robert Lee, incoming chair

The mayor gave the chairs a brief update on his global goal – improving the economy in Jacksonville – and the six guiding principles of his administration. He said the administration is making great progress in each of the six:

- Economic opportunities
- Streamlining government
- Public safety
- Quality of life
- Literacy
- Housing

He said that neighborhoods continue to play a critical role in shaping this community … and that government alone can't improve neighborhoods. He told the chairs that information from CPACs is valuable in directing policy decisions: "They are based on *what* your needs are, not what we *think* your needs are."

Issues discussed include:

Open space projects/North District: Robert Lee presented a letter mailed to the mayor from the previous CPAC chair in November requesting that the North CPAC be allowed to form a subcommittee to work with the Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department to advise them

on facilities that will be placed in four parks, including the Pumpkin Hill area. He said they want to be involved in planning how that land is used.
Action: *Neighborhoods Department will follow-up with director of Parks, Recreation and Entertainment.*
Folo: Lorrie inter-officed a memo to Bob Baughman on Jan. 9, 2003.
Phil Bruce called 1/22/04: He will consult w/Lyssa Kohler, Preservation Project administrator, and Bob, and someone will contact Mr. Lee. (Lyssa called Lorrie for more info.)

Concrete plants: Robert Lee also expressed his CPAC's concern about two concrete crushing facilities that recycle blacktop and concrete. Unused materials create mountains of unsightly debris along major thoroughfares, including Main Street.
Mayor: The mayor said it's tough when you get into private property, but with the Super Bowl coming the city is encouraging businesses to look good. He said we would get someone from Public Works to look into the situations.
Action: *Neighborhood Department will follow-up with Public Works.*
Folo: Lorrie inter-officed a memo to Sherry Hall on Jan. 9, 2003.
Lorrie e-mailed the following to Robert Lee on Jan. 15, 2004:

Mr. Lee,
I received the following information this morning about the cement plants. (Too bad I didn't have it in time for your CPAC meeting yesterday!)

An inspector from Public Works visited the site at 1050 Heckscher and is working with plant manager Mike Burns to plant additional trees to block the view from the roadway. They are going to plant a row of trees along the roadway in their buffer area to replace the buffer that they have destroyed. .

The site at Main St across from Imeson does not appear to have a buffer problem, except the trees are losing their foliage.

School district representation: The Urban Core (and other CPACs) expressed concern about the lax attendance of school district representatives at monthly CPAC meetings. CPAC members are concerned about school issues and frequently have questions. Most of the representatives are regional superintendents, who have busy schedules and many night meetings. The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to get with School Board President Martha Barrett to ensure that the representatives attend at least quarterly.
Action: *Neighborhoods Department will follow up with that request.* – DONE, 1/13/06
The following is a copy of an e-mail from Lorrie to NSD coordinators 1/13:
Important!!

I just spoke with Nancy Snyder, chief of staff of Duval County Public Schools, concerning the mayor's discussion with the CPAC chairs about district attendance. I told her that the mayor suggested that the regional superintendents attend quarterly, recognizing their busy schedules.

She said they would appreciate that very much.

We agreed that each CPAC chair will contact his or her school district representative to determine which month would be best for them to attend. **It's up to each of you to make that happen.** Please do it this week. It's OK for you to call the school district rep if your chair requests that you do that. (Garry - please take care of Urban Core.) Keep reading!

Also important: Nancy stressed that if there is an issue and a rep is needed at other times, please let them know and they will send someone. Make sure your chairs are aware of that. And, of course, if a rep want to continue to attend monthly, that is OK.

The mayor and the school district are aware of the CPACs' concern about education, student safety and related issues are they are committed to providing information and keeping two-way lines of communication open. - Lorrie

Main Street: Michael Bryant commended the mayor on signs of progress in the Urban Core but expressed concern about the delay in finishing the Main Street project.
The **mayor** assured him that it's going to get done.

Code sweeps: Diane Kerr said that about 1996 Property Safety did a two-day code enforcement sweep that was very successful. She said enforcing codes in some neighborhoods is a big problem again, and requested a sweep by all the divisions that enforce various codes.
Roslyn Phillips said to "give us a call; we'll go out there."

Business partners: Diane said the Northwest CPAC's bus tour this year focused on businesses in the Northwest Planning District and that a couple of businesses have hosted CPAC meetings. She asked for suggestions of more businesses that could host meetings.
The **mayor** suggested hooking up with the regional Chambers of Commerce.

Mathews Bridge: Gary Dickinson inquired about improving the bridge and Arlington Expressway.
Mayor: That's on the radar screen … the next big infrastructure project in Jacksonville, but unlikely within the next 10 years. The improvements would enormously benefit downtown and Arlington.

Roadways/interchanges: Marcella Lowe said she hopes more money will be available to continue the Town Center Initiative to improve neighborhoods that are older than 30 years, and said she has a problem with bigger roads: "Let's make what we have better."
The **mayor** said that some neighbors fought the Mayport flyover, "but now the area looks better than ever." He said proposed roadway projects should be enhancements to neighborhoods.
Angie Vannatter said citizens are concerned about several proposed interchanges, including Southside and Baymeadows.
The **mayor** asked her opinion of that ("I live with one at St. Nicholas. It's ugly, but moves traffic.") He said the city wouldn't have to acquire land at Southside.

Roslyn Phillips told the chairs that part of the Neighborhood Services Division's recent planning retreat included looking at a reorganization to be more responsive to their needs. She said the division hopes to empower citizens more and possibly provide facilitator-led strategic planning sessions in each CPAC. The division also will look for non-traditional resources for community improvements that now rely on general revenue money and partnerships with the private sector to improve neighborhoods.

The **mayor** expressed his appreciation to CPAC volunteers for their time: "The city is better for what you do."