URBAN CORE CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 10, 1996
MEETING SUMMARY

Committee Members

Flossie M. Brunson
Duane Dumbleton
Padrica Mendez
Celia Miller
Janetta G. Norman
Lisa Neary
Phil Neary
Rita Reagan
JoAnn Smith
Lowenia B. Tippins
Ann Thompson
Christine Tyler

City Staff Present

L. Dennis, Community Services Department
R.L. Drummond, Office of the Sheriff
Judy Hall, Intensive Care Neighborhood Program
Noah Henderson, Community Development Department
Joel Mc Eachin, Planning & Development Department
Helen Ridley. Neighborhood Office
Nancy Snyder, Duval County Schools
Judy Truett, Community Service Department

Others Present

R.L. Berry
Willie Green
Carlon Robinson

The Chairman Michael Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:12 P.M. in the Terrace Room of the Cathedral Terrace Apartments.

Old Business

Dr. Dumbleton recommended that the Urban Core CPAC concentrate on a specific issue during the coming year. Mr. Neary recommended that the members receive the monthly summary reports from the other CPACs to see the issues they are addressing.

It was also reported that the "S" line project will be deferred in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) until November of 1996. This deferral will allow the City to obtain more specific information from CSX regarding the nature and degree of contamination.

Mr. Richard Berry, Chairman of the North Planning District CPAC, gave a overview of recent legislation regarding the siting of cellular antennas. Ordinance 315, which passed several months ago, regulated the siting of cellular antennas. However, the ordinance contained a loophole that allowed for cellular antennas on property owned by governmental entities without the required 250 feet setback from residential properties. Councilman Kravitz has introduced Ordinance 760 which will close this loophole in order to prevent the Emerson Street situation from occurring. The bill was voted out of Land Use and Zoning Committee (LUZ), and will be voted on by the entire City Council on Wednesday. Another bill, Ordinance 615, is still in committee. This ordinance will outline the requirements to be followed by the Real Estate Division in leasing out City property for the siting of cellular antennas.
Mr. Neary moved that the Urban Core CPAC support Ordinance 760 regarding the siting of cellular antennas on properties owned by governmental entities. The motion was seconded by Dr. Snyder and approved by the members present.

New Business

Mr. Virgil Green, Chief of the City's Mental Health and Welfare Division gave a presentation regarding the current status of the City in the delivery of social services in Jacksonville. Mr. Green stated that the next two to four years there will be drastic changes in the welfare program resulting from recent federal and state laws. The State of Florida has received a waiver from the federal government to do its own welfare program called WAGES (Work and Gain Economic Self-sufficiency). This program will merge several existing programs into a block operation which will receive a 20 to 30 million increase. By January of 1997, illegal aliens will not be entitled to receive assistance, while legal aliens will have reduced benefits.
The local district has had some reductions, particularly in alcohol and drug rehab programs and transportation assistance.
In summary, while the new federal block grant program in the state will increase funding for the new WAGES program, other programs will suffer a 15% decrease. The most immediate impact will be on Social Security Enhancement which will have less

benefits for children and the disabled. It is estimated that 7,000 to 8,000 people in Duval County are getting benefits from being disabled as the result of substance abuse. There is also concern about cuts in the food stamp program. The local government and private charities can not assume the responsibility of providing for people leaving the federal welfare system. Hopefully, the number of people leaving the federal welfare system will by off set by new job and training opportunities.

The Urban Core will be the area most affected by these changes in the welfare program. Dr. Dumbleton stated that the Project Independence and Family in Transition Programs will end with the start of the new WAGES program. According to a recent JCCI study, the homeless population in Jacksonville increased from 1800 to 2500 in one year. Mr. Green stated that the request for social services from the City was around 52,000 last year. However, the City was able to serve only 13,500 or 28 %. Most of these people were working families not the homeless. Discussion continued on the proposed changes in the welfare program and its potential impact on the local delivery of social services.

Ms. Judy Hall, Director of the Mayor's Neighborhood Education Initiatives gave an update on the status of the Intensive Care Neighborhood Program. The Intensive Care Neighborhood Program includes one entire neighborhood, the Eastside, and part of another neighborhood, Durkeeville, that are located in the Urban Core Planning District. A team for each of the four neighborhoods is being put together to meet specific needs of the area. The needs to be addressed include both physical improvements and the delivery of social services. Corporate involvement will be an important part of this program. The overall goal is to improve the performance of the twelve schools in the targeted neighborhoods by improving the quality of the surrounding area. Corporations and businesses will work with the principal in each school to develop mentoring programs and other improvement projects.

To help promote these programs, a special concert and celebration is planned in each of the four targeted neighborhoods, with the first being held in the Eastside. The neighborhood teams, which will include City staff, will help the communities develop their unique initiatives in addressing problems and concerns. Hopefully, the neighborhood will become stronger, and continue the improvements after the initiatives have ended. The strategy of the neighborhood initiatives is to result in a two percent increase in measurable factors identified in the School Improvement Plan, i.e. attendance rate, grade promotion, etc.

Ms. Hall reminded the members present of the upcoming Neighborhood Summit on Friday, September 20, 1996 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. The summit will include eight workshops, displays, a luncheon with a guest speaker, as well as announcing the grant receipts for the first neighborhood grants.

The Urban Core CPAC has been invited to provide a display.

Ms. Padrica Mendez brought up her concern regarding the proposed new middle school being considered for construction in LaVilla. She stated that the proposed site will destroy the few remaining residences in LaVilla. It was agreed to address this issue at the October 8, 1996 meeting, and to invite appropriate representatives to speak on this issue.

Mr. Jim Pugh, Program Administrator for the Municipal Code Enforcement Board updated the members present on the current status of the new municipal code enforcement boards proposed for each of the planning districts. He encouraged the CPAC to recommend individuals to serve on the board that will address the Urban Core. Presently, two names have been recommended, Mr. Art Frost and Mr. Adrian Oliver. However, the Chairman requested that additional names be submitted at the October 8, 1996 meeting for consideration by the Urban Core CPAC.

It was agreed by the members present to decline the kind invitation by the Jacksonville Port Authority to hold our October meeting at their facilities, and to request that we be considered in November or December.

Ms. Celia Miller brought up her concern that the Urban Core area was not represented on the Mayor's Growth Management Task Force. Mr. Neary moved that a letter be written to the Mayor requesting that the Urban Core CPAC be represented on the Growth Management Task Force. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lisa Neary, and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.