Neighborhoods
DEPARTMENT
Serving Jacksonville
Block by Block

Office of the Director

Summary of Mayor Peyton's Quarterly meeting with CPAC Chairs
4:30 p.m. Sept. 20, 2005– Mayor's Conference Room

SUMMARY

Attending:
Mayor John Peyton
Roslyn Mixon-Phillips, Director, Neighborhoods Dept. & Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Lorrie DeFrank, Chief, Neighborhood Services Division

CPAC Chairs:
Urban Core: Dr. Janetta Norman
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Marcella Lowe
Southeast: Charles McBurney
Southwest: Lee Martin
Northwest: Vice Chair Randy Mallory
North: Richard Berry

Mayor Peyton announced that beginning next spring, he will attend a different CPAC meeting every other month, as follows:

- March 27, District 3, Southeast
- May 8, District 4, Southwest
- July 13, District 5, Northwest
- Sept. 13, District 6, North
- Nov. 6, District 1, Urban Core
- Jan. 8, 2007, District 2, Greater Arlington/Beaches

The mayor opened the meeting by telling the chairs he enjoys their meetings because they allow him to talk about the issues of the day.

Cecil Field: The mayor said he wants them as leaders to know why he believes the city is moving in the right direction by working to get to the Navy to return to Cecil Field. He said great cities have a good economy and that a disturbing trend here is that the per capita income is below average and sliding downward. Bringing Navy jets back to Cecil Field would create 10,000 to 12,000 higher paying jobs with a $1 billion immediate payroll impact. He said government should help folks who are impacted by the sound of the planes. The economic impact of the Navy's return on Northeast Florida would be unprecedented. It would take a generation to have a comparable activity at Cecil Field and a similar opportunity would not come

along for a century. The mayor said two economists have been hired to study the economic impact and land values.

Lee Martin asked that someone from the administration attend the Southwest CPAC's November meeting to talk about Cecil Field. He thanked the mayor for holding a town hall meeting in the Equestrian Center to listen to residents' concerns.
Action: Done. Neighborhood Services arranged for Dan McCarthy to attend on Nov. 14.

<u>The chairs raised the following concerns:</u>

Urban Core:
Janetta Norman said 21 **streets in the Urban Core have not been resurfaced** as part of The Better Jacksonville Plan.
The mayor asked the Urban Core CPAC to prioritize a list and give it to Public Works.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up.

Update:
1. Grunthal St.
2. Wilson St.
3. Moncreif Rd.
4. Line St.
5. Norfolk Blvd.
6. McDuff Ave.
7. Williamsburg Ave.
8. Commonwealth Ave
10. Myrtle Ave.
11. Beaver St.
12. Suffolk Ave.
13. Pearce St
14. Fairfax St.
15. Acorn St.
16. New Kings Rd.
17. Division St.
18. Canal St.
19. Cleavland Rd.
20. Sibbald Dr.
21. Gilchrist Rd.

Sinkholes are being filled but it's not working -- in Durkeeville on 10th Street and Durkee Drive.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up.

People have expressed concern to Councilwoman Gwen Yates about inadequate equipment at **Simonds-Johnson Park**.
The mayor asked Neighborhood Services to follow up with Paul Crawford, director of the Parks Department.

Update per Paul Crawford:
The following is a list of the equipment reportedly stolen/damaged from Simonds-Johnson Park:

Stereo	*DVD/VCR*	*Television*	*Microwave*
Computer CPU	*Hard drive*	*Printer*	*Fax machine broken*
Portable radio	*Boom box*	*Floor buffer*	*File cabinets*
Miscellaneous sports equipment			

Equipment is due to be replaced based on budget availability.

The following improvements were made at the request of neighborhood residents.

1. *Basketball court lighting was improved*
2. *Moved (3) park benches closer to the basketball court in an effort to deter drug deals*
3. *Trimmed trees, removed hedges from around the center, removed tree and grinded stump*
4. *Installed a walk-in area on SE corner of the park*
5. *Installed signs indicating the length of the walking track - these have been re-installed several times due to vandalism*
6. *Pressure washed and cleaned the area behind the center where the transients have been staying*

Greater Arlington/Beaches:

Marcella Lowe thanked the city for updates on the following two issues:

1. **University Park Library** Community Room: *Status as of 9/19/05: – In design now; out for bid in one month; under construction by end of this year; completed in January 2006.*
2. **Lone Star Road** - update and general concerns with the road project: *Update from Public Works 9/19/05**:** Lone Star has been an extremely difficult project. Expected completion is now February 2006 (as opposed to the original completion of August).*

Marcella expressed concern about **city budget cuts**, specifically where they might impact the Neighborhood Services Division, which she said is "very important to the citizens of Jacksonville."

Roslyn Phillips explained that the city is looking at all departments and divisions for duplication of services. She said she has until the end of December to give City Council reasons why the department should stay intact.

Marcella asked for the other chairs' support in lobbying to keep Neighborhood Services. She said Clean It Up, Green It Up also is an extremely important division.

Charles McBurney said Neighborhood Services is indispensable with CPAC support and he supports its retention.

Roslyn said the functions and activities will not go away in any area.

Marcella said residents are pleased with the progress of two projects:

1. The ISTEA **project to improve University Boulevard** is under way. Work will start at Arlington Road and continue toward the expressway.
2. Work is moving along on the **Arlington Road Town Center Initiative** project and she hopes Town Center funding will be available in the future.

Southeast:
Charles McBurney requested that the city assist the school district in **acquiring land and constructing new schools** in the high-growth Southeast Planning District.
The mayor agreed there's got to be a partnership and said the Planning and Development Department is working with the school district on that.

