URBAN CORE CITIZENS PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1998
CATHEDRAL TERRACE AUDITORIUM

Members Present

Phil Neary, Chair
Bill Stewart
Dr. Janetta Norman
Flossie Brunson
JoAnn Smith
Michael Bryant
Carlon Robinson
Lisa Neary
Patricia Till
Celia Miller
Rev. R. F. Langford
Ann Thompson

City Staff/Public/Media

John Fleming
Dan Haskell
Thelma Jackson
John Sheffield
Ken Avery
Helena Atalla
Henry Mayes

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. without a quorum by Phil Neary, Chairman.

Presentations
1.Sam Mousa, Director of the City of Jacksonville's Public Works Department, canceled and will reschedule.

2. Presentation by John Sheffield of the Planning Department's Transportation Division for Calvin Burney. Mr. Sheffield discussed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Fiscal Years 1998-2003. Phil Neary commended the CPAC for pursuing Rails to Trails and asked if town meetings would be scheduled regarding the re-laning of 8th Street. Mr. Sheffield responded he did not know when but was sure a meeting would be held. Dr. Norman inquired as to the relocation of residents and whether properties have been identified. Mr. Sheffield responded there would be substantial right-of-way purchases and no properties had been identified at this point. Carlon Robinson requested the legend for the environmental codes in the TIP. Lisa Neary inquired as to the procedure for getting a project into one of the budgets. Mr. Sheffield explained the procedure.

3. Helena Atalla of the Planning Department's Comprehensive Planning Division made a presentation on the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 1998-2003. Lisa Neary inquired as to whether the Urban Core area represented on the map copy the Urban Core District. Ms. Atalla answered yes. Ms. Atalla announced a meeting will be held regarding the CIP on April 28th at 1:00 p.m., 7th floor of the Florida Theatre Building.

4. Discussion regarding the feeding of the homeless in public parks. Phil Neary stated there is nothing to add and announced a meeting will be held on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. regarding the issue and that this item will remain on the agenda until it is resolved. Dr. Norman inquired as to whether any progress has been made since the last couple of meetings. Mr. Neary asked Bill Stewart if he would like to comment. Mr. Stewart stated when the issue was first raised a whole lot of other issues were brought up and many hadn't been addressed. John Fleming said he tended to disagree and stated that he thought a lot of the other issues had been addressed and there has been good progress on some of those issues. The park has improved and is being maintained. The one issue of feeding overshadows everything else and we're working on it and looking for a solution all can live with. He further stated the coalition was formed and some good has come out of the feeding issue. Dr. Norman inquired as to the toilet facilities and whether any Port-o-lets were out there. Mr. Fleming said they have looked at the Port-o-lets, but the problem is security for them. Lisa Neary asked about the solutions. Mr. Fleming said the chairman has some actions and the City is looking at a couple of items including a fence. Mr. Neary said the fence would have to be historical and a wrought iron fence. He also said there have been some positive results and infrastructure park improvements are continuing. Also, they are planning rather large events in the park. Mr. Stewart stated that he disagrees and that the community is still burdened with the feeding and there is no solution to the bathroom and litter situations. Patricia Till said there is an event planned in 30 days at Confederate Park and would like to see something done. Mr. Neary stated there needs to be closure.

5. JoAnn Smith reported for the subcommittee on the Jacksonville Children Commission Grant applications. Ms. Smith reported the subcommittee awarded $22,800 and asked three groups to provide additional information. One project was all salaries and not volunteer programs. One didn't have time. Habitat for Humanity was doing birdhouses and flower boxes. They were going to build and paint them, put flowers in them and give to the elderly. Flossie Brunson's group is going to work on youth and conflict resolution. Good Neighbor MANIA is doing a project teaching kids to help the elderly. Michael Bryant, per the previous minutes, inquired as to the $1,000 awarded to Habijax and three different grants going to Moriah AME for a total of $10,200. He asked which additional organizations were recommended for funding and the amount. Ms. Smith said that Conference for Kids was $2,000; Good Neighbor MANIA was a two part request ($6,000 for one and $1,000 for the children); Habitat for Humanity was for $1,500; Lower Eastside requested $3,000 then reduced the request to $2,000 and Mt. Moriah Church $1,800 for the children and $7,000 for the community; Youth Summer Crime Prevention was $1,500. Dr. Norman asked if all the money was gone. Ms. Smith responded that there was $2,200 left and MattThompson said it would probably be used for campers in the Urban Core. There was discussion and clarification on the distribution of funding. Celia Miller inquired as to whether a full printed report was sent to the committee and awardees. Ms. Smith said she thought they were already sent. Ms. Miller asked if Mr. Thompson could be contacted.

Approval of Minutes

The chairman requested review of the minutes from the March meeting. After discussion, appropriate corrections were made and the minutes were approved.

Announcements

Flossie Brunson announced that Paint The Town would be held in the Lower Eastside on Saturday, April 18th at 8:00 a.m. at the Matthew Gilbert School and invited those in attendance to come out and be a part of the event being sponsored by the Jacksonville Housing Partnership.

Michael Bryant announced that the training on "How to Start Your Own Business" will be held at Edward Waters College on May 2nd. The training is operated by the UNF Small Business Center.

Ms. Brunson mentioned that a newspaper had done an article on one of the young ladies volunteering to assist with the conflict program this summer.

Patricia Till announced that May 16th and 17th was the 20th Annual SPAR Tour of Homes and Gardens and the Woman's Club is sponsoring activities at Confederate Park.

John Fleming announced he had flyers for the World of Nations and that a booth would be set up for the neighborhoods especially the Intensive Care Neighborhoods and anyone else who wants to participate.

Ann Thompson asked if invitations had been received by those in attendance for the open house for St. Andrews Church for Saturday from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Dan Haskell announced the Mayor's Environmental Luncheon would be held Friday at noon at the Prime Osborn.

Miscellaneous

Celia Miller questioned the chair as to whether the previous chair had appointed a subcommittee in reference to the actions parsed by the Charter Revision Committee. Mr. Bryant said he did not recall anyone expressing interest in that area. Ms. Miller was interested in following the development. Dr. Norman inquired as to whether there could be an update at the next meeting. The chair said he thought an update was a good idea.

The chair encouraged any members who have any ideas as to the goals for the CPAC for this year to feel free to call him.

Carlon Robinson asked why aren't the councilpersons attending the CPAC meetings. Lisa Neary suggested the CPAC could write a letter to the Mayor to ask the councilpersons to attend. Michael Bryant stated that the issue had come up at the previous meeting with the CPAC Chairs and the Mayor volunteered to discuss the matter with the Council President.

Celia Miller inquired as to whether a more structured procedure to submit a request in writing to the chair to get back on track with the original issues they started out with and how to get them on the agenda. Mr. Neary responded that Ms. Miller could contact Thelma and she would contact him.

Michael Bryant suggested the reports submitted last summer on the three committees particularly two of the three (beautification and economic development) would be useful if implementation reports were received back from the City on what happened to the recommendations. He said that the last update was received from Jeanne Ward about six months ago.

Dr. Norman inquired whether members from each of the areas sitting on the committee should come forward with some of the issues the CPAC is interested in and asked if when was the last time Mr. Pratt Daniel, the educational representative, was at a meeting.

Adjournment

The chair adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 12, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. at the Graham Library located at 2304 N. Myrtle Ave.