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., Jan. 17, 2006 - Mayor's Large Conference Room

SUMMARY

Attending:
Mayor John Peyton
Roslyn Mixon-Phillips, Director, Neighborhoods Department and
Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Kevin Holzendorf, Mayor's Office
Lorrie DeFrank, Chief, Neighborhood Services Division

CPAC officers:
Urban Core: Dr. Janetta Norman, chair; Bishop Eugene Johnson, vice chair
Greater Arlington/Beaches: Tom Shouvlin, chair; Joseph Lek, vice chair
Southeast: Charles McBurney, chair; Gamal Lyons, vice chair
Southwest: Lee Martin, chair; Ralph Malphurs, vice chair
Northwest: Joseph Anderson, chair; Gadson Burgess, vice chair
North: Tommy Ruffin, chair; Richard Berry, vice chair

Mayor Peyton opened the meeting by thanking the CPAC officers for their volunteerism and telling them that he values his meetings with them. He encouraged all the chairs to have a succession plan in place.

Chairs submitted the following issues for discussion:

Urban Core:

Hogan's Creek: Bishop Johnson said there are unhealthy bacteria and other pollution in Hogan's Creek
The mayor said "some of our best people" are working on an initiative to have a cleaner river and creeks, including Hogan's and McCoy's.

Confederate Park: Dr. Norman said geese, ducks and chickens are making a mess at the park. She asked that "do not feed the wildlife" signs be erected and that a regular clean-up program be established.
Roslyn Phillips said the city would look into it.

Update from Neighborhood Services Division: Parks is opposed to posting do not feed signs because of public perception.

Speeding: Bishop Johnson complained about speeding in the Urban Core.
The mayor said that is a countywide concern and advised the residents to attend Sheriff's Advisory Council meetings to report their concerns. He said we would ask the Sheriff's Office to look into the speeding.
Roslyn Phillips said speed bumps in main thoroughfares do not meet code requirements.
Update from Neighborhood Services Division: Information forwarded to Zone 5 Traffic Sergeant Colavito Terry.

CPAC succession: Dr. Norman said she asked each CPAC member to bring a young person to CPAC meetings to get the youth interested in neighborhood organization.
The mayor suggested that all CPAC do that, adding that "one of our biggest concerns is succession in CPACs."

Greater Arlington/Beaches:

Kohl's: Tom Shouvlin said residents of the subdivision adjacent to Kohl's on Atlantic Boulevard are upset because the buffer that was promised is not there.

Arlington Expressway: Joe Lek asked about the future of the expressway.
The mayor said that project is a priority. Its $800 million cost includes a new bridge. He said it will take federal help and is the No. 1 priority of the legislative delegation.

Trees: Joe said developers seem to be cutting down every tree ...
The mayor they can take trees down as long as they mitigate to replace them. It gets into property rights issues.

Declining neighborhoods: Joe: What can be done?
The mayor said that is one of the biggest challenges of Mike Saylor, the new director of the Planning and Development Department, and that Arlington is on the radar screen.

Southeast:

CPAC location: Charles McBurney announced that the SE CPAC is now meeting at St. Luke's hospital, which has A/V equipment and good parking.

Growth management: Charles expressed concern about extending Kernan Boulevard to Baymeadows Road.
The mayor said people should be pleased with the widening of Kernan and that he sees the extension as a relief valve. He offered to have engineers from Public Works listen to residents' concerns and determine what the impact of the extension would be.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up with Public Works. (Lorrie: Land negotiations have not been completed yet. The Skinner family has agreed to sell the land for development, the details are being finalized. This area will also be the location for one of the new high schools that will be constructed in the Southeast district – Rosemary 4/4/06).

Julington Creek Marina: Charles said residents are concerned about the height of multi-story building at the marina.
The mayor asked Roslyn Phillips to follow up with Councilwoman Sharon Copeland.
Action: Neighborhood Services to follow up. (Lorrie: The developers have made several presentations to the CPAC since the last quarterly meeting. So far the CPAC has not responded favorably to the developers design plans. They LUZ subcommittee is expecting another presentation in the near future – Rosemary 4/4/06).

