Neighborhoods
DEPARTMENT
Serving Jacksonville
Block by Block

Office of the Director

Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
March 9, 2004

SUMMARY

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

Chairs present:
Urban Core: Michael Bryant, vice chair
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Marcella Lowe, chair; Tom Shouvlin, vice chair
Southeast: Angie Vannatter, chair
Southwest: Carl Moore Jr., chair; Lee Martin, vice chair
Northwest: Diane Kerr, chair
North: Robert Lee, chair; Dick Berry, vice chair

The city's new Chief Operating Officer Dan Kleman stopped by briefly to introduce himself.

Mayor Peyton opened the meeting by talking about his first town hall meeting, which the Northwest CPAC hosted on Feb. 9. More than 200 residents attended, three times more than many previous town hall meetings. He said he was excited to see that many people engaged in the process and "delighted to hear that people are outraged about" such issues as litter and poor drainage, and that he was energized by the determination of those citizens to see change. The mayor asked for suggestions on how to make the meetings more efficient. The next meeting will be hosted by the Southeast CPAC April 19.

Angie Vannatter announced that the Southeast CPAC's annual bus tour will be March 22.

Roslyn Phillips reported that more than 40 CPAC officers and other members attended the Neighborhood Services Division's annual CPAC training on Feb. 24 and that the division intends to provide training for CPACs to do strategic planning to implement at least one project in each planning district – such as litter control or how to better utilize community centers.

The mayor asked for concerns from each CPAC. Discussion items included:

Urban Core:
Main Street: Michael Bryant asked about the status of the funding for the completion of the project.
Mayor: Rep. Corrine Brown put $5 million in the federal transportation legislation, which is expected to come of out committee this spring or early summer. The city asked her to bump it to $8 million.

Michael asked that people be made aware of the **Prosperity Campaign**.
Mayor: People are eligible for earned income tax credits and don't know it. He encouraged making people aware of the program, which also offers free financial literacy assistance beyond the tax season.

The mayor's town hall meeting in the Urban Core will be June 21.

Greater Arlington/Beaches:
Better Jacksonville Plan: Marcella Lowe asked that the mayor keep promises made to voters concerning funding for projects and to resist spending taxpayers' money on Alltel improvements.
The mayor said he is committed to vigorously protecting tax dollars.

The CPAC requested that when planning interchanges, the city look at the entire Beach and Atlantic corridors.
The mayor said studies are under way to make sure that the $250 million slated for interchanges is spent wisely and that the interchanges are constructed in the best possible places.

Tom Shouvlin announced that the District 2 CPAC will host the third annual CPAC picnic in August and that the chairs as a group will determine the date and other logistics.

Southeast:
Transportation/growth: Angie Vannatter said transportation is a major problem. She heard that Butler Boulevard is being considered as state bullet train route and asked about the feasibility.
The mayor said Jacksonville doesn't have the density to justify that.

Angie said that a church bought 40 acres at Greenland Road and U.S. 1, which is preferable than more housing developments at the crowded site.

Angie said the CPAC continues to be concerned about wetlands affected by the Freedom Commerce complex. The mayor asked about the Sunbeam Road extension. (FDOT would need the Freedom project to extend the road.) Angie said the CPAC is not opposed to the extension if it is not too expensive. The mayor agreed that it makes sense to extend it.

Southwest:
Growth: Carl Moore said big projects on the Westside include a new library and expansion at Cecil Commerce Center. Roslyn Phillips said they are looking to moving the Empowerment Zone to the south side of Cecil.

Carl expressed concern that there are not enough schools to serve the number of new developments – 11,000 homes in five years between 103rd Street and I-10.
Clogged and dirty ditches remain a problem, but some builders are taking responsibility for cleaning them.

Northwest:
Literacy: Diane Kerr said that Circuit Judge Karen Cole plans to apply for a grant from the Jacksonville Children's Commission to be put toward a literacy program in the juvenile justice system. She will send a request through each CPAC. (Requests for the commission's New Ways grants, $25,000 for each planning district, go through the CPACs.)
The mayor agreed that the judge is doing good work.

Ash sites: Diane said the community is not receiving information from the city or EPA on the status of the cleanups. Ash sites are on Forest Park, Cleveland Street and Lonnie Miller Park.
Action: The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to request that city attorney Cindy Laquidara make quarterly updates. He suggested that the report be sent to CPAC leaders and put in the Neighborhoods *magazine.*

North:
Community centers: Bob Lee and Dick Berry expressed concern about the low number of city community centers in District 6 compared to other districts. Dick said the CPAC could help locate land for potential new centers.
Action: The Neighborhoods Department will verify how many centers run by the Parks and Community Services departments are in the North District, and what plans there are for more.

Dunn Avenue: Bob said that Dunn Avenue is a "death trap." People are using turning lanes as passing lanes; there have been several head-on collisions. Dick said that the situation needs to be corrected now, especially at Highlands.
Action: The mayor offered to talk to FDOT about the problem.

<u>The mayor asked the chairs' opinions on the following:</u>

Town Center Initiative: More or less money? Are they pleased with the support and service, including from the city and hired firms? The mayor said he is impressed with the way the program engages the community and how it is neighborhood-based.

Response: The program is good, but communication could be better to get more people involved in the visioning sessions. More money is needed for implementation.

Intensive Care Neighborhoods Program: Where do we go from here?

Responses:

- It made a significant difference in targeted neighborhoods.
- Start a new program and identify a fixed period of time that it will last. Set reasonable expectations – identify two or three problems to address.
- Develop a community scorecard of expectations – and involve the community.
- Focus on Town Center Initiative and Neighborhood Action Plan areas. They already have a lot of citizen participation and the programs complement each other.

The mayor reiterated how much he values the CPACs and relies on them to get honest feedback.

Joyce Bizot explained the Neighborhood Services Division's new toolkits for organizing neighborhoods and offered to give each chair and vice chair a copy.
Action: NSD will provide the toolkits.