

Urban Core ~ District 1
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
March 24, 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 visitors..

Acknowledgements

- The Chairman opened the meeting by recognizing the life of Flossie Brunson and her tireless work in the Urban Core before her recent passing.
- Welcomed Councilman Lad Daniels to the meeting and acknowledged his endless support of the Urban Core CPAC

Approval of Minutes

The decision to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2003 meeting was unanimous.

Speakers

- **Joe Snowberger, Director of Operations (Downtown Jacksonville)** - discussed the purpose of Downtown Vision and its objective to change and improve the appearance and perception of downtown Jacksonville. Introduced the Ambassador Program, which consists of customer service representatives that patrol the downtown area to be of assistance to pedestrians. Also, presented the marketing Downtown Jacksonville pamphlet which is a guide to downtown and showcases "things to do" in the area. Discussed several activities that are currently underway and soon to come, such as music at Heming Plaza and the Downtown Farmer's Market. Also discussed the issue of panhandling in the downtown area. Distributed material, answered questions, addressed concerns of the members and guests.
- **City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department** (*Ken Avery and Jennifer Hewitt of COJ and Courtney Harris of APD Consultants*) – provided an extensive report on the development of the 29th & Chase community Master Plan. Emphasized that the master plan is a result of citizen-based planning and input. Mentioned that the neighborhood action plan will address issues related to rezoning of residential and commercial properties. The visioning was completed and conducted by APD. The boundaries of the action plan are MLK Parkway to the south, Canal Street to the west, 33rd/ Golfair Streets to the north, and I-95 to the east. Shared land-use maps and neighborhood condition diagrams. The Master Plan includes considerations for a community park, rezoning for neighborhood-friendly commercial use, and redevelopment of vacant lots to larger single-family lots. Answered questions and addressed concerns of the members and guests.

Reports

Building Code Enforcement

None at this time.

Mayor's Representative

None at this time.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office - Asst. Chief Ed Johnson

- Provided Ethel Griffin (CPAC member and Chairman of the Citywide Cleanup Committee) with a list of volunteers who wish to represent the Urban Core in the Citywide Cleanup event.
- Announced that the JSO cleanup held on March 15, 2003 was a huge success as 87 volunteers covered 76 square blocks and collected 23 tons of trash.
- Reported a 51% decrease in overall crime.
- Reported that the Sheriff's walk held on March 18, 2003 was successful.

Department of Transportation – Milton Locklear

- Discussed the Riverside/Avondale area road construction.
- Mentioned the Main Street/Main Street Bridge repainting project to begin in April 2003.

Planning and Development Department – Ken Avery

- Distributed lists of upcoming projects in the Urban Core for the next 5 years. If members or guests of the CPAC have questions regarding any of the projects on the list, they should contact Ken Avery at 630-1902.
- Discussed a restaurant being considered to be located on Pearl Street in Springfield.

Neighborhood Services Division – Karen Blutcher

- Announced the Intensive Care Neighborhoods 7th Anniversary Celebration to be held on Saturday, March 29, 2003 at the Clanzel Brown Community Center (11:00am – 1:00pm).
- Announced the Citywide Clean-up Project to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2003.
- Discussed the Street Light Campaign initiated by Councilman Reggie Fullwood. Presentations will be made to all CPACs. The presentation for the Urban Core CPAC will be held in April.
- Discussed the need for new representatives from the Urban Core on the Municipal Code Enforcement Board. Those interested in serving are asked to contact Felicia Bridgewater (630-7131) to request an application.

Jacksonville Fire & Rescue

None at this time.

Special Guests/Presentations

Tony Nelson (President, Black Business Investment Corp.) - made a special presentation on the progress of the construction of Moncrief Plaza, which is now underway. July 15, 2003 is the expected completion date of the project. Announced that "Dr. Choo's" building is now demolished and the property will be converted to a lighted retention pond with a monument of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Additional Concerns/Issues

- Member Joann Smith discussed the urgent need to replace the recently deceased Flossie Brunson on the New Ways Grant Initiative Review Committee. Pastor E.M. Johnson volunteered to serve.
- Member Luellen Logan discussed a continued problem in her community with drainage in the 21st and Stuart Streets area.
- Jessie Bush (Guest) owns apartments on Myrtle Avenue and mentioned that parking is a problem and she is looking into a property deviation.

Announcements

None at this time.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm

The next meeting of the Urban Core CPAC will be held at 5:00 P.M., Monday, April 28, 2003 at the Cathedral Terrace Auditorium – 701 N. Ocean Street.