CPAC membership: Charles asked if CPAC promotion could be aired on local media other than cable TV, and if membership could be promoted to companies that manage homeowners associations.
Action: Neighborhood Services is in the process of producing CPAC promotions and will follow up on the request. (I've done this one. – Lorrie)

Southwest:

Blueprint for Prosperity: Lee Martin asked the mayor to give an overview of Blueprint at his town hall meeting in the Southwest Planning District on Jan. 30.
The mayor explained the importance of the Blueprint program. He asked that each CPAC schedule a Blueprint speaker.
Roslyn Phillips encouraged the officers to respond to Blueprint's call for community partners and asked them to spread the word about upcoming community meetings.
Update from the Neighborhood Services Division, 1/20/06: Scheduling of Blueprint speakers at CPAC meetings is under way. All 460 neighborhood organizations and members of the six CPACs have been notified of the community meetings. **Update from the Neighborhood Services Division, 3/17/06:** Chair of the SW CPAC Economics Development Subcommittee attends meetings of Blueprint and gives monthly reports of Blueprint's progress. Neighborhoods coordinator provides community partner applications at each CPAC meeting.

New Ways Grant: Several chairs echoed Lee Martin's disappointment that Jacksonville Children's Commission's grant program to provide $25,000 per planning district for children's programs each year may not continue. The grants have come to be known as CPAC Grants because CPAC members select the recipients.
Lee asked if funding could be identified for this purpose and suggested that the Mayor's Office of Faith and Community Based Partnerships administer the program.
The mayor said the city would take a look at it, but cautioned that they are in the process of making budget cuts.
Action: Neighborhood Services will follow up.
Update: Lorrie and Roslyn are working on this one – LD, February 2006

City staff at CPAC meetings: Lee asked if support staff (resource people from several departments) could make reports at each meeting, in addition to key staff (Neighborhood Services and mayor's liaisons.)
The mayor agreed.
Action: Neighborhood Services will follow up. Joyce and coordinators
Update: At Roslyn's request, Lorrie sent a memo to the Planning, Public Works and Neighborhoods directors and the mayor's liaisons

Northwest:

Blueprint for Prosperity: Joseph Anderson said one of the NW CPAC's main concerns is to bring people together to educate them and get them involved in the initiative.

Soutel expansion/railroad overpass: Making Soutel four lanes from U.S. 1 to I-295 going west from U.S. 1: When will work start? Is it fully funded? What is the estimated completion date?
Southern Railroad overpass on Soutel: same questions
***Update from Public Works 1/12/06 (provided at mayor's meeting)*:** *The Soutel widening is a JTA bond project (as opposed to Better Jacksonville Plan). It is in design stage. The railroad project is part of the Soutel project. The project is being prepared for construction bid advertisement in February 2006. Funding: 1997 Bond Fund allocation of $6,515,587 and a State SIS Grant of $4.6 million. (Detailed fact sheet provided to the NW CPAC.)*

North:

Homeowner associations: Tommy Ruffin asked if the Planning Department would let new neighborhoods know when they are turned over to homeowners from the developers. Residents don't know what their responsibilities are. North Jacksonville has 8 to 10 new subdivisions each year.
The mayor cautioned about adding too many labors of bureaucracy but said we would look into the notification request.
Action: Neighborhood Services will follow up with Planning. NSD is in the process of developing its resident training programs for 2006. A session on homeowners associations covering these and other topics will be included in the training.
Update: Neighborhood Services has scheduled this training as part of its CU 2006 program. Lorrie followed up with Margo.
Update from Margo Moehring, Planning Department, 2/17/06: I polled all the relevant planners. JPDD is not noticed when responsibility shifts to the HOA, and no one was aware of any city agency that might be, unless it is filed at the courthouse and there was a way to loop into them. (NSD is following up on the courthouse project. LD, 2/17 - to Mary Beth.)

Library: Tommy asked if library hours could be extended.
The mayor said an announcement about that would be coming soon.

Code enforcement: Tommy Ruffin said several CPAC members have reported that Code Enforcement has not been responsive. Complaints have not been investigated. Dick Berry said the district is short on officers.
The mayor asked for specifics and said the city is working constantly to do a better job.
***Response from Derek Igou, Chief, Property Safety Division, 1/20/06*:** There has been no reduction in staff in District 4. In fact, the district has one more officer than a year ago. He provided the following citywide statistics that show service improvements:

- Average response time from complaint to first inspection: 62 days in 2003, 7 days in 2005

- Average days to resolve complaint: 111 in 2003, 53 in 2005
- Number of properties brought into compliance: 6,879 in 2003, 13,195 in 2005
- Proactive inspections: 16% in 2003, 38% in 2005
- Number of cases referred to Municipal Code Enforcement Board (increased enforcement): 140 in 2003, 2,042 in 2005
- Revenue collected: $45,885 in 2003, $116,475 in 2005

NEXT MEETING: To be announced