CPAC membership: Charles said that although the Southeast CPAC usually has 40 or more neighborhoods represented at any meeting, that is a small percentage of neighborhood organizations in the district. The SE CPAC's subcommittee chairs suggested that the city conduct a public service campaign to increase awareness and enthusiasm for CPACs.
Mayor Peyton said that's a good idea that will bring new leaders and fresh ideas to the CPACs. He encouraged frequent changes of chairs for the same reason.
Roslyn said the Neighborhood Services Division revised its citizen training this year (CommUniverCity) with the purpose of cultivating new leaders. She said the department could support the request through the Neighborhood Services and Public Information divisions.
Dick Berry suggested getting the names of new homeowners associations from developers and promoting CPACs through TV and Jacksonville Community Council Inc.
The mayor challenged Neighborhood Services to come up with creative ways to increase CPAC membership.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up. (We will all work on this one! – L)

Southwest:
Lee Martin expressed concern about **flooding in Melissa Estates**.
The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to check the flooding priority list.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up.
Mary Beth, what's the status of this?

Lee mentioned maintenance concerns at **Wiley Park**.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up.
And this?

Northwest:
Randy Mallory said the NW CPAC sent a letter to Alan Mosley about **drainage problems** at Fitzgerald and Lackawana.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up.
The letter that was sent to Alan Mosley was on mowing the city right-of-way and putting them on a schedule and the drainage ditches that need to be cleaned as well. Therefore there is impaired drainage.

Randy said neighbors are concerned about a **halfway house** on 12th Street that is near schools. He said, "Until we find out more details, just be aware."
The NW Planner, Lara Diettrich, was checking with OGC to see if they could legally sub-lease the halfway house to someone other than the State of Florida.

North:
Dick Berry brought up two recurring issues:

1. They are working with a City Council member to have one of the two community centers that were torn down replaced.
2. Asphalt plants on Heckscher Drive and Main Street remain unsightly.

The mayor asked that staff follow up on the possibility of planting trees as a remedy.
on Heckscher Drive and Main Street.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up. (Cami, the mayor specifically said this time to see if trees can be planted as a buffer. The response in the past is that it's private property …but please pursue the trees request. – L)

Update (9/23/05): Per Mike Robinson, JEA would be able to supply some trees. They would be concerned about trees being compatible with the location (no tall trees under lines being used). JEA assumes the City will be coordinating with FDOT if plantings are on City property. Joe Dunbar, JEA has been asked to review and determine any conflicts.

(9/29/05): Mike Robinson - This area is not part of a project by JEA at this time. Recently, he spoke to Richard Berry regarding what his recommendations would be and did not lead him to believe that JEA had the project. He recommended that 6" caliper live oaks be planted at 30' spacing in the curve area to provide a quick screening. 30' is closer than what's usually done. However, for fast screen he suggested it. JEA does not grow 6" trees. The largest they do is 2" caliper. The scope or intent of the community does not fit to what JEA has available.

Input has been requested from Alan Mosley and Paul Crawford regarding possible involvement.
Update (9/23/05): Lorenzo Williams, Park Maintenance – he will check to see if the Tree Mitigation program can be used for this project.
Per Milton Locklear, FDOT - if the landscaping is on FDOT's right-of-way, a permit will be needed from FDOT. He will review this request with the Permits engineer.

(9/29/05): Nancy Kirts, Park Maintenance - spoke to Fred Pope who indicated that the area in question is part of a very large tree mitigation project with JEA. He suggested contacting Michael Robinson, JEA Forester to receive specific details. (SEE MIKE ROBINSON'S RESPONSE ABOVE)

Update (9/23/05): Per Lin White, this is a very good idea. She has been working on this and learned that neither Property Safety nor Zoning Code Enforcement has any basis on which to cite the asphalt company. She was planning to suggest that C/M Alvarez use his influence to get them to improve their appearance, but planting trees is an excellent suggestion. She's sure she can get the Councilman to introduce legislation to fund the trees out of the Tree Mitigation fund. However, a landscape architect would have to produce a plan and indicate the number and kind of trees. That is required in order to draft legislation. She can suggest that C/M Alvarez request the services of Greenscape to produce the landscape plan and do the planting as well.

Update (9/26/05): Per Dick Berry, he's aware of the problem caused by the asphalt plant on Heckscher Drive, but was not aware of the request for JEA to supply trees to cure the problem, caused by the plant operator which has received 10's of millions of dollars from the Better Jacksonville Plan. He doesn't know if this is a solution arrived at by the Neighborhoods

Department or the Mayor's office. There was a "junk yard" problem on 9A several years ago. That problem was solved by Public Works, through Fred Pope using the Tree Mitigation fund which currently has a balance in excess of $ 5.3 million. Because the problem is caused by the asphalt plant, they should be responsible for correcting the problem through City Staff inspections. Also, there are a lot of "Wet Lands" on this site, which he does not believe are being protected.

Update (9/26/05): Per Milton Locklear, from FDOT's Permits Department:
If the plantings are on City property we would have no say in the matter, though we would want them to analyze and maintain all required site distances so that the traffic could safely enter/exit our roadway system. If the plantings were proposed within our r/w a Permit would be needed as well as a Maintenance Agreement from the local government pledging to maintain the new landscape installations. For the permit we would need an application and plans so that we could review/comment on the appropriateness and safety of the installation (a minimum 4 copies of the permit application and plans would be needed).

Lorrie talked to Lin White 10/3/05: She will handle this issue. She will contact Warren Alvarez (and Dick Berry) and pursue using Tree Mitigation Funds with GreenScape doing the design. Lorrie told her that JEA has offered to provide trees.

Dick said residents oppose canceling the Eastport/Main Street overpass (railroad crossing) Better Jacksonville Plan project, as suggested in Bill 2005-898.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006, 4:30 p.m.