

Urban Core ~ District 1
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
April 22, 2002 ~ Cathedral Terrace Auditorium ~ 701 N. Ocean Street

MINUTES

Committee Members/Guests/Staff Present

Sign in sheets attached

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The decision to approve the minutes as written was unanimous.

Speakers

- **George Pappas (Sr. Transportation Planner – First Coast Metropolitan Planning Organization)** – discussed upcoming projects scheduled under the Transportation Improvement Program for the City of Jacksonville. The program identifies all publicly funded highway and transit projects within Jacksonville's urbanized areas. Many of the projects are slated to begin this year through 2007. Projects include expansion of roadways, street resurfacing, bridge repair, and drainage improvements. The goal of the FCMPO is to increase public involvement in the Transportation Improvement Program. Answered questions for members and guests. Distributed a map and project reports.
- **Henrietta Hill-Murray (Representative & CPAC Member – Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now)** – discussed the issue of Predatory Lending, which effects low-income families throughout the United States. Predatory Lending has become an epidemic and is primarily targeted towards families/individuals in minority neighborhoods. Predatory lending involves targeting those who have large amounts of equity in their homes and offering them unnecessary credit insurance and second mortgages that consist of high interest rates. Distributed information packets and answered questions from members and guests.

Reports

Urban Core Bus Tour Committee

Flo Johnson-McPherson discussed the bus tour plans. The tentative date remains as May 15, 2002. The committee met recently to map a route for the tour. Members of the committee will also drive the route with Felicia Bridgewater to test its timeliness.

Urban Core New Ways Grant Committee

Joann Smith discussed the decisions made by the committee to award the New Ways grant funds as designated by the Jacksonville Children's Committee. A total of \$25,000 will be disseminated to several associations, outreach efforts, and neighborhood groups to be utilized to strengthen the Urban Core community and its citizens. Distributed Score Summary sheets indicating those agencies that applied and have been nominated by the committee to be awarded.

Members of the CPAC reviewed the nominations/decisions of the grant committee and voted unanimously to accept the decisions and report as given.

Neighborhood Services Division

Karen Blutcher – discussed the Citywide Clean up Program coordinated by City Council President Matt Carlucci. "Clean It Up Jacksonville" Day will be held on June 1, 2002 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm). Chairpersons from each CPAC met recently to discuss logistics and the need for CPACs to coordinate this event in their respective neighborhoods. Each CPAC is asked to identify five schools in their district to serve as trash pick-up sites. Encouraged all that were able to participate in this massive event. Answered questions from members and guests.

Mayor's Representative

Jeannie Fewell requested that she be given time at the next CPAC meeting to discuss the Town Center Initiative Project for the City of Jacksonville. The vision of the project is to revitalize older neighborhoods by providing planning, design, and infrastructure improvements to public spaces along key business areas and corridors.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office

No report given at this time.

Old Business

None discussed at this time.

New Business

Dr. Norman reiterated the importance of the Urban Core CPAC's involvement in the upcoming Citywide Clean-up initiative. The chair also asked Henrietta Hill-Murray (member) to serve as the liaison and coordinator for the Urban Core in this initiative. Her first task is to identify five schools in the Urban Core that can serve as sites for the dumping of trash and debris collected.

Additional Concerns/Issues

- 1) Donna Rash-Sawyer inquired about a potential Downtown Business Incubator. Jeannie Fewell offered to investigate the incubator and forward the information to Felicia Bridgewater.
- 2) Donna Rash-Sawyer suggested that the Joseph E. Lee Community Center located at 5120 Perry Street (08) be the location of the next CPAC meeting.

Felicia Bridgewater informed Ms. Rash-Sawyer and the committee members that the Lee Center is not included in the Urban Core boundaries and should not be considered as a site for an Urban Core CPAC meeting.

- 3) Louvenia Tippens expressed a desire to have a sign placed on Myrtle Avenue to mark an entrance to the Durkeeville community.

Felicia Bridgewater suggested that the citizens team up with M.A.N.I.A. or the Durkeeville Historical Society to apply for a 2002-2003 Mayor's Matching Grant. Since the focus of this year's grant considerations will be on beautification efforts, a historical sign is relevant.

Special Guests

- 1) John Patton (City of Jacksonville Mayoral Candidate) greeted the members and guests and expressed his support of the CPAC leadership. He also expressed his desire to hear the concerns of the neighborhoods and the citizens.
- 2) Ju'Coby Pittman (Candidate for City Council at Large) greeted the members and guests and expressed her desire to be the voice of the community and listen to the concerns of the citizens.
- 3) Judy Youngblood – Candidate for School Board District #6 greeted the members and guests and expressed her concerns about the condition of Duval Public Schools. She discussed her desire to create change in the school system.

Announcements

- 1) Luellen Logan (member) asked members and guests of the Urban Core CPAC to participate in the upcoming Paint the Town project to be held in the 29th & Chase community. The project is hosted by the Jacksonville Housing Partnership and will be held on May 4, 2002. The goal of the project is to assist needy families with painting and minor repairs of their homes. Homes in the community have been identified and prepared to be painted and repaired.
- 2) Ju'Coby Pittman announced the groundbreaking of the new Clara White Mission facility. The building of this new facility will amount to approximately \$2.1 million. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place on April 24, 2002 at 10:30 am at 613 W. Ashley Street. Those interested in attending should contact Ms. Pittman at (904) 354-4162 for more information.
- 3) Felicia Bridgewater announced the upcoming 15th Annual Kuumba African Cultural Arts and Music Festival hosted by Councilwoman Pat Lockett-Felder. The event will be held on May 25-26, 2002 at the A. Philip Randolph Park located at Florida Avenue and East 1st Street. Neighborhood associations, CPACs, churches, schools, and outreach community groups are encouraged to participate in this annual event either by taking part in the parade, providing information at one of the booths, and/or becoming an event vendor. For more information, interested parties can feel free to call Felicia at (904) 630-7131.

- 4) Frank Cunningham announced Code Enforcement's upcoming Sign Blitz project. This project involves picking up signs that have fallen or have been misplaced on city right of ways. He also mentioned that improvements to the Urban Core have increased as it relates to code clearances. More permits have been pulled proving that code enforcement is working for the benefit of the entire district and its communities.
- 5) Ann Thompson (member) announced the Cathedral Residents Block Party to be held on May 17, 2002 at 5:30 pm on Ashley Street (between Ocean and Newnan Streets). All members and guests of the Urban Core CPAC are encouraged to attend and participate in this grand event.

Adjourn

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

Due to the upcoming Memorial Holiday, the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Urban Core – District #1 CPAC is undetermined. To be announced.