

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

June 23, 2008

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

Call to Order

Gamal Lyons, SE CPAC Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

Speakers

- **Bill Joyce, Chief of Engineering & Construction Management, City of Jacksonville;** informed the group that a multi year project to re-examine flood zones and develop detailed, digital flood hazard maps will begin. It was acknowledged that the map modernization project is a joint effort between the City of Jacksonville and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The project timeline was provided. For more information contact Marcy Cook at 255-8759 visit www.FloodSmart.gov.
- **John Peyton, Mayor, City of Jacksonville;** presented *A Statement of Priorities* to the CPAC. There are 3 areas that were recognized as having the greatest long-term benefit to the community; safeguarding the St. Johns River, enhancing economic development and ensuring public safety.

Safeguarding the St. Johns River is of prime importance to the city because it holds distinguishing characteristic to this part of the state, it is the center of downtown, supports over 19,000 jobs, annual business impact of \$2 billion and the riverfront property has more than \$1.3 billion on the tax rolls. Currently, the river is on the "10 Most Endangered Rivers" list, 54 of the 71 tributaries are unsafe, recently we have seen evidence of this with algae blooms. We are also faced with the TMDL mandate for river and tributaries. The city has made some progress by working with the River Accord, fighting water withdrawal, the proposed fertilizer / water ordinances, implementing the Stormwater Utility which dedicates funding, the septic tank phase-out program and working with state funded money to make various improvements.

It is important and difficult to enhance economic development during the current nationwide economic downturn. While costs continue to climb it is important to raise our per capita income and invest in our infrastructure. While faced with these challenges the city has experienced impressive growth (both economically and with citizens) over the past few years. Some of the growth can be attributed to an increase in military presence; this has added 2,700 jobs, Jacksonville is on track to get a nuclear carrier, five new aircraft squadrons, two new ships and regional engineering command that will bring more than 5,000 people to Jacksonville by 2009. Local film and TV production industry has had local economic impact of \$459.8 million in last 5 years. Through the revamped

JEDC there has been \$2.9 billion generated in new private capital investment, such as investments in business expansions/relocations that will create over 5,700 jobs. Most recently ground was broken on a \$44 million Bridgestone Firestone distribution and logistics center at Cecil Commerce Center. There is major growth development at JAXPORT; MOL will have an annual economic benefit of \$930 million and more than 1,600 port jobs and 4,000 indirect jobs, also Hanjin will create thousands of direct and indirect jobs. Hanjin will also triple the number of containers port handles annually. Future economic drivers that we plan to work on will be Downtown Development, Cecil Commerce Center and continued growth of JAXPORT. All of these drivers will offer positive developments with great potential, but they require continued attention and investment.

The most comprehensive public safety initiative in Jacksonville history has been put together. Jacksonville can no longer afford to be the "murder capital of Florida." Statistics show that Jacksonville has the highest murder rate in Florida; the highest percentage of violent crime in Florida and lowest in per capita police spending. Other factors that contribute to our crime is the high illiteracy rate, high truancy / dropout rates and our inability to not keep kids off streets.

The citizens of Jacksonville need to determine what kind of City do we want? The community needs to have modern infrastructure, clean environment, economically prosperous and safe communities. The Jacksonville Journey has a number of recommendations to help us reach our goals. Some of the recommendations are to put more police on the streets, improve youth programs / education and challenge the private sector to become involved. The 2009 city budget will be presented to City Council on July 14th; everyone is encouraged to review the budget that will be available on line. The involvement of the community is essential to make Jacksonville the best city in Florida.

Staff Reports

Ed Hall, Mayor Liaison: informed the group that construction on St. Augustine Road in the Greenland Road area is nearly finished. Construction around the St. Augustine Road / 295 interchange is on track to be finished before Thanksgiving.

- **Jim Green, FDOT:** no report – all projects are on schedule.
- **Rosemary Wesolowski, Housing & Neighborhoods Department:** provided information about the various programs available for hurricane evacuation, hurricane shelters for pets, hurricane shelters for those with special needs and how to access this information on line.
- **Aaron Glick, Planning & Development Department:** informed the group that a few issues were still pending. On July 24th one project will be the focus; that is the development of a 2 story office building in the San Marco / Hendricks Avenue area.

- **Lt. Ricks, JSO**: informed the group that community involvement is critical for JSO and is a tremendous aid in fighting crime. The group was also reminded to always be aware of their surrounding when they are at home or out and about. Safety begins at home; please report any suspicious activity or any strange events that seems out of the ordinary for your neighborhood. It is recommended that homeowners should keep their garage doors closed when they are not in and/or around the garage.

Chair's Report

- Verified quorum.
- Voted and approved May 2008 meeting summary.
- Reminded the group that an email in regard to a foreclosure prevention program was available; please share this with your neighbors, family and friends.

Subcommittee Reports:

Beautification and Environment – Chairperson: Dick Cardell: No report

Economic Development and Transportation – Chairperson: Kathleen Perera: No report

Education – Chairman: George Banks. Not present

Growth Management – Chairman: Frank Morgan Informed the group that the second growth management committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 24th at the Southeast Regional Library at 6:00 p.m. In the future there will be a citywide charret (s) to further look at growth management. Also, the Baymeadows transportation study is back on-line. The study should be completed by September or October of this year.

Land Use & Zoning – Chairman: Michael Lashbrook. No actions or motions at this time.

Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Gloria Stephens. No report

Safety – Chairman: Ray Aleksic: No report

The floor was opened to all in attendance:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 28, 2008

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