PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Florida Theatre Building, Suite 500, 128 East Forsyth Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32202
Telephone (904) 630-1905 Fax (904) 630-1485

SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF
THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 1994

PRESENT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lou Myers, Chairman
Juanita Baker
James Brown
Elaine Burnett
Edith Green
Jerry Jones
Barney Roberts
Rev. Eugene Mobley
Henry C. Miley
Buddy Spradley
Renora White
Alton Yates

STAFF

Balraj Mehta, Jacksonville Plng. and Dev. Dept.
Captain Mark Bowen, Office of The Sheriff

OTHERS

Thomas Atkins
Bill Mann
Gregory Owens
Roger Sharp
John Shellhorn

Chairman Myers called the meeting to order at 6.10. P.M. After the invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Myers introduced Mr. Roger Sharp, deputy director of Engineering, Jacksonville Transportation Authority for a presentation on the proposed Soutel Drive Improvement project.

Mr. Sharp introduced Bill Mann of Landers and Atkins, Planners and Architects to present the proposed project. Mr. Mann stated that the proposal involves a study of the Soutel Drive -Pritchard Road corridor from I-295 on the west to I-95 on the east with the possibility of linking the two side with a bridge over the Trout River. He indicated that Hammer, Siler,and George of Maryland were the consultants to study the economic impacts of the proposed project. He also indicated that studies of this project go back to sixties. He then described the major features of the project.

In answer to questions, Mr. sharp expressed that most likely outcome of this study would be to link Soutel Drive with I-295 on the west and make some cosmetic improvements to Soutel Drive from Old Kings Road to Lem Turner Road in order to improve the appearance of the corridor and the development along it. Because of the strong opposition from local community, specially residents of Riverview area, no action is likely to be taken on the proposed extension east of Lem Turner Road.

Mr. Myers thanked Mr. Sharp and Mr. Mann for their presentation.

The chairman then asked every committee member to present their recommendations on Crime. After all the members had presented their recommendations, Ms. Elaine Burnett read a mission statement. With the Committee members agreeing, the Chairman directed the staff to prepare a draft "Crime Report" from the proposals made by the committee members. The Mission Statement drafted by Ms. Burnett shall be incorporated into the report. The draft report shall be mailed to all the members by no later than Feb; 11, 1994. The members should call in their comments to Mr. Mehta or Mr. Avery by Feb; 14, 1994. Thereafter, the report will be finalized and forwarded to the Mayor on February 15, 1994.

Mr. Mehta distributed a revised list of committee members resulting from the deletion of the names of Mr. Joseph Prince, Mr. Arthur Sullivan and Mr. Madison Smith and addition of Mr. John Wright. He introduced Mr. Kenneth Avery, a planner with the Planning and Development Department who will be taking over as the staff to the committee. Mehta mentioned that the staff was looking for opportunities for greater publicity for the committee meetings and invited members to furnish the addresses of various churches, community centers, and other similar places where the meeting notices could be sent for display.

Mr. Mehta informed the Committee that the Department of Recreation and Parks was conducting a study for making improvements and expansions to existing parks in the City and would like to discuss it with the Committee members. Also, the Planning and Development Department prepares a 5-year Capital Improvement Program for the City every Year. The program includes all projects by the City involving land acquisition and/or improvement and costing over $25,000. The Department would like to make a presentation to the committee for any input from the members.

It was decided that the next meeting of the committee will be held on March 10, 1994 at 6.00 P.M. at the Northwest Regional Library on Edgewood Avenue and will be devoted to the presentation and discussion of the above mentioned two programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Date_____

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Lou Myers, Chairman