

SOUTHEAST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING SUMMARY June 28, 2004

Members and Alternates

Angie Vannatter, Chair	Joni Cusic	Marlene Tege MacMillin
Charles McBurney, Vice-Chair	R.E. Daughtery	Charles Magee
Ray Aleksic	Christine Fuchs	Karen McCarthy
Teresa Amereihn	Lowell Griffith	Jim McKenney
Marian Beaman	Jack Hale	Paul Riel
Vickie Breedlove	Ralph Hodges	Mark Roesser
Joyce Brown	David Jaffee	Ralph Saffy
Richard Cardell	Bill Kintz	Kathleen Stansell
Patrick Corrado	Mike Lawson	Gary Ulrich
Art Costa	Gamal Lyons	Rose Zurawski

City Staff/Ex-Officio/Guests

Kris Barnes, DCSB	Meiniana Osman, Pine Forest
Mack Bissette, Oxford Oaks	Guy Parola, Planning & Development
George Cotto, Carriage Crossing I	Bill Raspet
John Crofts, Mayor's Liaison	Jeri Ricks, Building Inspection
Mike Dean, Oxford Oaks	Dan Scanlan, Times-Union
Amy Dezso, UNF Nursing	Art Shad, CC District 5
Michael Dickey, Consumer Affairs	Erin Stansell, Village Green
Aubree Durand, UNF Nursing	Carly Strickland, UNF Nursing
Sgt. Steve Earnest, JSO	Melinda Strickland, UNF Nursing
Diana Frederickson, UNF Nursing	Nikki Swearington, UNF Nursing
Jim Green, FDOT	George Tawes, Property Safety
William Hamrick	Lou Tesoro, UNF Nursing
Sean Kelly, Planning & Development	Kimberly Wenzel, UNF Nursing
Bruce Kusawa	Dawn Wood, Neighborhood Services
Amber Malecki, UNF Nursing	

Excused

Jim Hill	Mark MacLean	Kim Whigham
Darline Jones	Nancy Van Pelt	

Call to Order

Angie Vannatter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the subcommittee meetings will be abbreviated due to the need to complete the Freedom Commerce Center business.

Subcommittee Breakout Sessions

The subcommittees met from 6:35-6:55 p.m.

JSO Zone 3 Sergeant Steve Earnest reported on issues in the zone. There have been a number of burglaries in Laundromats especially in apartments and an influx of transients committing crimes along Phillips Highway. On the positive side, zone three is also the most improved zone this month even with staffing levels low. Members complained about The Trap, a new strip club on University Boulevard. Sgt. Earnest stated that there have been numerous complaints and JSO officers are making themselves visible in the area.

Speaker

Fred Cole, Program Coordinator for Jacksonville Community Emergency Response Team (Jax CERT), gave an overview of the program and the need for more members of the community to take the training. There is a condensed course for the summer held on three consecutive Saturdays starting July 17. The next regular course begins September 2 and runs through November 6. More information can be found at duvalprepares.org.

Chair's Report

- The minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change of adding Ralph Saffy as being in attendance at the last meeting.
- Sail Jacksonville went very well.
- The corridor study group took a month off and will meet again in July.
- Angie attended a meeting on the cleanup of the Southside generating plant site. JEA feels good about the progress of the cleanup efforts.
- Greenscape has given Angie information about a tree program they have.
- Angie has gotten calls of concern from residents in the north district about the proposed port location.
- Clean It Up Jax will be held Saturday, October 23, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to noon. The CPAC will have two major sites to pick up supplies. These sites have yet to be determined.
- CPAC 4th Annual Picnic will be held Saturday, August 7 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Location and ticket information is forthcoming.
- Joni Cusic was requested to chair the Florida Neighborhoods Conference Awards Selection subcommittee. The other members will be determined at a later date. The final selections for individual and neighborhood are due to Neighborhood Services by August 2.

Subcommittee Reports

Land Use & Zoning – Paul Riel reported there was nothing of consequence to bring before the whole CPAC.

Environmental – Chris Fuchs reported on the following issues the subcommittee discussed:

- Skinner Parkway – concern from a resident over protection of wildlife when construction come through.
- JEA is planting trees around their stations. This is good but there was also concern about the maintenance of landscaping.

Economic Development & Transportation – Gamal Lyons reported on the following items:

- The Lake Mandarin Association has concerns about the traffic on Claire Lane with new development and the expansion of the Wal-Mart there.
- Concern about the necessary land acquisition for the bullet train.

