URBAN CORE CITIZENS PLANNING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1996 5:00 P.M.
TERRACE AUDITORIUM, CATHEDRAL TERRACES
701 NORTH OCEAN STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT	**CITY STAFF, MEDIA & CITIZENS**
Duane Dumbleton	Kathy Wolff
Ben Campbell	Noah Henderson
Lisa Neary	Gary Weise
Judith Truett	Lynda Storkerson
Nancy Snyder	Keith Daw
Phil Neary	Jack S. Ruppel
Ann Shiver	Carlon Robinson
Ju'Coby Pittman	Ed Hall
Luvenia Tippins	Omar Sharif
Flossie Brunson	Adilah Sharif
Celia Miller	Ruthene Tuks
JoAnn Smith	Orlando De Bruce
Ann Thompson	Joel McEachin
Robert Drummond	

With the absence of the chairman, Michael Bryant, and the vice chairman, Raymond Parnell, the secretary, Ms. Celia Miller called the meeting to order at 5:18 P.M. at the Cathedral Terrace Auditorium, 701 North Ocean Street.

Ms. Jeanne Ward, Special Advisor to the Mayor, Community & Neighborhood Affairs gave a presentation regarding the Mayor's Neighborhood Office and initiatives. The Mayor's Neighborhood Office has completed a directory of neighborhood groups and organizations. A Neighborhood Summit with a variety of workshops is planned for September 20, 1996. Applications for the first Neighborhood matching grants are due August 15, 1996. The grants will be up to $5,000 and requires a 25 percent match in volunteer time. The winners of the grant will be announced at the luncheon as part of the Neighborhood Summit. The Mayor's Intensive Care Neighborhood Program, which includes four target neighborhoods, has the goal of improving school performance by improving the quality of the neighborhood. The program will encourage and empower residents to identify problems, and join in programs to address these problems.

Mr. Edgar Hall, Chief of the Streets and Drainage Division addressed the Urban Core CPAC regarding public work projects included as part of the Transportation Improvement Program, Fiscal Years, 1996/1997 through 2000/2001 (TIP). There are only two projects scheduled in the Urban Core Planning District. One is improvements to West 13th Street from Myrtle Avenue to Division Street. This project will include milling, resurfacing and the installation of curbs and

gutters. The second project, a local option gas tax project, involves 8th Street from Boulevard to Liberty Street in the first phase, and from Liberty Street to Haines Street in the second phase. This section of 8th Street is at 80 percent capacity, and is presently being studied for possible improvements.

Mr. Hall informed the members present that local option gas tax projects were selected by the City Council, and therefore, can only be changed by the City Council. The local option gas tax, which includes over one hundred projects, has been extended to thirty years. Presently, the City is working on the top forty or so projects in a priority ranking. Ms. Miller stated that concerns were expressed at the public hearing in relation to the West 13th Street project with regard to the need for more landscaping, as well as questions regarding the need to widen the street. This question on the need for three lanes was also asked by Ms. Tippins. Mr. Hall responded that the City was taking advantage of the wide right of way along certain sections of West 13th Street. Ms. Shiver wanted to know why this project was not extended to included West 13th Street between Myrtle Avenue and Moncrief Road.

Mr. Hall stated that re-paving projects require coordination with other agencies for scheduling projects. The City maintains a list of streets that need re-paving, but does not prioritize until money is in hand to complete the projects. Any list of ranked projects could change quickly as some streets deteriorate faster than others. Problems of street cave-ins can be reported 24 hours a day at 387-8831.

Mr. Jack Ruppel, Recreation Plan & Grant Coordinator, Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment Department, updated the members of the CPAC regarding the status of the proposed "S" Line Project. The "S" line project started six years with the idea of acquiring the abandoned railroad right-of-way that goes through parts of the Urban Core, and converting it into a pedestrian corridor for walking, running, and bicycling. An ISTEA grant was approved for acquiring the property, however, since then, there have been environmental reports of severe contaminate along the "S" line. $830,000 was originally set aside to acquire and develop the "S" line property, however, purchase cost are now 1.2 million. In contrast, the Jacksonville to Baldwin pedestrian trial is ready to go, but needs additional money to complete development. The City's General Counsel Office has recommended not acquiring the property because of the contamination. Therefore, the Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department has recommended that the "S" line project be abandoned with the $830,000 going to the Jacksonville and Baldwin Line or another project. Jacksonville Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be asked to re-program the funds to the Jacksonville and Baldwin Line, a fourteen mile corridor west of I-295, through Baldwin to Brandy Branch.

A question was raised regarding the necessity of clearing up contamination for a pedestrian trail. Mr. Ruppel stated that the law requires the removal of contaminated soils. Various members expressed concern about abandoning this project, and the possible impact on the proposed Durkeeville Improvement Project of the Jacksonville Housing Authority. Concern was also expressed about the money for the "S" line being utilized for a project outside of the Urban Core Planning District. Mr. Ruppel responded that the funds were designated by project not area. Mr. Neary moved that the Urban Core CPAC request that the City move the funds to the proposed

Hogan Creek Improvement Project which has also received ISTEA funds. The motion was seconded by Dr. Snyder, and approved with Ms. Miller in opposition.

Mr. John Curtin, Sr. Chief of the Property Safety Division, addressed the members regarding proposed changes to the City's code enforcement procedures. The proposed ordinance to change the property safety code is presently being considered by the Building Codes Adjustment Board. The proposed ordinance could be in City Council within two weeks. The bill would re-organize the Property Safety Division, and create six Municipal Code Boards, one in each of the Planning Districts. This last item has proven the most controversial since concern has been expressed regarding consistency in action by the six boards. Mr. Curtin requested the support of the CPACs for this proposed ordinance, and for them to consider possible candidates to serve on the six boards once established. The goal is to have a good geographical spread on each board to reflect the various needs, problems, and priorities of each planning district. Mr. Curtin reported that sixty-four buildings in the Lower Eastside will be demolished by September of 1996. The proposed changes to the property safety code will give the City more legal options for addressing owners of troubled properties. Presently, the Division is five weeks behind in inspections. They have received over 1,000 complaints since the beginning of the week. Mr. Neary attended the public meeting on this proposed ordinance on behalf of Mr. Bryant, and stated the need for the CPAC members to inform the City Council of our support for this legislation. Ms. Thompson moved that the Urban Core CPAC write a letter to the City Council in support of the proposed changes to the property safety code. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brunson and approved.

Mr. Keith Daws and Gary V. Weise, representing the City's Brownfield Coalition gave a presentation regarding the current status of the Brownfield's Project. Mr. Daws explained that the purpose of the Brownfields Program is to identify, address, and remove environmental contamination in urban areas that serve to impede revitalization. The City is presently on the second round of application to the Environmental Protection Agency for a grant. Currently, the Brownsfield Coalition is developing projects within the Downtown Development of Regional Impact (DRI) area, and the area proposed for a Talleyrand Development of Regional Impact for port expansion. The project will require creating a citizens advisory group to educate the public on the presence of environmental contamination, and how to address it. Mr. Weise is presently heading up an effort to identify old ground water well sites in the proposed target areas located in the Urban Core. This proposed project can be also be linked with the Mayor's Neighborhood Initiative Program, as well as address specific problems such as that of the "S" line previously discussed. During the summer, an Americorp Team will be in the area looking for the old ground water well sites. Ms. Reagan made a motion that Phil Neary represent the Urban Core CPAC on the citizens advisory group for the Brownsfield Project with Ms. Robinson serving as an alternate. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lisa Neary and approved.

Thanks were extended to Ann Thompson and the Cathedral Terrace for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 P.M.