

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY August 22, 2005

Call to Order

Charles McBurney, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Staff Reports

- Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhood Services, made a request for CPAC members to complete a survey to inform the CPAC chair what type of guest speakers the group would be interested in inviting to future CPAC meetings.
- Lara Dietrich, Planning and Development, presented information on the 8th Annual Florida Brownfields Conference, which will focus on “brownfields” properties which are abandoned, idle or underused industrial and commercial properties at which real or perceived contamination interferes with efficient expansion or redevelopment efforts. At this conference is designed to foster open communication between citizens, developers, lawyers and scientist. To better enable at citizens to attend, there are 15 scholarships available.
- Steve Williams, Property Safety, introduction of new inspector Michael Waelde, update property safety statistics. From July 22 to August 18, 2005, Property Safety completed 745 inspections, 18 were commercial properties, 136 junk vehicles, 294-nuisance property, 240 residential homes and 57 unsafe structures. Letters are sent to the violators and these letters are public records. To obtain a copy of these letters, submit your requests in person at Property Safety, 1801 Art Museum Dr., Jacksonville, FL. 32207.
- Jim Green, DOT, announced a public meeting to be held on September 12, 2005 in regard to the re-grading of the Mathews Bridge. The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on September 15, 2005 at Florida Department of Transportation Training Facility, 2250 Irene Street, Jacksonville, Florida.

Speakers

Doug Ayars, Associate Superintendent, Support Operations for Duval County Public Schools, discussed the current status of the Duval County Schools vs. the plans for the future with an emphasis on population growth/shift and amendment 9 – class size compliance.

Current fact about Duval county schools:

- In 2005, 130,000 students attend Duval County Public Schools.
- Currently Duval County Schools operated over 160 schools with a total value of \$2 billion dollars.
- Half of Duval County Schools are at or over capacity.
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By the 2009 – 2010 school year, the Duval County Schools need to be in compliance with Amendment 9- Class Size Compliance (student/teacher ratio). Currently, the Duval County schools will not meet the new amendment in several different areas.

Mr. Ayars stated that one of the first areas that the school board must correct is the number of seats available for students. On paper it appears that there are enough seats available, but many of the seats are not in the areas of the greatest demand. Thus, forcing the evaluation of student busing or the use of portables, which can only be an option if the school has the land.

The next concern is the student/teacher ratio. Currently, the Duval County school system utilizes the Co-teacher system, which pairs an experienced teacher with a student teacher. Under amendment 9 this is not an acceptable means to meet the student/teacher ratio. Currently the school has formed a task force to evaluate this problem.

The school board has made many strides to improve the school districts challenges. To relieve the over crowding of high schools on the Southside, negotiations are almost finished for land near J. Turner Butler Blvd. and 9A. The school board plans to have a new high school opened by the summer of 2008. Property in the Greenland Road and U.S. 1 area are also under negotiation and the school board hopes to have a contract completed by October 2005. The last high school that is currently planned will be located on the West side off Chaffee Road and plans are to have the school open by the fall of 2007. The school board currently is in negotiations with JEA to obtain JEA land to build a new Kindergarten through 8th grade school near the Baymeadows Road and 9A area.

Lastly, Mr. Ayars stated that recent inspections have indicated that overall, the current schools are in good condition. Maintenance and safety issues are completed in an appropriate and timely manner.

Brad Thoburn, Better Jacksonville Plan – Road Program, gave a brief presentation on the status of the Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP) – Road Program. Currently, the BJP is experiencing funding issues due to the escalating cost of materials and land so they reevaluated the plan and started prioritizing the best use of resources.

The BJP in assessing the long term strategy to complete the BJP projects, it has been necessary to maximize local sources of funding, plan and prioritize for the best use of funds available and leverage local dollars committed for state roads to generate a funding partnership with the FDOT to complete high priority state road projects.

To get a complete update on all of the Better Jacksonville Plans, visit their website www.betterjax.com.

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

The subcommittees met from 7:40 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

Staff Reports

- Michael Dickey, Consumer Affairs, no report, but updated the CPAC about possible changes in the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- Lieutenant G.W. Grant, Sheriff's Office, stated that overall crime is down 26% from last year, auto burglaries has had a recent increase and murder citywide is down 30% from last year. Announced the SHADCO Fair at the Avenues Mall on Saturday, August 27, 05 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm.

Chair's Report

- The minutes were unanimously approved.
- James "Jim" Hill was recognized for his outstanding achievements and recognized the he was selected as a Neighborhood Hero in the July/August 2005 Neighborhood Magazine.

- SE CPAC Subcommittee quarterly meeting in July. At the meeting the subcommittee chairs focused on member retention, member recruitment, Children's Commission Grant and council members meeting with various associations

Vice Chairs Report

- Gamal Lyons reported that the SE District has awarded \$25,000 in Children's Commission Grants money to 7 different organizations (Families First at Ravenwoods Apartments, Young Christians in Actions Youth Sports, Empowerment Resources, Community Outreach Agency, St. Joseph's Catholic Vacation Bible School, Lutheran Social Services and Safe Kids).

Subcommittee Reports

Beautification and Environment – Chairperson: Vickie Breedlove. Focused on 3 topics: 1. Development on Hood Road; research and confirm that the development will not impact wetland in the area 2. Algae bloom on the St. John's River 3. Passed out handout for Pond Workshop

Economic Development & Transportation – Chairperson: Mark Roesser. Frank Morgan chaired in Mr. Roesser's absence. No issues tonight.

Education – Chairman: Paul Riel. Enjoyed presentation by Doug Ayers. From the presentation and other sources the education subcommittee would like to foster stronger relations between the school board, planning department and the CPAC.

Land Use & Zoning – Chairman: Jim Hill. Tonight this committee focused on 4 topics: 1. Working with Council member Shad in regard to the density of a D.R. Horton condominium development on Hood Road near Sunbeam. In reviewing the project, it should be recommended that the units should be limited to 45-50 instead of the 84 that is proposed. 2. The subcommittee has asked John Pappas, Public Works to review the drainage issue at Ila Road and Hood Road. John Pappas will review the engineering plan and make a site visit. 3. Council member Copeland has asked that the CPAC work with her in encouraging the developer to increase the minimum lot width to 75 feet. 4. Working on an extra page for the SE CPAC web site to post the public notice information

Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Jim McKenney. Has followed up the mail out with phone calls. Also request a reach out to all neighborhoods that you know is not currently active in the CPAC. Extend invitation to join CPAC by contacting area civic and business organizations.

Membership Retention – Chairman: Jack Hale. Attendance letters has gone out and follow up calls will be made to all the know groups.

The floor was opened to all in attendance:

Ray Aleksic made a reminder announcement in regard to the SHADCO Fair on August 27, 2005

Jack Hale stated that the new South Mandarin Library was open and quite an asset to the area

Greater San Souci Neighborhood Association (GSSNA) President, Mark Owens, introduced the new CPAC representative for GSSNA, Chris Monti.

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

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 26, 2005
LOCATION: Mandarin Library, 3330 Kori Road.