

# SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY January 23, 2006

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

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## Call to Order

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

## Speakers

**Jeff Beck, Chief, Streets and Drainage**, gave a presentation on retention ponds, covering the background, basic facts and types of treatment systems.

**Background: Water Quality** – In the early 1980s retention ponds were introduced to reduce pollutants from storm water runoff. Phosphorus, nitrogen, trash, heavy metals, bacteria, grease and oil are common pollutants. It has been determined that the first half inch of rain washes 80-90% of the pollutants into the drainage system.

**Basic facts** – 630 billion gallons of rain falls annually in the Jacksonville area. The usage of retention ponds allows the water to be released slowly to lessen downstream impacts. Typically, there is a 48 to 72 hour recovery period for ponds, lakes and other waterways. There are over 10,000 ponds privately maintained and 103 storm water ponds maintained by the City of Jacksonville's Streets and Drainage Division. Subdivision pond maintenance is the responsibility of homeowner associations or property owners.

**Types of Treatment Systems** – Typically the treatment systems fall into the following categories: wet ponds, dry ponds (rear yard swales), ex-filtration systems and storage / control structures (within pipes and manholes). The St. Johns River Water Management issues permits to the developer, then the appropriate ex-filtration system is designed to meet the needs of the development. After the development is completed the permit is passed on with the rest of the homeowners association paperwork. If an association needs to obtain a copy of the pond permit, a copy can be obtained from St. Johns River Water Management. Often a copy may be needed in the event that a pond needs to be dredged or undergo a major clean out.

Mr. Beck also extended an invitation to all who would like to further discuss all aspects of retention ponds to call him at 472-2900.

**Cynthia Savage-Rice, Volunteer, Blueprint for Prosperity**, provided copies of the November 4, 2005 Public Input Draft and discussed some of the information that has been gathered.

The Blueprint for Prosperity is a cooperative project partnered by the City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce, WorkSource, and the residents/community leaders of Jacksonville to increase the per capita income of Duval County. Blueprint for Prosperity is designed to improve our community through concentrated efforts on six community foundations: economic development, education, racial opportunity and harmony, infrastructure, leadership and quality of life. The most unique aspect of Blueprint for Prosperity is that it has been developed by the community and will be implemented by the community itself. She said Blueprint for Prosperity's ultimate goal is to transform our city, which will require a long term commitment from each of us to make this happen.

To obtain a copy of the Public Input Draft contact Blueprint for Prosperity at 904-924-1100 \*238 or [www.blueprintforprosperity.com](http://www.blueprintforprosperity.com).

### **Staff Reports**

- **Lynn Westbrook, Public Works:** represented Alan Mosley, Mayor's Liaison; no report, but available for questions or comments.
- **Cynthia Downer, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue:** presented information on winter safety. During the colder months, many individuals are using space heaters. Both electric and fuel space heater can be dangerous if used improperly. Always remember to keep flammable items at least 3 feet from space heaters. Use extreme caution when adding or moving fuel-filled space heaters. In the winter months it is also important to check smoke detectors. It is recommended to test the batteries monthly and to change the batteries every 6 months. Studies have shown that small children often do not respond to traditional smoke detectors. In an effort to improve the safety factor for children, several smoke detector manufacturers have developed a special smoke detector that personalizes the warning signal with the child's parent(s) voice waking them and instructing the child with the appropriate actions to take. These smoke detectors can be purchased at many retail stores. Ms. Downer also introduced the Fire Starter program that JFRD has developed to work with children that like to play with matches. Please contact JFRD for enrollment information.
- **Jeri Ricks, Building Inspection Division:** announced that their division is currently working on 1016 C.A.R.E. complaints.
- **Rosemary Wesolowski, Neighborhoods Service:** requested CPAC members to complete and return the CPAC renewal forms that had previously been sent to various members. Upon the return of the completed forms the CPAC database can be updated.
- **Michael Waelde, Property Safety Division:** announced that the Property Safety Division is still adapting to their new paperless system and that the Property Safety Division is now working with a full staff. The SE CPAC was introduced to new property safety staff member, Katie Urban.
- **Lt. L.V. Schmitt, Jacksonville Sheriffs Office:** addressed recent concerns regarding felons, sexual offenders and predators residing in our neighborhoods. JSO is required to inform all individuals living within 1000 feet of an offender within 60 days once an offender has moved to a new location. Currently, JSO is up to date with informing all required neighbors. FDLE has established a number of guidelines for offenders to follow at the time of their relocation into a community. Any individual may research the various guidelines and research the offenders that reside in their area on the FDLE website: [www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us). Lt. Schmitt clarified that information found on the FDLE website is public record and can be reproduced in association newsletters. Lt. Schmitt also encouraged everyone to participate in ShAdCo; to learn about the ShAdCo program, please call 828-5463.
- **Guy Parola, Planning Department:** no report
- **Kris Barnes, District 3 School Board Member:** announced that the Duval County School Board has kicked off an ongoing series of monthly community meetings to discuss the future of Duval County Schools. Each month, the board will conduct a meeting in a different area of the county to increase access for everyone interested in attending. The next meeting will be held at Wolfson High School, 7000 Powers Ave. at 6:00 p.m. on February 9, 2006

