

Urban Core ~ District 1
Citizens Planning Advisory Committee

February 23, 2004

Cathedral Terrace Auditorium ~ 701 N. Ocean Street

MINUTES

Committee Members and Alternates Present

Rosemary Anderson	Luellen Logan	Joe Brinson
Michael Bryant	Louvenia Tippins	JoAnn Smith
Celia Miller	Flora Hugues	Ethel Griffin
Eula Canty	Janetta Norman	Johnny
Swain		
Betty Chance	Faye Battle	Doug
Vanderlaan		
Willie Mae Shiggs		

Guests/Staff Present

Kenneth Avery	Jennie Lockett	Cecelia
Jefferson		
Joyce Bizot	Bob Crawford	Marvin
Johnson		
William Sweet	Donny Rees	W. J. Lewis
Thelma Jackson	Jeff Beck	Delphia
Williams		
Frank Cunningham	Pete Sutherland	Wilfred Ward
Garry Denson	M. Locklear	Gary W.
Cross		
Laura Boechman	Benard Wright	Thea
Woodberry		
Gregory Bruce	Vena Castro	Jackie Cruse
J. Griffin	Adam Brown	Barney
Roberts		

Call to Order

Dr. Janetta Norman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. The chair acknowledged visitors and asked that they introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The decision to approve the minutes from the January 26, 2004 meeting was unanimous.

Speakers

Jeff Beck, Chief, Streets and Drainage

Topic: Sidewalk Ordinance

Jeff provided a detailed update of the new sidewalk ordinance. Jeff stated that the original date that the new ordinance became effective was August 26, 2004, this ordinance allowed the city to take responsibility for sidewalk repairs. The date was later changed to July 1, 2004, allowing all properties that had sidewalk repairs after this date to be subject to the new ordinance. A question and answer period followed.

Cecelia Jefferson, Chief, Consumer Affairs and Lynn Drysdale, Jacksonville Legal Aid attorney

Topic: What you need to know, Predatory Lending.

Cecelia opened discussion with several questions to test consumer knowledge concerning predatory lending. Cecelia wanted to make consumers aware of what they need to know and the importance of the new series and pilot program. She then introduced Lynn Drysdale, Legal Aid attorney, who provided other information on different forms of predatory lending, credit life insurance fraud and spot delivery loans and other fraudulent activities. Lynn also gave important information on refund anticipation loans concerning what they don't tell you and alternatives ways to file taxes. The "What You Need To Know" series is a year long program designed to get information out to the public on what to avoid during the tax season. For more information concerning these programs and for free tax preparation locations you can contact Consumer Affairs at 630-1212, ext. 4090 or Jacksonville Legal Aid attorney Lynn Drysdale 356-8371 ext. 302. A question and answer period followed.

Acknowledgements

The chair acknowledged all of the guests that were present at the Urban Core CPAC. Chair and vice - chair thanked our speakers for their time and information they gave.

Sub-Committee Reports

Grants and Awards - JoAnn Smith reported change at the Childrens Commission contact for CPAC grants, the new contacts name is Pam Paul. JoAnn has applications for all that would like one. The deadline for applications to be turned in to the Childrens Commission is March 15th and by March 26th CPAC will have the completed applications to disburse funds to all that were approved. For a copy of grant application please contact Ms. Smith at

Land Use and Zoning - Reported that the FCCJ Downtown Campus Botanical

Garden project had been cancelled because of lack of funding.

Membership - No report given at this time.

Transportation - No report given at this time.

Hospitality - No report given at this time.

Neighborhood Concerns - reported that if anyone has any specific neighborhood concerns to speak with him so that the right city agency can be contacted and if further action is need it can be addressed at CPAC.

Staff Reports

COJ - Mayor's Representative - Delphia Williams, Director of Community Services Department reported that the Mayor has appointed Marilyn Stevenson as new chief of Adult Services Division which has not yet been confirmed by City Council but her responsibilities will include managing the Foster Grandparent program and other concerns with senior issues. Delphia Williams mentioned that Marilyn Stevenson would be glad to come out asn speak with the CPAC concerning services for seniors in the Urban Core area.

Building Code Enforcement

Pete Sutherland, see above.

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office - Lt. Brown, Zone 1 administrative Leutenant said that he has taken the place of Lt. Bowen and is now in charge of all bicycle units, police officers on foot, police golf carts in the down town area and he also handles all crime issues and commuunity concerns that may come up.

- He mentioned Zone 1 involvement with Operation Showdown which resulted in over 200 arrests and how they are working a great deal with Code Enforcement to get alot of the abandoned buildings boarded up in Springfield as well.
- He also reported that they are working diligently to reduce panhandling in the down town area and making 2 arrests a week.
- He also reported on calls from cncerned citizens concerning activity at 311 West Ashley Steet. As a result Zone1 blue and gold bike squad units were placed in the area and found drug use and loitering over a two week period that resulted in 9 fellonies and 10 misdemeanors. They also seized large amouts of drugs which resulted in 5 convictions from the arrests. Lt. Brown said that he plan on attending many of the CPAC meetings and if

you have any concerns or questions, he can be reached at 924-5370.
A question and answer period followed.

School Board - Dr. Norman wanted to note that CPAC does not need an area superintendant to attend meetings. However, Urban Core CPAC would like a representative to share concerns and get feedback.

Planning and Development Department - Ken Avery reported that they have one application that will go before the Planning Commission on March 25th, for an establishment on 315 East Bay Street to sell alcoholic beverages. They are concerned with this application because of the schools and churches in the area, all other who are concerned are asked to attend the March 22nd meeting.
A question and answer period followed.

Department of Transportation

None at this time

Neighborhood Services Division - Garry Denson

- 1 Reported on the 2004 Florida Neighborhoods Conference, September 16-17, 2004 at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Encouraged members and guests to consider volunteering at the event. Also mentioned that we are looking for sponsors and that if anyone knew a potential sponsor to let Neighborhood Services know.

Land Use & Zoning - Michael Bryant

Discussed issues (2003-059) and amendments for the rezoning of East 21st Street, and the corner of Laura and 1st Street. He stated that the 6.3 acre of land on East 21st Street would be for a 120 unit apartment building and the Laura and 1st Street historical building would be changed to an office building for a private company. He asked all concerned with the amendments to attend the meetings on February 6th and 7th. For more information contact Planning and Development Department at 630-1900. A question and answer period followed.

Jacksonville Fire & Rescue

None at this time

Old Business

None at this time

New Business

Celia Miller mentioned the Mayor's town meeting and the Chair

encouraged all to attend.

Additional Concerns/Issues

The chair stated that the Urban Core CPAC would like to be represented at all functions throughout the area and requested that information is passed down that will allow them to become more proactive.

The chair mentioned that the Northwest and Urban Core CPAC should work together for the good of the entire area.

Everyone was encouraged to go back in their neighborhoods and get the word out concerning the Jacksonville Children's Commission CPAC grants and to encourage new groups to apply.

The chair also mentioned that the CPAC would like to see more detailed minutes. She requested more articles about the Urban Core for the Neighborhoods magazine.

Celia Miller reminded everyone about the Durkeeville Historical Society Center on West 7th Street and its new exhibit of E.L. Weems and encouraged everyone to stop by and visit.

Doug Vanderlaan reminded everyone about the prosperity campaign and earned income tax credit (for more information call United Way at 211).

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

The next meeting of the Urban Core CPAC will be held at 5:00 P.M., Monday, March 22, 2004 at the Cathedral Terrace Auditorium - 701 N. Ocean Street.