Neighborhoods
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Office of the Director

Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs
March 7, 2005

Attending:
Mayor John Peyton
Director of Neighborhoods Roslyn Phillips
Chief of Neighborhood Services Lorrie DeFrank
Chairs:

- Dr. Janetta Norman, District 1
- Marcella Lowe, District 2
- Charles McBurney , District 3
- Lee Martin, District 4
- Diane Kerr, District 5
- Richard Berry, District 6

Mayor Peyton expressed his pride in the city's hosting of Super Bowl XXXIX and said that everyone who played a role at every level played it well. He commended the chairs for their part in the citywide cleanup, which he hopes set a standard for keeping the city clean. He said he will continue his trolley rides to do inspections.

Dr. Norman invited the mayor to participate in CPAC bus tours for that purpose. The mayor said the city has to stay focused "on things we need to fix." He said it's his hope to parlay the downtown Super Bowl activity into more downtown housing, adding that the JEA site on the Southbank and the Shipyards are good prospects. He said a city goal is to get the current City Hall Annex property on the tax roles and predicted that Bay Street is going to be a hot address.

He also predicted that growth management is going to surge past all other issues in priority.

Discussion items included:

Sheriff's taser meetings: Sheriff Rutherford is scheduled to speak at all CPAC meetings about using tasers in schools. Roslyn Phillips said that the *Times-Union* included the CPAC meetings in its list of "town hall" meetings the sheriff has planned on that subject. She told the chairs to expect attendees for that purpose and asked that they accommodate the citizens and the sheriff on this issue.

Botanical garden: Dr. Norman asked if the city would consider a botanical garden for the Urban Core. At one time, landscaping had been planned along MLKing Expressway near Moncrief and Myrtle.

The mayor suggested that the zoo would be a logical place for a botanical garden, which he said is "astronomically expensive."
Action: Neighborhood Services will follow-up on landscaping planned for MKL. - Doris

Road resurfacing: Dr. Norman said that roads in the Brentwood area are in need of resurfacing.
Action: Neighborhood Services will check the Better Jacksonville Plan schedule to see when Brentwood, Pearl and other streets in the area of concern will be resurfaced. - Doris

Abandoned houses: Dr. Norman said the Urban Core has a high numbers of abandoned houses that attract transients.
Roslyn Phillips said Property Safety has made a lot of progress, has caught up with two-thirds of its backlog and is working closely with JSO on the issue. She said the city has changed a lot of rules to allow problem dwellings to be town down more quickly. She encouraged residents to call 630-CITY with specific concerns. She said a goal of the Housing Commission is to identify non-profit agencies to rehab abandoned houses and develop more CDCs.
Action: Neighborhood Services will get a copy of Chattanooga's ordinance that allows putting a big sign on the property saying something like: "This property is derelict; owned by _____ "
Update: *Kenardo Curry, administrator, Neighborhood Services, City of Chattanooga, said there is no special ordinance. The standard codes ordinance allows for public posting. They call it the Last Chance Initiative. In addition to posting a sign on the door, they also "go large" and post a 4- by 8-foot metal sign in front of the property. He said it's a reusable sign; they have the numbers and names changed. Owners HATE it! Derek Igou will contact Mr. Curry about this and other codes policies.*

University Park Library: Marcella Lowe said the conference room at the new branch library is unfinished. Are funds in place for it to be built out?
Status, from Public Works/BJP: *The conference room build out at the University Park Branch Library is programmed and will be completed soon. Our plan is to pull together surplus funds from completed branches and seek to re-allocate them to the University Park Branch for that purpose. A budget for this project has already been estimated and appears to be within our means.*

Town Center Initiative: Marcella asked about the status of continued funding for the program. Rogero Road has been funded for Phase I and organizers would like to continue their project.
The mayor said he continues to be committed to the Town Center program, which he called a good concept.
University Boulevard plan: Marcella also asked about the status of a beautification project along University Boulevard from the Clifton area to Arlington Road, which she said is hung up in Public Works because federal (DOT) funding through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act (ISTEA) has not come through. She said the plan – which started 11 years ago -- was approved but the dollars have not been available.
Action: At the mayor's request, the Neighborhoods Department will look into the matter.
Status: *3/11/05: The area is within the Old Arlington Neighborhood Action Plan, but is not a part of it. According to Fred Pope, landscape architect, Engineering Division: Public Works is in the process of preparing specs to put the project out to bid. Although there had been talk about the project for more than 10 years, Old Arlington applied for the ISTEA grant* (checking

on date of this.) *The city entered into an agreement with FDOT in March 2003. The money has been delayed since then because FDOT based the funding on an underestimated cost estimate by the consultant. FDOT now is looking for more money to fund the project and Public Works has made it a priority project. The goal is to get the bids out by the end of April.*

