

Urban Core ~ District 1
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee
Monday, March 22, 2004
Cathedral Terrace Auditorium ~ 701 N. Ocean Street

MINUTES

Committee Members, Alternates, Guests, and Staff Present

(See the attached Sign-In Sheet... Please remember to sign in at all meetings.)

(1) Call to Order/Verification of Quorum/Approval of Previous Minutes

- Dr. Janetta G. Norman, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.
- It was verified that no quorum was present.
- Previous meeting Minutes could not be approved for the lack of a quorum.

(2) Introductions /Acknowledgements

- Visitors were welcomed and it was explained that the meeting is being delayed due to the scheduled speaker not being present.

(3) Presentations/Guest Speakers

(Scheduled Speaker - Not Present)

John Merritt, Chief, City of Jacksonville Animal Care and Control Division

Topic: Animal Control Issues in the Urban Core - Update

- In light of the scheduled speaker not being present, the following presentations were made:

Michael Bryant, Vice-Chairman, presented information about the prosperity campaign. He encouraged eligible persons to spread the word and take advantage of the Earned Income Tax Credit. He also discussed the Individual Development Account (IDA) Program – a restricted savings account designed to assist low-income people in breaking out of the cycle of poverty by matching public and private funds with participants funds to assist them in purchasing a first home or to pay for college, trade school, or small business expenses. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Fresh Ministries at 355-0000.

Valerie Williams, Investigator, City of Jacksonville, Division of Consumer Affairs discussed the Ways to Work Program – A Family Loan Program. She also talked about a Fair Housing Seminar, and a Small Claims Seminar which are upcoming. Further information can be obtained by contacting Ms. Williams at 630-1212, extension 3067.

Steve Hite, Duval County School Board, Region 3, talked about seven schools which are about to advance off of the failing list. He invited questions from the floor. Michael Bryant asked about the progress against school suspensions. Mr. Hite explained that

teachers are being trained to better work with student issues and student behavior is being modified. He stated that “respect” is the primary tool being used to address the issues of student discipline.

Another question ensued from an audience member related to the training of instructors as it relates to discipline problems. Dr. Norman stated that we need more training programs for parents. She said the Mayor is very concerned about literacy and that the parents of the children need to work closely with schools. Another audience member suggested a program for parents to attend the school and interact with their children and teachers. Mr. Hite called this a “shadowing program”.

An audience member inquired about cameras on busses. Mr. Hite stated that we have over 1000 busses, each having cameras installed. He said cameras and additional staff placed on busses helped to deter unruly students.

A question was then asked about the intervention of bus drivers in situations of students fighting. Mr. Hite stated that contractors are responsible for the drivers. He said that the bus drivers responsibility is to use common sense to protect the children. Dr. Norman stated that special education busses have assistants.

Michael Bryant asked if there are any special initiatives to involve parents. Mr. Hite stated that they have special parent student nights to help parents understand student assignments.

Michael Bryant then asked if there is any way neighborhood organizations can assist in schools. Mr. Hite stated yes. He said in Region 1, churches provide excellent support and that neighborhood organizations should appeal to principals if they wish to volunteer. Mr. Hite can be contacted at 934-3450.

Dr. Norman suggested that we have a parent/student night at CPAC.

(4) Subcommittee Reports & Announcements

- **Grants and Awards** - JoAnn Smith made an announcement about the CPAC Grant.
- **Membership** – Dr. Norman suggested that citizens be informed as to how they can join the CPAC.
- **Transportation** – Milton Locklear, FDOT, stated 33rd Street is supposed to be closed for a development between Golfair and Myrtle Avenue. He also announced upcoming First Coast MPO Meetings.

(5) Staff Reports

- **Mayor’s Representative** – At the request of the Chairperson, Michael Bryant, Vice-Chairperson, reported on the Mayor’s Meeting with CPAC Chairs. He stated that the Mayor was concerned about Main Street as well as the Town Meeting for the Urban Core, which is scheduled for June. - Dr. Delphia Williams,

Mayor's Representative and Director of Community Services, Re-iterated the importance of attending the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting. Additionally, she announced a new program called "Strengthening Healthy Families Initiative", which will be presented in May. Also, Dr. Williams described her divisions and their responsibilities. She stated that questions can be directed to her attention.

- **Jacksonville Sheriff's Office** – Not Present
- **Duval County School Board** – Steve Hite (Reported Earlier)
- **Planning & Development** – No Report (Ken Avery requested to be excused.)
- **Neighborhoods Department** – Thomas B. Waters made announcements about the 12th Annual World of Nations Celebration. He asked for volunteers for the Florida Neighborhoods Conference and tours.
- **Property Safety** – Not Present

(6) Old Business - None

(7) New Business

- A question was directed to the Chair about the definition of "Neighborhood Organization". It was asked if Berkman Plaza would be considered as a neighborhood organization. Thomas Waters responded with an explanation and stated yes.

(8) Announcements

- Michael Bryant invited everyone to attend the Governor's Faith Based Initiatives Program. Call Fresh Ministries at 355-0000 X- 115 for additional information.
- Another comment was made about the importance of citizens volunteering with the Super Bowl Host Committee. Thomas Waters gave a little information about an upcoming Pep Rally. To register or for more information, contact the Super Bowl Host Committee online at www.jacksonvillesuperbowl.com.
- The Chair made an appeal for additional announcements.

(9) Motion to Adjourn

- The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

The next meeting of the Urban Core CPAC will be held at 5:00 P.M., Monday, April 26, 2004 at the Cathedral Terrace Auditorium – 701 N. Ocean Street (unless otherwise noticed).