CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NORTHWEST PLANNING DISTRICT
Ms. Elaine Burnett, Chairman District 5

Barney Roberts, Vice-chairman

SUMMARY OF THE JUNE 13, 1996 NORTHWEST CPAC MEETING

Committee Members Present
Northwest

Elaine Burnett, Chairman
Louis Dinah
Lou Myers
Edith Green
Brad Straley
Barney Roberts
Mary Jones
Adam DuBois
Pat Arnold

OTHERS PRESENT

Jocelyn Turner, Duval CPHU
Hermyone Walker, Keepsafe Adult Day Care
C. B. Griffin
Rosa L. Walker

Speakers

Helen Ridley
Leo Dennis
Hermyone Walker

City Staff/Officials Present

Donny Rees
Code Enforcement

Gloriden J. Norris
Principal of C. G. Woodson

Ken Avery
Sr. Planner, Planning & Development

Floretta Green
Community Development Division

Sgt. Terry
Sheriff's Office

Helen Ridley
Planning & Development Department

Leo Dennis
Community Services Department

The Chairman, Elaine Burnett, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Edith Green opened with a prayer followed by the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation by Hermyone Walker "(ValuJet Crash Site)"

Ms. Hermyone Walker is a volunteer with the Red Cross, she discussed her experience working with the ValuJet Crash Site in Miami Florida. One of her primary responsibilities was a counselor for the people working as volunteers with the crash site. It was an eye-opening experience for her. There were people throughout the nation that were represented under the category of Disaster Mental Health, and Phd's, who shared what was going on with each other. They were exhausted working in contaminated water; however, there is a drive in you that makes you want to do whatever is necessary. The Police Officer Specialist were treating the area as a crime scene; whereas, this was identified as a disaster scene, they were recovering evidence as a crime scene. There were a lot of alligators and snakes. The days were long and the work was hard, but it was wonderful to work around people who felt the same as you did. Everyone did whatever was necessary to get the job done. She stated the Red Cross needed more volunteers - the Red Cross can use you. The Red Cross uses 91% of every dollar toward services for people that are in need.

Presentation by Helen Ridley The Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grants Program

The Grant Program is citywide with a deadline for applications of August 15, 1996. The grant will run from Oct., 1996 thru Sept 1997. The applicant must have matching funds and be able to do volunteer work in order to qualify for the grant. There will be a workshop tomorrow June 14th, at the Florida Theatre Building, 7th Floor, from 10:00 AM to Noon. There will be another session on July 17th, from 5:00 PM. to 7:00 PM. The program will help neighborhood groups identify projects that they feel are important to their neighborhood. The City will give a $5000 Grant to match anything you may feel important to enhance the neighborhood. The City encourages you to get a partner to help raise the funds. And will help you get a corporate sponsor. The City is talking with the Chamber of Commerce and other corporations to help with the sponsorship.

Ms. Ridley explained the application procedures and what is needed. If there are questions, she can be reached at 630-1198. The deadline to submit applications is Aug 15, 1996. Also, there will be a neighborhood summit the end of September; a definite date has not been decided. The summit will consist of sharing ideas, setting up tables to show off the projects that you are interested in. There will be workshops, booths and guest speakers. If anyone is interested in the workshops they should contact **Ms. Ridley**. Also, the announcement of the recipient of the **Matching Grant Award** will be announced.

Leo Dennis of the Community Service Department asked the CPAC members to appoint a representative for the Royal Terrace neighborhood.

The Chairman stated **Ken Avery** is a planner with the Planning & Development Department, and he is the person to contact if you need to get information to the CPAC members. **Mr. Avery** introduced two new members: **Pat Arnold and Brad Straley.** It was also indicated that the Royal Terrace area needed a representative. **Mr. Avery** and **Floretta Green** of Community Development are currently working to find someone to represent the Royal Terrace area.

The Chairman asked if there will be any Public Service Announcements?

The Chairman stated the Mayor's Aide, **Jeanne Ward,** and **John Curtin, of the Property Safety Division** had a meeting with all the CPAC Chairmen, to inform them that they are getting ready to do something that will have a major impact on every neighborhood in Jacksonville - **Code Enforcement Structure Change.** Their plans are to reorganize the Property Safety Division. They have asked each CPAC to take a strong look at what they are trying to do. It's a citywide event and the intent is to encourage CPAC members and neighborhoods to come together and show support for this effort. **The Chairman** passed out copies of the ordinance and suggested that the committee review it. **John Curtin** agreed to come to the next meeting to discuss the project.

Sargeant Terry of the Sheriff's Office updated the CPAC members on the **COPS AHEAD Program** and indicated funding has been approved for 40 additional officers to patrol the area.

Donny Rees of Code Enforcement informed the CPAC members of a situation in the Pearl Street area, that involved Code Enforcement Officers. They discovered several young people ranging in age from 11 years old to 21 years old in an abandoned house. There were drugs, eight hand guns, and shotguns that were loaded and about $28,000 in cash. The house has been boarded up, and is no longer a drug house. **Mr. Rees** also stated if there is an abandoned house in someone's neighborhood they should contact **Danny Brown (DART Program) at 630-2160.**

Mr. Dinah expressed concern that tractor trailer drivers are parking the trailers in a vacant lot on Beaver and Acorn Street. **Donny Rees** indicated they would try to put up chains to keep the trailers out of the lot.

Mr. C.B. Griffin, former Council Member - District 10, addressed the CPAC on the RITZ Theatre, and stated the project is an $18 million event.

The Chairman welcomed new member **Pat Arnold** who will represent the Marietta area.

Ms. Gloriden Norris principal for Carter G. Woodson Elementary School, which is a Magnet Program, indicated the school has a lot of computer technology, (a distributing network) , that is used for the class rooms. They are used for tools and instructional purposes to keep the kids in the class rooms. They encourage the children to use it as a process to obtain their goals.

The CPAC members voted to send a resolution to the School Board, asking them to buy up vacant properties surrounding the C. G. Woodson School area (in front of the school), to enhance the appearance of the school.

The Chairman proposed a resolution thanking HABIJAX for the 35 new homes in the area, and for making such a valuable contribution to the neighborhood. It was also indicated that HABIJAX is in need of volunteers. **The Chairman** stated **Ken Avery** was a volunteer with HABIJAX.

Lou Myers Clean Up and Beautification Committee Chairman, indicated the committee should schedule a clean up on a quarterly basis or annually, where the whole committee can participate in the event. Each neighborhood can adopt an area, take pride in the community.

Louis Dinah, Chairman of the Zoning Violations Committee gave the monthly report.

Barney Roberts Community Control Committee Chairman made a brief presentation about "Community Control", which is an Anti-Crime Program launched by citizens.

Edith Green indicated she is working with JaxPride about Preserving a Historic statue off Main Street in the park.

The Chairman indicated grants and financial support are basically ways organizations can proceed to go from not knowing anything about grants to becoming experts without change. **The Chairman** along with **Jerry Spinks** and **Linda** are going to write a procedure for collecting the information needed to process a grant.

Mr. Adam DuBois, Economic Development Chairman, indicated he spoke with **John Lewis** who is trying to purchase Gateway Shopping Center. **Mr. Lewis** was not available at the time of this CPAC meeting. **Mr. DuBois** stated he is trying to get a Postal Office in the area.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

NOTE: The Chairman announced CPAC member **Juanita Baker** was not feeling well. The committee decided to send her a "Get Well Card".