Neighborhoods
DEPARTMENT
Serving Jacksonville
Block by Block

Office of the Director

Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
June 8, 2004

SUMMARY

Present:
Mayor John Peyton
Lorrie DeFrank, Chief, Neighborhood Services
Urban Core:
- Chair Dr. Janetta Norman
- Vice Chair Michael Bryant

Greater Arlington/Beaches:
- Chair Marcella Lowe
- Vice Chair Tom Shouvlin

Southeast:
- Chair Angie Vannatter
- Vice Chair Charles McBurney

Southwest:
- Chair Carl Moore Jr.
- Vice Chair Lee Martin.

Northwest:
- Chair Diane Kerr
- Vice Chair Randy Mallory

North:
- Chair Robert Lee
- Vice Chair Dick Berry

Roberta Thomas

Mayor Peyton opened his third quarterly meeting with the CPAC chairs by giving a summary of the administration's initiatives. They are working on their second budget -- the first one that is theirs entirely: Instead of presenting it to City Council at one time they are rolling out initiatives at intervals, including:

- Parks – from the biggest in America to the best: A parks task force of about 12 people has been established to determine what is best for parks in Duval County.
- Mayor's Safety First: Unprecedented initiative that included the sheriff and fire chief to develop a three-year plan to work toward a goal of creating the safest city in America.
- JEDC: Calling a temporary moratorium on incentive dollars to determine clear objectives, measurability and accountability
- Literacy: Not launched yet, it will be the first time the city invested in a major way in something to do with education. Focus: 3- to 5-year-olds.

The mayor discussed the courthouse controversy and his commitment to design to a budget. He said the building will be safe, entirely functional and dignified. Several chairs expressed their support of his decisions.

<u>The mayor invited the chairs and vice chairs to voice their concerns:</u>

Several chairs commended the mayor on his proposed literacy initiative and offered suggestions.

Super Bowl Security: Charles McBurney asked about the governor's veto of Super Bowl security funds.
Mayor: That number was a big wish list that included all of the authorities, too. The city will apply for federal assistance. Overtime of police, fire and rescue is a big expense.

Conservation: Dick Berry suggested that under the Preservation Project that the city turn over conservation to Soil and Conservation and let professional foresters manage it.

Freedom Commerce Center: Angie Vannatter said she has been "managing perception" concerning Freedom Commerce Center. The CPAC established a task force to look at wetlands and transportation. The project is at St. Johns River Water Management now and a hearing is scheduled for July. The developer is cooperating and has put another 100 acres of wetlands into conservation – property worth an estimated $50 million. Residents are concerned about transportation and growth; Baymeadows Road and Phillips Highway are already jammed.

Southside Generating Plant: Angie served on a task force that studied use of the property. JEA believes the Haskell offer will be accepted. There has been substantial progress on getting the site cleaned up and they are happy about the way things are going. The Haskell drawing shows a nice-sized park.

Condemned property: Robert Lee said the Wingate North Community is upset about a condemned home where people work on cars and leave trash. Neighbors have called the city several times. The city has responded but the situation remains.
Cami: Action: The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to follow-up.

Lack of meeting space: The North CPAC sent a letter to Councilwoman Gwen Yates about the lack of public places for community meetings. Highlands Library is not being expanded. There are only three community centers, two of which charge a fee, in the district, which is very large. Two centers were torn down in the past several years.
Cami: Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up. Mr. Lee shared his letters to Council.

Asphalt plants: Dick Berry again brought up the issue of asphalt plants on Heckscher Drive (three blocks from the zoo) and Main Street, which residents say are unsightly. He said the plants are working on Better Jacksonville Plan projects and residents would like them to clean up their operational bases.
Cami (I already gave this one to Public Work)i: Action: The mayor acknowledged that this has been an ongoing concern and asked that Public Works investigate it again. Dick submitted color photos of the sites.

From Sherry Hall, June 9: I've spoken with Rex Holmlin about the photos/information you gave me this morning. He is going to take care of the issue with the contractor. One of us will follow-up with you once a resolution is determined and let you know the outcome.

June 11, 2004:
Hi Lorrie,

I spoke with Bob Scott (BJP) about the plants on Heckscher and Main Street. These are not BJP contractors. I've been told that if they are zoned for that use, which we think they are, there's probably not much we can do because it's private property. The one on Heckscher is a cement plant. The Building Inspection Division met with them awhile back and they agreed to plant a row of trees as a buffer. Beyond that, there's not much we can do. There are already trees in front of the one on Main Street.

I'll send the photos back to you via interoffice mail.

Have a great weekend.

Sherry Hall

June 14, 2004:
Derek,

The North CPAC chair (and his predecessor) brought up the attached issue at several of their quarterly meetings with the mayor. The city has followed up but the residents still are not satisfied with the appearance of these two asphalt plants. It appears now that they are private businesses and there is little that the city can do, unless there are code violations. Will you please follow up on that and let me know the outcome so I can report back to the mayor? Thanks. - Lorrie

From Derek Igou, 7/8/04: *Sent supervisor to check. No property safety violations. They were zoned correctly.*

Derek suggested checking with Air and Water Quality to see if there are any environmental violations.

E-mailed Steve Pace at AWQ 7/9/04. Hi Steve,
The last few times the mayor met quarterly with the CPAC chairs, the North District chair brought up unsightly asphalt plants. Several departments have followed up and found no violations. Yesterday Derek Igou confirmed no code violations but suggested that I ask you to see if there are any environmental violations. Please have someone investigate and let me know, so I can report back to the Mayor's Office. Background information is attached. Thanks. - Lorrie

From Steve Pace J:uly 12, 2004:
Lorri:
Pursuant to your request the EQD conducted inspections of the sources you had noted in your e-mail.
Please note only one fugitive particulate incident was noted, and the source so warned.
Please advise if EQD can be of further assistance in this matter.
Steve

>>> Judy Malcomb 07/12/04 09:17AM >>>
Compliance inspections were performed at Southern Products, 1050 Heckscher Drive and Underground Contractors, Inc., 10010 N. Main Street on July 9, 2004. Both facilities are located on property that is zoned heavy industrial and have Air Pollution permits.

