

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

August 22, 2011

6:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Hospital, 4201 Belfort Rd., Main Hospital, Auditorium C, Jacksonville, FL.
32216

Call to Order

Pat Corrado, SE CPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Speaker

Dr. Wayne W. Wood, O.D, Transition Team Co-Leader and Founder of Riverside Avondale Preservation Inc., informed the group that Mayor Brown's transition team was comprised of 18 different teams; each of the teams looked at different department(s) and services. Dr. Wood and John Newman were co-leaders that reviewed the Housing and Neighborhoods Team. Each of the teams had 12-13 members and each member brought a lot of experience to the table with them. The Housing and Neighborhoods Team submitted their report to Mayor Brown on August 8th; their report is titled "50 Great Ideas for Mayor Brown".

The 50 great ideas are all actionable items which can be implemented the first year of Mayor Browns' term. Each of these ideas fall into 1 of 8 categories:

- I. Make neighborhoods a major focus of the Alvin Brown Administration.
- II. Aggressively promote collaborative planning and zoning.
- III. Strictly enforce current codes and laws to strengthen neighborhoods.
- IV. Strengthen the Housing and Neighborhood Department (HAND).
- V. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships to support, stabilize, and enrich neighborhoods.
- VI. Promote neighborhood enhancement initiatives to support quality of life.
- VII. Evaluate and implement existing neighborhood plans and studies.
- VIII. Improve inter-departmental coordination, communication, and collaboration.

The full report can be viewed on line at:

<http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Docs/Transition/Transition-Reports-Portfolio.aspx>

Dr. Wood also presented a slide show, "*Back to the Future*"; the slideshow reflected back to 1893, when 90% of Jacksonville lived downtown. In 1901, the Great Fire of Jacksonville and the re-construction were also covered. It was acknowledged that the Springfield neighborhood is recognized as the beginning of urban sprawl. Then with trolley tracks laid, this opened the doors for development in Riverside, Avondale and San Marco to follow. Once cars and the bridges were built, the amount of urban sprawl continued and changed neighborhoods forever.

In 1974, Dr. Wood was concerned about the destruction of our historic neighborhoods. Joined by other concerned citizens, Dr. Wood decided to take action and formed Riverside Avondale Preservation with the aim of preserving the unique scenic, cultural and historical atmosphere of the neighborhood. Riverside Avondale Preservation (RAP) has grown and evolved through the years. Today, RAP is still active and involved. For more information on the association or any of their activities visit their website at www.riversideavondale.org.

Staff Reports

- **Bill Killingsworth, Mayor Liaison, Planning & Development Department:** no report

Jim Green, FDOT: informed the group about the following projects: Southside Boulevard (from Cargal Street to Atlantic Boulevard) resurfacing will begin soon and the project is expected to be finished in Summer 2012.

Mathews Bridge painting to begin soon and is expected to be finished in Fall 2013. Pre-construction Open House will be held on Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Jacksonville Fairgrounds. Open House 5-6pm, Presentation at 6pm.

I-95 concrete pavement rehabilitation (similar to current projects on I-10 and on Roosevelt Blvd.) will begin. The project portion of I-95 from Greenland Road to JTB will begin soon, finish Late 2014 and the project portion from JTB to Atlantic will also begin soon and finish Summer 2013, this includes extending the sound walls farther north, to near the Volvo dealership (on both sides of I-95).

SR 9A renaming to I-295 will begin soon and be complete in Spring 2012.

- **Aaron Glick, Planning & Development Department:** reminded the group that the Planning and Development Department has the LUZ Application Portal available on the COJ website. Everyone can access and search the database for all applications. Aaron walked the group through the website.
- **Rosemary Wesolowski, Housing & Neighborhoods Department:** reminded the group that the November the CPAC will hold their annual election. In September a subcommittee will be formed. If you are interested in serving on the Nomination Subcommittee, please let Rosemary know.
- **JSO, Zone 3:** Officer Robert Lestrage reminded the group how important neighborhood participation is to JSO. Involved neighborhoods contribute significantly in preventing and solving crime in their community. In Zone 3, both violent and property crime are down, but unfortunately Zone 3 has a major problem with traffic fatalities. Emphasis was placed on staying focused on the road/traffic while driving, do not drive and text, use hands free devices if you must talk on the phone while you drive, always wear a seat belt and be extra careful while driving in residential areas. Schools have opened, be mindful of children on their way to school. Officer Lestrage answered a couple of

questions in regard to A/C unit theft for the copper; he informed the group that it has been a problem, but over the summer there have been a number of arrests in this area. Also, JSO is expecting that there will be legislation introduced in regard to copper thefts soon.