### **Subcommittee Breakout Sessions**

The subcommittees met from 7:30 to 7:55 p.m.

### **Chair's Report**

- Verified quorum.
- Motion to approve the November CPAC meeting summary – voted and approved.
- Presented Appreciation Awards to Mark Roesser, Economic Development and Transportation Subcommittee chair and Paul Riel, Education Subcommittee chair for their dedication to the Southeast CPAC.
- Report on Mayor’s Quarterly Meeting with the CPAC Chairs:
  - It was announced that there would be budget cuts throughout the city, however no cuts would be made that would affect the safety of the citizens.
  - Cecil Field – will not be reopened as a military base.
  - The City of Jacksonville has signed a deal on a new courthouse; details will be released soon.
  - The mayor updated everyone to the fact that Blueprint for Prosperity has released the public input draft.
  - Jacksonville Children’s Commission is experiencing funding problems; at this time it is uncertain if there will be funds for the grants. Until it can be confirmed that grant money will be available, the SE CPAC will hold off on forming a committee.
  - Community wide concerns exist regarding water quality and access to the river.
  - Expanding CPAC meetings to the community; having CPAC members bring guests to the meetings.
- A bus tour of the SE District will occur April 21, 2006 in lieu in the monthly meeting for April. Any suggestions for the bus tour should be sent to Gamal Lyons. Details for the bus tour will be provided in the near future.
- The SE CPAC would like to announce that Ray Aleksic will chair the newly formed Safety Subcommittee.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

**Beautification and Environment – Chairpersons: Vickie Breedlove / Mark Roesser.** The subcommittee had the opportunity to continue learning about retention ponds from quest speaker Jeff Beck, Chief, Streets and Drainage. The subcommittee has verified that it is recommended that retention ponds be inspected at least once a year. Also, it is not required to fence a retention pond unless the grade is steeper than a 4 to 1 ratio.

**Economic Development and Transportation – Chairperson: Bill Kintz .** This subcommittee proposed that the Beautification & Environment Subcommittee and the Economic Development and Transportation subcommittees work jointly on several projects. In the future, this subcommittee would like to have presentations from Jacksonville Transit Authority, Parks Department and local developers.

**Education – Chairman: Paul Riel.** Reviewed the data from the Blueprint for Prosperity – Public Input Draft, as it relates to education then discussed the data on graduation rates and math / reading scores. The Subcommittee would also like to encourage attendance at the community meetings that the Duval County School Board will be hosting.

**Land Use & Zoning – Chairman: Jim Hill.** The LUZ Subcommittee had a special meeting prior to the CPAC meeting. The special meeting was called to the Julington Creek Marina. The LUZ Subcommittee made a motion to submit an opposition letter to council members Copeland and Shad on the Julington Creek Marina project. The motion was called to question; after some discussion the SE CPAC voted and approved to send the opposition letter to City Council.

**Membership Recruitment – Chairman: Jim McKenney.** The subcommittee would like to welcome Gloria Stephens to the team. The subcommittee is still actively contacting associations that are not attending CPAC meeting.

**Safety – Chairman: Ray Aleksic.** The subcommittee addressed the increase in crime in Zone 3; mostly in the area of Ricky Road. The subcommittee would like to research the possibility of mandating background checks on renters. The subcommittee would also like to promote ShAdCo and the Neighborhood Watch Program to all in the Southeast District.

***The floor was opened to all in attendance:***

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

***NEXT MEETING: 6:30 p.m., Monday, February 27, 2006***  
***LOCATION: St. Luke's Hospital, 4201 Belfort Road,***  
***Main Hospital – Auditorium C***