

Urban Core ~ District 1
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
January 27, 2003
Cathedral Terrace Auditorium ~ 701 N. Ocean Street

MINUTES

Committee Members/Guests/Staff Present
Sign in sheets attached

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Chairman acknowledged new members.

Approval of Minutes

The decision to approve the minutes from the November 25, 2002 meeting was unanimous.

Speakers

- **Faith Martin (No More Homeless Pets)** – presented the Spay Jax Program which provides free spay and neuter service for pets coming from low-income households. The purpose of the program is to reduce the over-population of pets and the threat to public health from rabies and other diseases. Discussed the benefits of spaying and neutering. Stated that the number of household members is considered in the income guidelines. Funding is also available to offer services at a reduced for households that do not meet income guidelines. Distributed literature and answered questions and addressed concerns of the members and guests.
- **Darrell Smith, Service Planning Manager (Jacksonville Transportation Authority)** – presented the Transit Access Improvement Program. Mentioned that the main concern is the appearance of the bus stops and access to them. A part of the program is to study JTA Mobility Access. The goal is to improve routes and “ridership.” Program objectives include improvement of access, safety and security, improvement of operations, customer satisfaction, land use coordination, design, and implementation procedures. Demonstrated the different looks in regional, district, and neighborhood locations. Also, demonstrated some of the various amenities. Answered questions and addressed concerns of the members and guests.

Reports

Building Code Enforcement

None at this time.

Mayor’s Representative

Reported that the City of Jacksonville – Department of Public Works has been working closely with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority to improve wheel chair accessibility.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

Asst. Chief Ed Johnson reported that crime in the Urban Core is down 5-6% since last year. The JSO conducted a Citizen Survey and received a 76% approval rating. The JSO also a 74% approval rate overall in the Urban Core. Dr. Norman commended thanked the JSO for the new Stop Station located on Myrtle Avenue at MLK Parkway.

Jacksonville Fire & Rescue

None at this time.

Planning and Development Department

Ken Avery reported that a proposed redevelopment plan exists for the Phoenix area to include in-filling and corrections of inconsistency in land use and zoning. The boundaries for the area include: 8th Street (South), 21st Street (North), Kings Road (East), and Evergreen Avenue @ railroad tracks (West).

Neighborhood Services Division

Felicia Bridgewater announced the upcoming CPAC Training to be held on Monday, February 10, 2003. The training will be held between 10:30am – 12:00pm at the City Hall – St. James Building.

Felicia made a special presentation to Dr. Norman for her dedicated service to the Urban Core CPAC as Chairman for 2002-2003. Dr. Norman was presented with a plaque and received applause from the CPAC members and guests.

Old Business

- Rita Reagan made a report on her efforts to coordinate recruitment for new CPAC members. She mentioned that she is in the process of contacting the Downtown Chamber to recruit.

New Business

None at this time

Additional Concerns/Issues

- Celia Miller expressed a concern about prostitution and sexual offenses in the Urban Core, primarily the Durkeeville community. Requested a presentation from the Coalition to Prevent Prostitution and Sex Offense.
- Dr. Norman discussed a recent phone call from a citizen that lives at 22nd and Fairfax. The citizen expressed concern for Habijax homes that are not comparable to other homes in neighborhoods. Concerned that the lots are extremely too small and the new Habijax homes are built too close to pre-existing homes.
- Celia Miller mentioned that many of the initial assurances provided in a previous meeting by Joe Honeycutt (President, Habijax) have gone unfulfilled. Dr. Norman requested that Mr. Honeycutt be contacted and invited to a future CPAC meeting for an update.

- Celia Miller expressed concern for “warming fires” and the hazards associated. Homes not up to code assumed to be a contributing factor. Dr. Norman requested a report on what Senior Citizens can do to get assistance in obtaining central heat & air in their homes.
- Flo McPherson expressed a concern for poor usage of the Park View Inn located on State and Main Streets. She asked, “What can be done to improve the appearance and use of this facility?”

Celia Miller suggested that the City consider using the property to accommodate Super Bowl patrons. She also suggested that a church consider the property to provide housing for senior citizens.

CPAC members are urged to contact the Jacksonville Economic Development Corporation or the COJ – Downtown Development Division to express suggestions and get information.

Special Guests

None at this time.

Announcements

- Louise DeSpain (Springfield Preservation & Restoration) announced that the citizens are working with Councilman Reggie Fullwood on the Springfield Street Lighting. A survey will be presented to citizens in the area to ascertain their opinion of the options for lighting.
- Celia Miller made an announcement regarding the upcoming 5th Annual Southeast Regional African-American Preservation Alliance Conference to be held February 26 – March 2, 2003 at the Doubletree Hotel in Tallahassee, Florida. Registration forms will be forwarded to Felicia Bridgewater to be made available for anyone that interested in receiving one.
- Dr. Norman announced the CPAC Mayoral Candidates Forum to be held on March 27, 2003 at 6:30pm at the Lavilla School of the Arts.
- Joe Snowberger announced that the cold weather shelter information could be obtained from dialing 211, which is the United Way’s First Call and that the Salvation Army Gym on Church Street was the overflow cold weather shelter for men. Women and families will be sent to IMS.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Urban Core – District #1 CPAC Meeting will be held on Monday, February 24, 2003 at 5:00 pm at the Ben Durham Business Center located on the corner of Myrtle Avenue and Martin Luther King Parkway (aka 20th Street Expressway)