ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1996 5:00 P.M.
EMMETT REED COMMUNITY CENTER
1093 WEST SIXTH STREET

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michael Bryant
Judith Truett
Janetta Norman
Phil Neary
Ann Shiver
Flossie Brunson
Celia Miller
Lisa Neary
Wayne Bruhn
Carlon Robinson
Padrica Mendez

CITY STAFF, MEDIA & CITIZENS

Christie Veleta
Tom Atkins
Joel McEachin
Helen Ridley

The Chairman, Michael Bryant, called the meeting to order at 5:15 P.M. at Emmett Reed Community Center. Mr. Bryant introduced Mr. Wayne Bruhn, the newest member of the Urban Core Citizens Planning Advisory Committee.

Several items were brought up for discussion under old business - continue discussion of issues, goals and objectives for 1996. Ms. Celia Miller requested an update on the proposed changes to the property safety code that had recently been passed by the City Council. Mr. Bryant requested that members make oral recommendations for individuals to be considered for the municipal code board serving the Urban Core, with final recommendations being made at the September meeting. Mr. Neary recommended Mr. Art Frost, a contractor and resident of Springfield. Dr. Norman recommended Mr. Adrian Oliver who was active in the 21st Street area off Moncrief Road and Myrtle Avenue. A retired principal, Mr. Oliver has served on many committees and community studies. Mr. Bryant requested additional recommendations to be forwarded to the Planning and Development Department.

Ms. Robinson expressed concern about the lack of attendance at the CPAC meetings by City Council members. The members present were informed that the appropriate City Council members for each CPAC is informed of all meetings.

Ms. Thompson had provided a memorandum to the chairman requesting that the Urban Core CPAC address the continued reduction in funding for social services on the federal, state and local levels.

Ms. Neary expressed interest in more information regarding the Mayor's Intensive Care Neighborhood program, specifically on the strategies being implemented. She also suggested that the Urban Core CPAC revisit the issue regarding commercial revitalization especially along

North Main Street.

With regard to reductions in the City budget, Ms. Truett reported that the proposed budget has no significant cuts or increases. Emphasis will be on trying to focus resources more effectively. With regard to the Intensive Care neighborhoods, efforts will be directed towards the establishment of block captains that will coordinate and work with the appropriate city agency. The block captains will also inform the appropriate agency of specific neighborhood problems and concerns. Ms. Brunson reported that the Mayor's Intensive Care Neighborhood Program has had a good effect on the Lower Eastside.

Ms. Ridley informed the members present that the Neighborhood Matching Grant applications are now available. 25 percent of the match must be documented volunteer time at $10.00 per hour.

With regard to the "S" line project, Mr. Neary reported that the Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department recommended to the Jacksonville Metropolitan Organization (MPO) to withdraw funds for the "S" line and transfer to the Jacksonville and Baldwin line project. The reason given was the presence of soil contamination on the "S" line property. At the July 3, 1996 meeting, Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) of the MPO had several questions regarding the recommendation, such as how bad was the contamination, how continuous is the property in the "S" line project, etc. As a result, the TCC took no action on the recommendation to abandoned the "S" line project. The extent of the contamination has never been determined. Also, those sections of the "S" line property that have been developed include Andrew Robinson Elementary School, and the new fire station on Main Street. Both facilities have agreed to have the pedestrian trail cross their properties. The Parks, Recreation and Entertainment Department have stated it would not sponsor the "S" line project, nor support shifting the money to another Urban Core project, such as the revitalization of Confederate Park. Mr. Neary stated that 2.4 million is needed to complete the Jacksonville and Baldwin line. Ms. Miller stated she had voted against transferring the "S" line to another project because of the importance of the "S" line project to the Durkeeville Redevelopment Project. The money needs to stay in the area as part of the City's match for the Hope Six grant. Ms. Neary made a motion that the Urban Core CPAC change its original action at the June meeting, and request that the City continue its efforts to purchase and develop the entire "S" line property. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shiver and approved. A letter regarding the action of the committee will be forwarded to the Mayor, the Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Entertainment Department, the City Council representatives, and members of the MPO.

Ms. Christi Veleta, Program Administrator for the Environmental Protection Board, gave a presentation on the Mayor's Clean it Up, Green it Up campaign. Ms Veleta reported that the Mayor's campaign has three major parts. First part is a city-wide clean up scheduled for August 10, 1996. The second part is the commitment to make Jacksonville a signature tree community by planting one million trees over three years. Three different kinds of trees are being emphasized which include the Crepe Myrtle, Loblolly Bay, and the Eastern Red Bud. On August 10, 1996, the JEA will be donating trees at Wolfson High School. The EPA has donated $100,000 towards this project which will be used to landscape major entryways ($65,000), plant

5,000 Crepe Myrtles in local schools including one hundred in each of the schools within the Intensive Care Neighborhoods ($17,500), and $17,500 going into the Mayor's neighborhood matching grant program. The third part of the campaign will address improving the appearance of twelve major corridors leading into the City. Corporate sponsors will be sought to help fund landscaping along these corridors. The City will coordinate with community groups on August 10, 1996 with regard to obtaining trees and removing trash.

Mr. Tom Atkins of Landers-Atkins Planners, Inc. gave a presentation regarding the Durkeeville/Myrtle Avenue Community Master Plan. The Jacksonville Housing Authority is seeking a Federal Hope Six grant which is a new federal HUD initiative different from the old public housing concept. The Hope Six program seeks to create a public-private partnership in addressing affordable housing. The goals of the program include the decentralization of poverty, to create seamless neighborhoods where the public housing does not stand apart, to create greater opportunity for home ownership with a mixture or blending of incomes. During the last six months, the Durkeeville Planning Team has been studying the neighborhood, analyzing the infrastructure, housing conditions, and the delivery of social services. The target area is around 350 acres, running roughly from Old Kings Road to West 13th Street and from I-95 to Myrtle Avenue. The team is recommending the demolition of the Durkeeville Housing Complex which was constructed in 1936. Two or three of the original units in the front will be preserved to house public services. A public-private partnership will address housing units located outside of the Durkeeville complex to the south. The existing Durkeeville Housing Project will be replaced with 229 new housing with 150 units reserved for public housing clients. Residents will be involved in the management of the new units. The project will involve re-establishing the original street grid that was located in Durkeeville before 1936. The isolation of traditional public housing will be removed with no fences, etc. Security and control needs will be lessen with smaller number of units in each structure. An effort will be made to market and sell the whole area in order to attract buyers for new single family houses.

Concern was expressed about the commitment of the City to spread public housing all across the city. Mr. Atkins reported that the neighborhood organizations such as MANIA and the Durkeeville Tenant Association have been actively involved in the planning process.

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