Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Michael Bryant, Chairman *Raymond Parnell, Vice Chairman*

MEETING SUMMARY MAY 14, 1996

YWCA OF JACKSONVILLE

Members Present

Flossie M. Brunson
Michael Bryant
Duane Dumbleton
Celia Miller
Lisa Neary
Phil Neary
Janetta Norman
JuCoby Pittman
Rita Reagan
Christine Tyler
Ann Shiver
Joann Smith
Louvenia B. Tippins

Staff Present

Denise Bunnewith, Planning & Development Department
Robert Drummond, Office of the Sheriff
Noah Henderson, Planning & Development Department
Joel McEachin, Planning & Development Department
Jeff Sheffield, Planning & Development Department
Judy Truett, Community Services Department

Other Present

Bill Brinton, JaxPride
Carlin Robinson, HSCC

The Chairman, Michael Bryant, called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M., at the YWCA of Jacksonville.

The Chairman, thanked the YWCA for all the wonderful refreshments that was provided to staff and friends.

Old Business

Continue discussion of issues, goals and objectives for 1996:

Mr. Joel McEachin stated Jeannie Ward, Special Advisor to the Mayor on Neighborhood and Community Affairs is to attend next month meeting. She will speak on the Mayor's Neighborhood Intensive Care Program, also, the Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grant Program. Brochures and more information regarding these programs will be available at the next meeting. Applications are available by June 1, 1996.

Ms. Ann Thompson expressed concern in writing to the **Chairman** regarding the reduction in funding for social services.

Ms. Rita Reagan stated the committee should have the issue of commercial rehabilitation on a future agenda.

Ms. Celia Miller requested an update on the proposed code enforcement changes. Also, discussion on having a presentation on the proposed improvements and master plan for the Durkeeville Housing project and surrounding neighborhood.

Review of Correspondence:

There was discussion regarding the letters from the North CPAC about the proposed changes to the Zoning Code which will address the citing of cellular antennas. **Mr. Phil Neary** made a motion that the CPAC forward a letter to the Mayor and the City Council expressing concern about the proliferation of cellular antennas and requested that the CPAC's be informed of proposed changes to the Zoning Code which will affect the placement and height of these antennas. The motion was seconded by **Dr. Janetta Norman** and approved.

New Business

Transportation Improvement Program, Fiscal Year, 1996-1997 thru 2000-2001 (TIP)

Ms. Denise Bunnewith and **Mr. Jeff Sheffield** of the Transportation Planning Division distributed a list of transportation projects proposed for the Urban Core. The TIP program is coordinated by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which includes all of Duval County and the northern parts of Clay and St. Johns Counties. The projects on the five year TIP list were developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Jacksonville

Transportation Authority (JTA), and the Public Works Department. Many of these projects, especially those recommended by the JTA and the Public Works Department, are funded by the local option gas tax. Several members of the CPAC had questions and concerns regarding several projects, particularly the reason or rational for the project and its priority ranking. It was recommended that representatives from the Pubic Works be available at the June meeting to provide more information regarding these projects. In order to continue to receive federal funding, the local governments must demonstrate that the TIP projects will not have a negative impact on air quality.

Presentation by Mr. Bill Brinton, JaxPride Board Member regarding the issue of Visual Pollution in Jacksonville.

Mr. Bill Brinton stated that JaxPride is dedicated to improving the visual appearance of the City. One way to accomplish this goal is to assist neighborhoods in doing visual pollution inventories in their communities to identify the problems, who is responsible, and how to follow up with the proper agency. Most public agencies are complaint driven and respond only to complaints rather than do any systematic inspects. In doing the assessments, JaxPride has found that most neighborhoods have the same problems with regard to visual pollution. These problem areas include illegal signs, particularly on public right of way, traffic and directional signs that are bent and damaged, dead trees in right of way, unnecessary signs or misplaced signs, graffiti, illegal bus bench advertisement, etc. **Mr. Brinton** illustrated these problems with a series of color slides. He stated that citizens have the right to remove illegal signs such as hand bills, and snipe signs, posted on public right of way. **Mr. Brinton** also highlighted an anti-graffiti program used in Charleston, South Carolina, where police officers will spray over graffiti within a twenty four hour period. The City presently has appropriate laws and ordinances to address visual pollution, but lacks adequate number of inspectors. Also, citizens are not knowledgeable about the laws and ordinances. More inspectors would result in more fines, which would result in more money in the trust fund to hire more inspectors.

Dr. Dumbleton moved that the CPAC request the City of Jacksonville to make the removal of visual blight a priority. The motion was seconded by **Mr. Phil Neary and approved. Ms. Lisa Neary** moved that the CPAC write a letter to the JTA requesting their assistance in improving the visual appearance of bus stops by providing trash receptacles and removing bus bench advertisement. The motion was seconded by **Dr. Norman** and approved. **Mr. Drummond** stated he would report at the next meeting on the status of the Sheriff's Office plans for addressing graffiti.

Mr. Leo Dennis Community Liaison with the Department of Community Services distributed a directory of neighborhood services available for use in the Mayor's Intensive Care Neighborhoods which includes East Jacksonville. The directory provides residents with a list of services available to them and how to contact the various service providers.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.