- **Bob Crawford, Code Compliance Supervisor:** informed the group that they remain busy and if there are any problems or concerns to call 630-CITY. Code Compliance continues their systematic inspections. This past month systematic inspections were completed along Losco Road and Sunbeam Road in the Mandarin area. As well as Baymeadows Road (from San Jose Blvd to Southside Blvd). Tomorrow (August 23) systematic inspections in San Marco and Englewood will begin.
- **Quinn Bledsoe, Recreation & Community Services Department:** reminded the group that today is the 1st day of school and the City of Jacksonville has 18 after school programs available throughout the city. The Fall/Winter JaxParks Activities Guide are out and available in the back of the room. All of the JaxParks activities are available at www.JaxParks.com

Chair's Report –

- Verified quorum.
- Voted and approved June 2011 meeting summary. Due to the UNF campus tour in July the CPAC did not hold an official meeting the CPAC did not vote or discuss any issues that required a vote.
- Recognized Council members Lori Boyer, Don Redman and Bill Gulliford.
- It was advised that everyone keep an eye on the weather and it was requested that Rosemary email hurricane preparedness information to the CPAC.

Subcommittee Chair Updates:

Beautification and Environment – Chairperson: Dick Cardell: not present

Economic Development– Chairperson: Gloria Stephens: The fifth annual EAT UP DOWNTOWN campaign has returned. The dining promotion runs for 2 weeks (August 15-28). Each participating restaurant offers specially selected, three-course dinner menu for \$25 per person. View the menus online, select your favorite and call the restaurant for reservations. The participating restaurants include b.b.'s , Chew, Cinco de Mayo, Indochine, Juliette's, River City Brewing Co. and the Wine Cellar. Also, it has been announced that Wells Fargo is going to start testing a \$3 fee on their cards. You may want to watch your bank statements closely for any new or unusual charges.

Education – Co-Chairs: George Banks and John Waddell: announced that he is still working to arrange participation from Duval County Public Schools; John also remains optimistic that a representative will be at the September meeting.

Growth Management & Transportation – Chairman: Danny Becton: On July 13, 2011 a special redistricting meeting was held and focused on the council districts in Zone 3.

The 2010 census data provided by the federal Government dictates our political representation for City Council Members and School Board Representatives. The total population for redistricting in Jacksonville is 864,263 and it has been determined that the ideal population for city council districts would be 61,733 and 172,853 for At-Large Council Districts. The districts may only have a 10% variance from the largest to the smallest. Due to growth and population shifts the south side of the St. Johns River will be getting a new district and the north side of the St. Johns River will be losing a district. At the July 13th meeting the group did formulate a number of recommendations and comments. It was also that there will be 4 city sponsored community meeting (all over town) to encourage the input of the citizens. There are a number of important dates to remember involved with this process; they are:

August 23, 2011 an ordinance amending the city charter must be introduced at the by the next City Council Meeting

September 29, 2011 the Rules Committee must hold at least 3 public hearing/meetings in the community in 3 different locations within 45 days.

October 14, 2011 no sooner than 15 days after the final public hearing, the Rules Committee shall report the ordinance to the full City Council.

October 25, 2011 City Council meeting ~ last days to make any changes

November 8, 2011 City Council meeting ~ last days to make any changes

November 18, 2011 the new redistricting plan must be completed and approved by City Council.

Bill Killingsworth and the Planning and Development Department were recognized for their excellent work and dedication to the Redistricting process.

Land Use & Zoning – Co-Chairs: Michael Lashbrook and Jim Hill:

Gamal Lyons on behalf of Jim Hill and Micheal Lashbrook chaired the subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee discussed 3 applications, but no motions or actions were made.

Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Kathleen Perera: no report, but shared her experience of trying to relinquish a stray dog to the Human Society and the COJ Animal Care and Control. There was some concern in regard to the policies at Animal Care and Control; so it was requested to have a confirmation on their policies.

Safety – Co-Chairs: Roger Inman and Betty Wolfe: no report

T.R.U.E. Commission – Gamal Lyons: stated that the commission has completed their conclusion on the retirement plan and they are still working on the budget.

The floor was opened to all in attendance:

Councilman Gulliford recognized Bill Killingsworth again for his dedication to the Redistricting Process. As well, Councilman Gulliford announced that he would be bringing some information to the September CPAC meeting in regard to the 9A/Baymeadows Regional Park and would like the CPAC input on the future improvements of the park. It was also requested to have Kelley Boree attend the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Monday, September 26, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

at

***St. Luke's Hospital, 4201 Belfort Road,
Main Hospital – Auditorium C***