

Urban Core ~ District 1

Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

August 25, 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 5:15p.m. Chairman opened the meeting with a brief report on the CPAC picnic recently held on Saturday, August 23, 2003.

Urban Core had tremendous attendance. Picnic was lovely and the Arlington CPAC will host the picnic next year.

Approval of Minutes

The decision to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2003 meeting was unanimous.

Speakers

- **Frank Nosalek (City of Jacksonville - Emergency Preparedness)**

Topic: Emergency Preparedness Program – discussed the Jacksonville Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.), which is a group of citizens that are organized and receive special training that enhance their abilities to recognize, respond, and recover from a major emergency or disaster situation. Through the program, citizens receive training on basic skills needed to respond to the urgent needs of the their community in the aftermath of a disaster. Overall, CERT members assist in saving lives and protecting property in the community. The speaker disseminated PowerPoint slide handouts and answered questions from member and guests.

- **Phil Bruce, Division Chief (City of Jacksonville - Parks and Recreation)**

Topic: Master Recreation Improvement Program – discussed recent improvements to the Jacksonville Recreation System. Discussed the purpose of the Recreation Improvement Program and provided a summary of the Recreation Inventory. Also presented parks that are currently under development. The department seeks the input of citizens in the Urban Core and disseminated park surveys for that purpose. Members discussed the program and asked question regarding the increase in the size of existing parks and projects that are planned for various areas in the Urban Core. The speaker disseminated additional surveys and answered questions. Members and guests provided the speaker with a list of issues related to parks and asked if the department will consider accommodating the needs of the elderly and wheelchair/walker bound. Additional park issues expressed by members and guests include:

- Joe James Center and J.P. Small Park should be expanded
- Citizens unhappy with renovations and furnishing of Joe James Center

- What projects are planned for Hogan and McCoy Creeks and the building of the riverwalk and park at the shipyards?
- Citizens request fountains and skateboard trails at Simon Johnson Park
- There are water problems at Spires Street Park
- What is the city going to do to develop Emmett Reed Park? Have the EPA issues been addressed?
- Are there plans for land acquisitions to accommodate downtown residents with park areas and recreational facilities?
- J.P. Small Park does not benefit local residents. They cannot use the park. What can be done about it?
- Consider partnering with the school board to make parks available to the public.
- Brooklyn Park has several unsafe areas due to overgrown shrubbery and lack of lighting. There are no water fountains and skating areas are needed.
- More park supervision is needed. Programs are not made available due to lack of staff.
- Jefferson Street Pool renovations seem to be incomplete

Recognitions

Recently appointed members of the Urban Core CPAC are:

- Pride in Action Community Services
Primary: Dr. Faye Battle/ **Alternate:** Flora Hughes
- Healthy Jacksonville
Primary: Dr. Antoinette Lloyd/ **Alternate:** Dr. Noel Brathwaite
- Jacksonville Urban Magnet Program
Primary: Kenneth Rogers / **Alternate:** Amy Regnier
- Thorminc House of Refuge
Primary: Cassandra Bush

The following organizations are making application to become members of the CPAC:

- Heart for Children
Primary: Joyce Brinson / **Alternate:** Joe Brinson
- Springfield Preservation and Restoration
Primary: Douglas Vandaraan

All were welcomed by the Chair and asked to introduce themselves and discuss their program/organizations.

Reports

COJ - Mayor's Representative – Ed Hall

The City will fund sidewalk repairs. A bill will be passed by City Council that people do not have to pay for sidewalk repairs.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Additional Concerns/Issues

- The Chair expressed a concern for the Black Business Investment Corporation's budget issues. The City has removed all monies from the BBIC's operating budget. It was decided that in spite of a \$100,000 cut, the City would provide \$300,000 to fund the organization's operating budget.
- Member Celia Miller expressed a concern for the Town Center Initiative that was initially budgeted for \$12 million and was cut to \$6 million. September 9, 2003 is the date of the first planning session for the Durkeeville community. The planning session will be held at 5:30pm at Stanton High School.
- Mary Williams (Guest/Brooklyn resident) – expressed a concern about her neighborhood and the need for extensive clean up.
- Member Kenneth Rogers expressed concern with the quality of garbage pick-up in the Urban Core.
- Karen Blutcher was asked to discuss plans for the future with regard to the annual Citywide Neighborhood Clean-up. The City's Clean It Up/Green It Up is planning one for the future.
- Betty Chance responded by expressing a concern about special trash/garbage pick-ups for clean-up projects.

Announcements

- Members and guests are encouraged to attend the Community Picnic hosted by State Representative Audrey Gibson on Saturday, September 6, 2003.
- Members and guests are encouraged to attend the Joint Coalition Meeting held at JCCI on August 27, 2003 at 3:00pm.
- Members and guests are encouraged to attend the 2003 Black Expo to be held on September 27, 2003 at the Prime Osbourn Center.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm

The next meeting of the Urban Core CPAC will be held at 5:00 P.M., Monday, September 22, 2003 at the Cathedral Terrace Auditorium – 701 N. Ocean Street.