A track out problem was noted from Underground Contractors, Inc. onto Franklin Avenue. A verbal warning was given to Ray Grode, Regional Manager. Previous inspections have noted no violations.
***NOTE: "Track out" means debris on the roadway from truck tires*.**

No violations were noted at Southern Products during the 7/9/04 inspection. Previous inspections have noted no violations.

Judy Malcomb
Response Operations Supervisor
630-1212 x 3897

Downtown parking for residents: Dr. Janetta Norman and Michael Bryant said residents in the Cathedral complex have to move their cars every two hours to avoid getting parking tickets in their neighborhood. Residents have a problem parking in business areas. Michael said they would like to have parking decals for their vehicles.
Mayor: Let's get the scoop on that. I want to do everything possible for the people living downtown. I consider them pioneers. I don't want government service to be a barrier.
Doris: Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.
E-mail from Doris Leach 6/16: Bob Carle is on leave until July 1, so I had the opportunity to speak with Margaret Flowe in Public Parking. She informed me that they are aware of the parking issues for downtown residents, but are only able to enforce preexisting ordinances. She stated that any change needed to remedy the solution would need to come from the Mayor himself or City Council.
On that note, I contacted Lin in Councilwoman Jenkins' office, who was fully apprized of the situation. She stated that the issue had been addressed during the Downtown Zoning Overlay, and there are no requirements for residential or commercial parking. She further stated that a private entity such as Downtown Vision, who represents the interests of business owners and residents in the area, could prompt actions to be taken in order to have a private contractor come in and construct garages to alleviate the current parking problems.
Thanks, Doris. I have incorporated this info into the mayor's briefing. I'll copy you.
Please continue following up on this one, per the mayor's request at his meeting with the chairs. Start with the CPAC. Perhaps the chair and/or vice chair could contact Downtown Vision. Keep me posted, so I can report back to the Mayor's Office. - Lorrie

>>> Doris Leach 06/17/04 07:42AM >>>

Codes and zoning: The Urban Core representatives also expressed concern about the lack of code enforcement officers to do inspections. Diane Kerr said that although courtesy and service from zoning (Planning Department) and property safety (Neighborhoods) enforcement officers have been "terrific," she agreed that more are needed and suggested a part-time summer staff.
Mayor: We are putting the budget together now.
Concerning zoning, Diane said that buildings are popping up without going through the permitting process, and to get rid of them there is the issue of property owner's rights.
The mayor asked her to get addresses.
Marilyn: Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.

Town Center: Diane said she appreciates that the North Riverside and Murray Hill projects were funded. She and Marcella Lowe thanked him for the program and requested that more funds be allocated to the initiative.
The mayor said he is a big fan of Town Centers and hopes to secure funds to move the projects forward. He said he is impressed by the program because "getting residents to share and implement a vision is a good thing." He cautioned that the budget is tight but said he is committed to the program.

Animal Shelter: Diane Kerr said that EPA received no negative responses from public comments concerning construction of Animal Care and Control's new building.
The mayor said there are rumors about pulling that project but there is no change to the plans to date. He said the Humane Society has requested partnering with Animal Care and Control (as it does in other cities) and the city is open to discussion.

Equestrian Center: Carl Moore said the new 150-horse barn has no electricity or water.
The mayor said that doesn't make sense to him and said we would check on that.
Tree: Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.
From BJP, 6/15/04: It hasn't been installed yet. The best answer is that Public Works is working with SMG to get that resolved, and from what I'm told the Mayor's office is aware of the situation.

June 15: E-mailed Marcy Cook – her response was:
It hasn't been installed yet. The best answer is that Public Works is working with SMG to get that resolved, and from what I'm told the Mayor's office is aware of the situation.

August 4 follow up e-mail to Marcy Cook and Lesa Williams – Lesa's response was:
With regard to these issues, we are currently working with the Dept of Administration/Finance under the direction of Cal Ray to apply funds that have been raised thru sponsorship to address electric and water. There is no definitive time frame to date, but once the monies are appropriated these items will be addressed.

Fuller Warren Bridge: Carl said the roadway at the base of the new bridge is pockmarked.
Mayor Peyton: The mayor said we have a great relationship with FDOT and offered to talk to them about that.

Super Bowl Traffic: Carl said residents are concerned about the traffic that week because it is already heavy.
The mayor said that, unlike Houston, people will be able to walk to most venues downtown. He said people are working full time on the traffic situation. Buses will be critical.

Old Arlington: Marcella said residents would like no more apartments, day care centers or pawn shops. A sign advertising a pawn shop to be opened on Merrill Road recently appeared overnight. She said Councilwoman Pat Lockett-Felder said it will not happen.

Wonderwood: Marcella pleaded with the mayor not to let the Wonderwood bridge open until construction is finished on roads that connect to it. She said the roads are dangerously narrow and residents fear for their safety. She stressed that they are not opposed to the project but opening the bridge this summer would be a disaster waiting to happen.
Mayor Peyton: The mayor offered to call Michael Blaylock at JTA concerning the issue.

Tom Shouvlin announced that the annual CPAC picnic will be Aug. 7 but the location has not been determined.

The mayor thanked the volunteers for the service and said he appreciates their leadership.