- Funds for the New Ways grant from the Children’s Commission have been delayed again this year but should be released by mid-July.
- The Mayor’s Neighborhood Matching Grant deadline is Wednesday, June 30.

Neighborhood Outreach/Membership – Jim McKenney reported on the following issues:

- Calls about limbs and trees down due to recent storms.
- The on-going problem with semi trucks parking at Skinners Park ballpark.
- Items he has available for members are the CPAC By-Laws and environmental videos.

Jack Hale reported that some contacts have been made about membership in the CPAC but no new nominations have been received.

Staff Reports

- John Crofts, Mayor’s Liaison, reported that the new year for City Council starts Thursday, July 1. The Southeast city council members are well represented on the newly formed subcommittees. The governor signed a growth management related bill that includes navy representatives on the local planning commission. Water supply planning will also be required.
- Jim Green, FDOT, reported that 170 people attended the public meeting on the Matthews Bridge on June 24.
- Sean Kelly and Guy Parola are now officially the new Planning & Development Department.
- Dawn Wood, Neighborhood Services Division, reminded members of the Citywide CPAC picnic on Aug 7 and the Clean It Up Jax Day on October 23. Volunteers helped Neighborhood Services mail out almost 10,000 registration brochures for the Florida Neighborhoods Conference, Ray Aleksic being one of those who spent 5 hours helping with that project. The conference is Sep 16-18. Neighborhood and individual awards are due by August 2.
- George Tawes, Property Safety Code Enforcement, had no report except to say that they are busy training new officers.
- Michael Dickey, Consumer Affairs, reported that the most calls they are receiving right now are for landlord/tenant disputes. Consumer education classes are being held for this issue.
- Art Shad, District 5 City Councilman, reported on the following:
 - Public hearing before the city council LUZ on the Blackwood Forest PUD (off Hood Road) next Wednesday.
 - Hood Road widening project goes to bid next week. Construction to begin by September.
 - Goodby’s Creek PUD controversy. The developer is submitting plans even though they are not at the point to be approved.
 - Installment ceremony for Elaine Brown, President and Kevin Hyde, Vice-President is tomorrow, June 29.
- Kris Barnes, DCSB, reported that 6 schools in Duval County received an F on the FCAT scores. The southeast district did well. The mayor’s initiative in Early Literacy is important. She encouraged everyone to become a mentor in order to make up for those families who can not put in the time needed.

Freedom Commerce Center

At the May CPAC meeting the following motion was made and tabled until further research could be done. Two committees were tasked with looking into the matter.

The Southeast CPAC opposes the proposed Freedom Commerce development because of the development of 140 acres of wetlands of regional environmental impact.

Paul Riel reported that he worked with Ralph Hodges and Pat Corrado to determine environmental impact of the proposed development. Ralph spoke to affected neighborhoods, Pat talked to the Riverkeeper and Paul spoke to the city. From their research, the committee concluded to not recommend supporting the development as proposed by the developer.

Angie reported that she worked with Jim Hill, Rose Zurawaski, Vickie Breedlove and Charles McBurney to determine the transportation issues of the proposed development. They met with King Engineering and toured the site. Rose presented information on the traffic flow at the entrances to the development and maps were passed around showing the progression of changes to the proposed development over time. The committee stated that they would not stand in opposition to the project.

The floor was opened for comments.

Bill Kintz expressed concern over how allowing some development now may lead to more in the future at that very site.

Ralph Saffy presented a map of the area and expressed his concern about destroying the swamps. He read aloud a letter he wrote in opposition to the development.

Angie asked John Croft's opinion of the development. He stated that the city already approved the plans with conditions.

Ralph Hodges also expressed concern that 20% of the wetlands in that area would be affected.

The motion was again read aloud as stated above.

The Southeast CPAC opposes the proposed Freedom Commerce development because of the development of 140 acres of wetlands of regional environmental impact.

The motion was approved 26 votes to 4.

Angie stated that Paul, Charles and she will write a resolution and bring it to the July meeting of the CPAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: 6:30 p.m., Monday, July 26, 2004 at Twin Lakes Academy Middle School media center, 8050 Point Meadows Drive.

Directions (from the Southeast Branch library): Take Butler Blvd. EAST to St. Johns Bluff Road/9A SOUTH (right). Exit Baymeadows Road WEST (right). At approximately one-third of a mile, turn NORTH (right) on Point Meadows Drive. One-third of a mile down is the school – 8050 Point Meadows Drive. Follow signs for “Buses and Faculty” (the road just BEFORE the school on your left) and park in the back. Facing the open breezeway, the media center is the right-most building.