Neighborhoods DEPARTMENT
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Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
Aug. 7, 2003

SUMMARY

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

Chairs
Urban Core: Dr. Janetta Norman
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Gary Dickinson
Southeast: Angie Vannatter
Southwest: Carl Moore Jr.
Northwest: Diane Kerr
North: Harry Wagner

Mayor Peyton opened the meeting by praising the CPACs and explaining where he stands concerning them. During his campaign he had attended CPAC meetings in all six districts and was most impressed by two things:

- A structure is in place, where government meets the people
- The energy and commitment from the leadership

The mayor said he will continue the CPAC concept because "it works" to foster two-way communication between government and citizens. He said he also was impressed by the Neighborhood Summit because he had "not been in a room where there was so much excitement around Jacksonville."

He pledged to continue the following community outreach initiatives:

- Quarterly meeting with CPAC chairs
- Mayor's town hall meetings
- Neighborhood Summit

He said his administration is committed to improving service and decreasing costs.

"Burning issues" that are priorities for his staff include literacy, public safety, parks (transition from biggest to best) and technology.

He discussed the current budget process and his intention to "lean up the way we do government."

He said there is a need to accomplish two things:

- Create economic opportunities (jobs)
- Develop a workforce that can compete in this knowledge age
  (School system reflects poverty. Need to foster an environment where businesses can succeed … get the per capita income up. Educating kids ages 3-5 is critical to avoiding illiteracy.)

The following topics of discussion were brought up by CPAC chairs:

Overpass at University and Atlantic:

Gary Dickinson expressed concern about this controversial issue.

The mayor agreed that it is a controversial issue that he is very familiar with, having served on the JTA board for a number of years. He said JTA feasibility studies have been good and that the solution will be the one that serves the greater good. Immediate residents are the most vocal in opposition. Most people who drive through the intersection rarely take the time to attend hearings. The mayor said that transportation is a quality of life issue and that he will consider the data when making interchange decisions.

Literacy:

Carl Moore said that UNF nursing students who have been attending CPAC meetings are working in blighted areas. Their studies show the need to change a perception of a neighborhood in order to give it hope.

The mayor reiterated the need to teach children to read at an early age and the importance of family life encouraging a learning environment.

Piles of asphalt:

Harry Wagner said two big unsightly piles of asphalt from roadwork in other parts of the city are along Main Street and Heckscher Drive.

John Curtin said he believes they are on private property and will look into it.

Action: Neighborhoods Department will investigate this issue. *(See below.)*

Eastport and Pulaski roads:

Harry fears that someone will get killed at this intersection, which, after 50 years, now has a four-way stop. Flashing lights are needed to warn motorists.

Action: Neighborhoods Department will contact Public Works about the concern.

Public Works' traffic study showed the four-way stop is warranted. Stopping the flashing lights after four weeks is standard procedure. PW not aware of any problems due to removal of flashers. (On Sept. 23 NSD requested exact locations of piles of asphalt. No response.)

I-295 and 95:

Harry said it is the only unlit interstate interchange.

The mayor said this is an FDOT issue and he will bring it to their attention.

Action: Mayor (see above)

Mayor followed-up with FDOT. Lights are installed.

Ash sites:

In response to concerns raised by Diane Kerr, the mayor said his administration is committed to being pro-active and doing the right thing.

Growth:

Angie Vannatter said she planned to attend a meeting that night concerning a proposal to build a Super Target and Super Wal-Mart across from each other at Hodges and Beach, and that her CPAC is concerning about a huge proposed residential/shopping/commercial development at Phillips and I-95. A presentation on the project is planned for the Southeast CPAC's September meeting.

The mayor said that is another example of how the CPAC program is working to keep citizens informed.

Business incentives:

Carl said he is a concerned about the mayor's intention to open up incentives to businesses outside the north and west sections of the city.

The mayor said they will be opened up to other areas that need them, such as the Emerson Avenue area, but not to congested areas.

Speeding in neighborhoods:

Dr. Norman said she had repeatedly brought up the need for speed signs or bumps in the Moncrief, Myrtle and 19th to 33rd street area.

The mayor asked her for a map showing the exact locations of the request. He said Public Works will research it and the answer will be determined by traffic studies.

Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow-up to get the map to Public Works.

NSD has spoken with Dr. Norman and Public Works several times about this. PW needs exact street locations; she said she would like speed bumps on "all residential side streets" in the Moncrief/Myrtle area (see attached map.)

North businesses:

Harry expressed dismay that the proposed Main Street Mall no longer is a consideration.

The mayor said the housing spurt will generate business there.

CPAC picnic:

Harry invited the mayor to the third annual CPAC picnic, which the North CPAC will host from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Aug. 23 at Ribault Clubhouse on Fort George Island. The mayor said he will try to attend.

The mayor closed the meeting by expressing his appreciation to the chairs for the time they put into serving their communities and said his administration will do what it can to be responsive to community concerns.

The mayor also commended John Curtin for his service to the City of Jacksonville and praised his accomplishments as director of the Neighborhoods Department.