URBAN CORE CITIZENS
PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 1998
SALVATION ARMY BUILDING

Members Present
Phil Neary
Bill Stewart
Michael Bryant
Janetta Norman
Carlon Robinson
Celia Miller
Flossie Brunson
Donna Rash-Sawyer
Henrietta Hill-Murray
Sherman Armstrong

City Staff/Public/Media
Sam Mousa
Ed Hall
Fred Kyle
Debra Igou
Tom Goldsbury
Pat Brown
Bill Watson
John Fleming
Thelma Jackson
Pete Sutherland
Ed Pratt-Daniels
Bobby Drummond
Lynn Westbrook
Matt Thompson

Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 5:18 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes were approved with no corrections.

Presentations
Sam Mousa, Director of the Public Works Department, explained the function of his department. He reported these presentations were "marketing missions" and similar presentations are being made at all other CPACs. Mr. Mousa said it was very important that the CPACs know who they are, what they do and can put some faces behind some names and some names behind some responsibilities. He passed out handouts with the structure of the department. Mr. Mousa explained that next to the Sheriff's Office and the Fire Department, his department was the next largest in City government. His department is comprised of 752 personnel and a total operating budget of about $57.9 million. It consists of six divisions. Mr. Mousa introduced the Division Chiefs from the Public Works Department and explained their various responsibilities. Phil Neary inquired as to the possible hiring of additional zoning inspectors due to a lot of zoning problems in the Urban Core neighborhoods. Mr. Mousa responded legislation will soon be pending, it is being reviewed, which will re-organize our zoning area. Zoning counter activities will be proposed to City Council to go under the jurisdiction of the Planning and Development Department. Zoning Code Enforcement Officers, six of them, and blend with Property Safety Enforcement Officers and will be effective October 1st with the new budget.

Celia Miller inquired as to the notification of the general community regarding projects in their area. Mr. Mousa responded that on the Public Works projects, pre-construction meetings are held in the neighborhood. Prior to those meetings, pre-design meetings and mid-design meetings are held in addition to door hangers being put on the every door being affected on the street leaving the contractor's name, phone number and the city project manager.

Dr. Norman inquired as to whether the project going on in the Golfair & Brentwood area is a golf course and does the City have anything to do with it. Mr. Mousa responded that Councilwoman Denise Lee has been contemplating putting in a nine-hole golf course back in the old Brentwood Golf Course.

Phil Neary expressed concern over drainage. He mentioned the Springfield Auction is being held on June 27th and one of the main targeted auction areas, Silver Street, have a drainage problem and the last rain flooded two and a half blocks. In addition, Mr. Neary said that there was three and a half feet of water at the intersection of 7th and Silver and the problem has been going on for fifteen years. Mr. Mousa said he would look into it.

Rita Reagan inquired as to the issue of Hogans Creek. Mr. Mousa said in Mayor Delaney's next drainage bond program, monies would be allocated for Hogans Creek.

Phil Neary asked John Fleming, Division Chief of Neighborhood Services, to report on Committee Reports prepared by the CPAC. Mr. Fleming said that he and Mr. Neary had discussed the recommendations and proposed to concentrate on specific issues, those most important and attack them point by point.

Dr. Sherman Armstrong, of the first Presbyterian Church, discussed their work, for three and a half years, with the students at the Longbranch Elementary School's Art Program and their desire to expand the program at Longbranch. Three components at the church provide snacks and homework assistance with funding through independent grants from local foundations. Dr. Armstrong gave his phone numbers, 354-8439 (office) and 739-2950 (residence) and the church address, 118 E. Monroe Street, for contact.

Phil Neary asked the board whether or not they wanted to take July or August off for vacation. Rita Reagan moved for the July meeting to be the vacation month. The motion was seconded by Celia Miller and approved by the body.

Dr. Norman raised a concern as to the issue of information, which the CPAC needs to be aware of, is not being provided by the Councilperson. She suggested the Councilpersons be invited to attend the CPAC meetings. Thelma Jackson informed the body that the Urban Core CPAC meeting is held on the same day of City Council meeting and precludes attendance. John Fleming mentioned that there is no rule as to when the CPAC has to meet. After considerable discussion, it was decided to contact the Councilpersons to see if a special meeting could be coordinated and the CPAC would be notified of the meeting date and time.

Flossie Brunson announced the HabiJax "Housing Raising Week" Celebration in East Jacksonville would be held on Saturday, June 27th. She also announced the PLOWERS Summer Camp had started at the Eastside Community Center.

John Fleming announced the Neighborhood Training Institute would be held at the FCCJ Urban Resource Center from July 14th through August 27th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.