Neighborhoods
DEPARTMENT
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Block by Block

Office of the Director

Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
September 22, 2004

SUMMARY

Present:
Mayor John Peyton
Roslyn Mixon-Phillips, Director of Neighborhoods
Joyce Hellmann Bizot, Senior Planner, Neighborhood Services
Urban Core: Chair Dr. Janetta Norman
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Chair Marcella Lowe
Southeast: Chair Angie Vannatter
Southwest: Chair Carl Moore Jr.
Northwest: Chair Diane Kerr
North: Chair Robert Lee

Mayor Peyton opened his fourth quarterly meeting with the CPAC chairs with a debris briefing – the aftermath of Hurricane Frances. Thus far 80 million pounds of debris has been picked up, 4600 truckloads which, the mayor pointed out, would be 50 miles of trucks end to end. The mayor went on to explain that only 50% has been picked up and that there is a "resource problem" because crews are going to other, more hard-hit locations and in addition, the debris is increasing due to tree clearing for power lines and yard cleaning by homeowners.
Besides the weary crews who have been working 12 hour days, 7 days a week, the mayor said that chain and generator accidents continue to be problems.

The mayor invited the chairs to state their issues and concerns (going in order around the table):

District 2: Marcella Lowe, chair

- The new University Park Library is "gorgeous" although some aspects of the project are not complete nor are they budgeted. The scheduled opening is October 9.
- Wonderwood now connects in the middle although it is not finished. It is "racetrack" at night, dangerous in places. It is underfunded by $40M.
- The Matthews Bridge MUST be fixed. The mayor responded that the solution is hundreds of millions of dollars ($800M) and that federal funds will be sought.
- Some of our public buildings leak: Prime Osborn, the arena and the stadium were among those mentioned.

District 3: Angie Vannatter, chair

- There have been 75 calls against turning the Baymeadows Golf Course and Country Club into housing. No formal plans have been filed but there is discussion that half of the property might be donated for use as a park.
- There is no recent news on the Freedom Commerce Parkway project and there was speculation that the developers may have backed off.
- Angie was asked if she favored the Sunbeam Road extension. She said she considered it too expensive

District 4: Carl Moore, Jr., chair

- The Southwest CPAC is outgrowing their meeting place; 92 went on their recent bus tour of the district.
- New Ways Initiative grants – funding for this year's CPAC grants from JCC was not available in a timely fashion; assurance was given by Ros that procedures have been addressed for future years.
- BJP personal experience at Carl's property needs to be investigated and addressed: 4157 San Juan Avenue.

District 1: Janetta Norman, chair

- A map is being developed for the Urban Core to show areas where traffic control measures such as speed bumps could be added.
- An after-school program for children was recommended, one that would include nutritional snacks and tutoring. A successful program like this was started by Dr. Andrew Robinson in 1972 and sponsored by the City and the YWCA with volunteer tutors.

The Mayor suggested approaching the Jacksonville Children's Commission or the public service grants as sources for such a program.

District 5: Diane Kerr, chair

- Additional funding (estimated at $25,000-50,000) is required to complete the toxicologist's report for three ash sites – Lonnie Miller Park, Forest Park and Cleveland Road.
- Drainage ditches and trenches are not sufficiently maintained to carry off water. They are filled with debris.

The Mayor asked for a list of the locations.

- A question was asked about the status of the site of the new animal shelter. There is still an unresolved issue about the contaminated soil.
- The code enforcement board is apparently ineffective because their rulings are not being implemented. A house at 2845 Edison Avenue has been sited but it is getting worse rather than better. [The owner is to appear before the MCEB because of non-compliance.]

Roslyn indicated that code enforcement officers are being rotated to new districts in an effort to increase effectiveness.

- A Budweiser truck has been seen in the area in the early hours of the morning (apparently involved prostitution) and has driven on, torn up and otherwise caused damage to lawns.

District 6: Robert Lee,chair

- The location of the cruise terminal on Hecksher Drive is not looked up favorably in the North District.

The Mayor noted that cruise ships are becoming bigger due to economies of scale. The larger size necessitates that the terminal be located east of the power lines. Infrastructure costs would be substantial. Mayport may be a better option because the shrimping industry does not have a long future.

- At a recent ShAdCo meeting an evidence technician brought to attention the fact that although crime is up, their staffing levels remain the same.

Carl Moore congratulated the Neighborhood Services Division on the success of the Florida Neighborhoods Conference/ Mayor's Neighborhood Summit (FNC). The mayor added his kudos stating how pleased he was to take part in two of the three days of the event and also at the excellent feedback that he has been hearing from others about it.

Mayor Peyton said that he was unable to attend the FNC on Saturday because of visiting five libraries for the kickoff of his new program, the Mayor's Book Club. Stating that 6000 four-year-olds have signed up, he expressed his joy and enthusiasm saying, "My best day as mayor was Saturday."

The mayor concluded the meeting with the CPAC chairs by discussing the importance of CPAC succession. He stressed that it is the duty of the chair to have a successor in place. New leaders must be developed and nurtured in order for the great work that the CPACs do to continue.