Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

Michael Bryant, Chairman *Raymond Parnell, Vice Chairman*

MEETING SUMMARY FEBRUARY 13, 1996

MATTHEW WILLIAM GILBERT HIGH SCHOOL

Members Present

Flossie M. Brunson
Michael Bryant
Don Cates
Steve Cates
Celia Miller
Phil Neary
Ray Parnell
Rita Reagan
Ann Shiver
Ann Thompson
Joann Smith

Staff Present

Robert Drummond, Office of the Sheriff
Noah Henderson, Planning & Development Department
Joel McEachin, Planning & Development Department
Yvonne McGruder, Planning & Development Department
Kathy Wolff, Planning & Development Department

Other Present

Bruce Parker, Jacksonville Port Authority
Christine Tyler, YWCA
Charlotte Williams, Myrtle Ave Neighborhood Association

The Chairman, Michael Bryant, called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M., at Matthew William Gilbert High School.

The Chairman, thanked Ms. Flossie M. Brunson for her kind gesture in providing all of the wonderful refreshments to all the CPAC members and friends. **The Chairman** started by introducing himself and the members followed. **Don Cates is retiring the first of April, his son Steven Cates is replacing him.**

It was also suggested that signs be posted to inform the public of the meetings.

Old Business

New Members: it was indicated that some areas of the **Urban Core** are not being represented, for example, the **Lavilla Area and Brooklyn Area. Councilman Warren Jones** is the representative for these areas, and he does not attend the meetings. Also, there are some other members of the CPAC that are not attending the meetings. **Joel McEachin** will find out if they wish to continue to serve on the CPAC committee, if not, replacements are needed. The **Chairman** suggested that Carolyn Swain is interested in serving on the committee.

The Mayor is expected to attend the April meeting.

Issues, Goals and Objectives for 96'

Community Development Division Recommendation - Unmet needs is the topic for the March Meeting for next month.

Crime Prevention-Remove the crime from the community (street) drug dealer _ Wrice Process is the topic for May. It was also suggested to combine Code Enforcement and Crime Prevention.

The committee voted to continue to start the meetings at 5:00 P.M.

New Business

Cecil Field Redevelopment correspondence was provided to members regarding the proposed - **State Prison** planned for Cecil Field. The Southwest CPAC has concerns with the project. The North CPAC share concern regarding the Cellalur Antennas, polluting the community. The committee made a motion to address the concerns of **High Antennas.** It was suggested that someone from both sides of the issue attend the **Urban Core** CPAC meeting.

Kathy Wolff provided information on Towering Controversies (high antennas). She stated the the article should be read by everyone. This issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

Celia Miller suggested that the issues be addressed and find out the pros and cons from both side of the CPAC committees regarding the Cecil Field Redevelopment (Prison).

Judy Truitt speaking from the Administration stand point, (**target neighborhoods**) informed the

CPAC that **Lex Hexter of the Mayor Office**, stated no decisions have been made by the Mayor at this time. However, there are 3 to 6 neighborhoods that are being considered by the Mayor:

1. **Royal Terrance**
2. **Sweet-Water- Hyde Park**
3. **East Side, 8th Street to the Matthew Bridge**

The decision of the Mayor was to target the neighborhoods, focus on the schools, increase the scoring points of students.

The Chairman, stated he spoke with Jeanne Ward of the Mayor Office. Regarding the performance of schools in neighborhoods (impact of focusing on schools on the trouble list). One specific example, was ways in which citizens groups could have positive impact or roles in the schools. They would welcome any ideas on those issues. The City have begun some communication with the business communities, and they are expected to expand those to the business community as a partnership. Also, target businesses outside the neighborhoods.

Judy Truitt stated they had met with school principals, and they wanted to find ways to improve or move up the scores of the students. Also, parents participation is needed.

Questions and concerns from the members of the committee

Specific goals:

what are the outcome
decrease crime
increase employment
better recreation opportunity

Is it a priority with the Mayor to intergrate the schools and neighborhoods?

We should talked with the Mayor to find ways to recommend that builders and developers focus on the urban neighborhoods and communities. (get pride back in the neighborhood)

Robert Drummond, Sheriff Office, stated any neighborhood can be revitalized (decrease the crime) then builders and developers will come into the neighborhood again.

The Chairman, stated that the Mayor was interested in focusing on **Cop Stations. Ms. Brunson** would like a cop station in her neighborhood. What are the requirements for cop station location?

Celia stated housing needs, schools are good, intergrated public housing, this problem should be addressed.

Phil stated new school, housingare good, but we need jobs for the people that are going to move to this area (communities revitalization)

Ms. Brunson, the crime and gambling, let get it off the streets, it affects the children on the streets. The Sheriff Office is looking at some new strategy, different ways to approach the problems.

Action regard to the Target Neighborhoold, The Chairman, ask the committee which neighborhood the CPAC members would like to address. **East Side**. Mr. Cates made motion and it was 2nd by Ms. Brunson.

The six issues are:

1. **Crime prevention/Code enforcement**
2. **Affording housing**
3. **Economic Development/Commercial Revitalization**
4. **Human resources/Citizen involvement**
5. **Neighborhood schools**
6. **Parks**

Bruce Parker, from Jacksonville Port Authority, spoke on the status of the **Brownfield Application,** a US Environment Planning Grant $200.000.00. The goals are to set up plans to restore economic development, clean up the sites, obtain risk ban clean up, provide neighborhood jobs.

The Chairman, asked how is it going to benefit the neighborhoods? Letter of support for application, any questions please contact Bruce Parker at 630-3079.

Announcement

Lack of awareness in the black communities!

JAXPRIDE WEEK ACTIVITY

It was suggested that the next meeting place should be held at 1st Guaranty Bank & Trust Company, located at 800 Mary Street, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:00 P.M.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:10 P.M.