Update 4/11/05: *Councilwoman Pat Lockett-Felder met with four members of Old Arlington Inc. and Ed Hall, Steve Long and Fred Pope from Public Works on 4/11/05 to discuss expediting the funding for this project. New cost estimate, based on today's prices, is $782,000. FDOT had given only $512,000. Public Works presented four proposals (plans for four sections of work) to be put out to bid. The first section – Arlington Road to Playa Way – is a priority. The other three are alternates to be completed as funding becomes available. Action items:*

- *Ed said the project qualifies for$100,000 from the Tree Fund. The councilwoman asked Ed to e-mail her that request by the end of the day so she could get the request for the appropriation on the next day's City Council agenda.*
- *The councilwoman asked Ann Burt from Old Arlington to send her a letter requesting that the city move on the funding so she can go to the administration for help.*
- *The councilwoman also offered to request federal money through Congresswoman Corrine Brown.*

Baymeadows/growth management: New SE CPAC Chair Charles McBurney said he established education and safety subcommittees. He said that although he did not take a vote, the overwhelming consensus of members was to support the mayor's veto of the Baymeadows housing project. Growth management is a major concern of the CPAC. Charles said members are concerned about the proposed Southside Boulevard overpass because of impact on businesses.

The mayor said having traffic flowing through the intersection better takes priority because that affects people's quality of life.

Traffic/Collins Road: Lee Martin said traffic on Collins Road is extremely heavy, particularly between Blanding and Roosevelt. He said the problem is unique there because the timing of NAS traffic causes four rush hours a day. Plus there are a lot of school buses, and warning signs are at elementary schools only.

Action: The mayor said that is a Better Jacksonville Plan project and asked that BJP and FDOT make presentations at the April SW CPAC meeting. The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to look into the school warning sign policy and he requested a copy of the Collins Road plans. – Marilyn

Update, 3/31/05: Marilyn said she has arranged for Ted Finch of HDR/RSH Consultants, BJP consultant for the project, to speak at the April SW CPAC meeting. He is going to bring the plans to the meeting

There was discussion concerning legitimate businesses intentionally selling items that are used as **drug paraphernalia.**

Literacy: Diane Kerr said the NW CPAC has begun reading to kids before each CPAC meeting. *The mayor commended the CPAC and said that his book club for 4-year-olds has 8,400 members.*

Land use/community input: Diane said that Resolution 2004-1240, land use element of the 2010 comprehensive plan that concerns existing commercial land use at or near intersections of collector roads or larger, takes away the community's right to comment.
Update: The resolution was adopted on Nov. 9, 2004. Roslyn will get with Jeannie Fewell about the concern.

Home/park concerns: The Coleman home at **239 Bronson St.** backs up to a park at McCoy's Creek and Webster. Drainage is bad and the area around the playscape is dangerous. Diane said the city needs a regular schedule of trench cleanup and equipment checks, and the park needs to be cleaned or taken out.
Follow-up: From Lorenzo Williams, March 8, 2005: The park you refer to is Hollybrook Park. The park is located in a bog. The water from the streets drains into the park, which causes a drainage problem. Park Mainenance is in the process of working with Streets and Drainage to divert the water into a culvert. Mr. Coleman is correct in assessing that the ditch should be maintained on a regular basis. e are in contact with Streets and Drainage to determine the responsibility for maintenance of the ditch. We should have the matter resolved by the end of the month.

Community centers: Dick Berry brought up the longstanding concern about the low number of community centers in the North District. He said that two senior centers had been condemned, leaving only one in the district.
Action: Neighborhoods will find out if the Community Services or Parks departments have plans for centers in the district? – Cami

Update 3/17/05: *According to Bob Baughman, the only new one will be a proposed center at Sheffield Regional Park. The park is currently being master planned. However, there is no funding at this time for construction.*

Dick Berry identified the closed facilities as Garden City Center, located on Lem Turner Road and Ray Greene Center, located in the Ray Greene Park on Leonid Street.

A reply has been requested from Delphia Williams, Community Services.

Update 4/13/05: *According to Marilynn Stevenson, Chief of Adult Services, there are no plans at the present to add an additional senior citizen center in the North District.*

Former health facility: Dick said the former health department facility at Oceanway that has been closed for about five years should be declared surplus and would be a good place for a Town Center project, with a fountain and park.

BJP: Dick said that the North District has acquired a third asphalt plant as a result of Better Jax projects. He said Pulaski Road is being widened but when it is finished in 2006 it will still be a failed road because of increased traffic.

The mayor told the chairs that he appreciates their leadership and reminded them to push for succession. He said they all are capable leaders who should reach out for new community leaders.