SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 1998

Mary Jones

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley, Chairman
Elaine Burnett, Vice-Chair
Thomas May
Albert Wilcox
Mary McDowell
Barney R. Roberts
Rosa Stephens
Carrie Washington
Erma Cole
Larry Solomon
Christine Campbell

City Staff/public/media

John Fleming
Noah Henderson
Sgt. Thorwart
Denise Bunnewitz
Ming Ma
Mike Robinson
Valerie A. Raynor
Rashid Ali

Mr. Brad Straley called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Mr. Albert Wilcox gave the invocation.

Staff Comments

Stg. Thorwart reported that the overall crime rate for Zone 5 was down 7.6 per cent. He further reported that violent crime was down 11.8 percent and property crime was down 6.4 per cent. Additionally, he stated that although the overall crime rate was down in Zone 5, two areas where there has been an increase in crime are sexual battery and vehicular theft.

Rashad Ali, Code Enforcement Supervisor Zone 5, reported that they are continuing their efforts to deal with code violations in zone 5. He further reported that three specific cases-Sports Bar on Ramona, Property on Grunthal Street and Mobile home on Paris Ave.- had been referred to the Code Enforcement Board.

John Fleming, Chief of the Neighborhood Services Division, announced that The Planning and Development Department and the Downtown Development Authority held a public workshop on today and it would continue on tomorrow (Friday, November 13th) at City Hall Annex from 12 noon to 2 pm. He encouraged those who were interested in providing their input on issues surrounding the development and improvement of downtown to attend.

Business

Denise Bunnewitz, staff member of the City of Jacksonville Transportation Division, gave and update on the 2020 Jacksonville Urban Area Transportation Study (JUATS). She stated that this study included the long range transportation plan for the Jacksonville Urbanized Area and was carried out by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). She pointed the goals and objectives of the JUATS study and emphasized Appendix B- the schedule for the public hearings and Appendix C- the public comment form.

Mike Robinson, JEA, made a presentation on the JEA COMMUNI-TREE Program. He explained the grant application guidelines, which entailed the CPAC's reviewing the applications and forwarding them to JEA for final selection. He emphasized the deadline for submittal of requests for the second period was December 31, 1998.

The CPAC committee discussed an ordinance concerning the election code, which was legislation introduced by Council member Crescimbeni . This legislation dealt with creating a new chapter 351 to the ordinance code requiring that the Supervisor of Election prepare, publish and distribute elections pamphlets. The committee members expressed their concerns about the cost to taxpayers to distribute this information. Also, they expressed their concerns about the election pamphlet fees that would be required by each candidate. A motion was made and passed to write a letter to support this proposed legislation with the understanding that this would not be a burden on the taxpayers, amendments would also be included in the pamphlet and the election pamphlet fees would not be a burden in disqualifying any candidate for election.(The Chairman followed up on this matter and asked that the support letter from the CPAC be held off until he could get a ruling on the legality of this matter.)

ELECTIONS

Nominating committee member Erma Cole read the slate of officers the nominating committee recommended for Vice Chairperson and Chairperson. She stated that Joycelyn Turner and Rosa Walker had been nominated for this office. For the chairperson, Barney Roberts and Thomas May were recommended by the nominating committee. Brad Straley was nominated from the floor to be included as a nominee for chairman. The voting results of the CPAC members were : Vice Chairperson- Rosa Walker 1 vote Jocelyn Turner 8 votes. Chairperson- Barney Roberts 0 votes, Thomas May 0 votes and Brad Straley 9 votes. Noah Henderson read the officer for the 1999 year as follows: Brad Straley-Chairman and Jocelyn Turner- Vice Chairperson.

Other Business

Chairman Straley appointed Carrie Washington to chair, along with Mary Jones and Erma Cole, a subcommittee to review the bylaws and to make recommendations to the full committee.

Committee member Burnett brought up a discussion on an issue which involved Motor Vehicle

Title Loan Industry charging an extremely high interest rate. She further stated that these title loan companies hold the title to the vehicle of the person receiving the loan, which there is a high possibility that a person could lose their vehicle because of the high interest rate. Additionally, she stated that this issue would have a great effect on the residents in the Northwest and the Northwest CPAC should write a letter supporting the Mayor's proposed ordinance, which would regulate the Motor Vehicle Title Loan Industry. After further discussion by the CPAC committee members, it was agreed that a representative from the City of Jacksonville and a representative from the Motor Vehicle Title Loan Industry would be invited to come to the CPAC meeting and explain their position on this issue.

The CPAC committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of moving the meeting sites around the Northwest area. One major advantage discussed was that it allowed the members the opportunity to get to know the Northwest area. One major disadvantage discussed was that it was difficult having to keep up with where the next meeting would be held. Chairman Straley mentioned that a suggestion had been made to move every quarter. He asked the members to think about this matter and bring back recommendations to the meeting.

Committee member Larry Solomon asked about the procedure to get zoning issues on the agenda. Chairman Straley informed Mr. Solomon that he should contact Gina Bentley, Northwest CPAC LUZ committee chair, and have her call a LUZ committee meeting to discuss his zoning issue and then bring it before the CPAC.

John Flemming announced the upcoming Jacksonville Children's Commission New Way Initiative Grant. Carrie Washington stated that the information was given out at the last meeting. She also state that the following members were on the committee : Carrie Washington-Chair, Brad Straley, Elaine Burnett, Joycelyn Turner, Mary McDowell and Rosa Stephens. Those that requested and were added to this committee were Mary Jones and Erma Jones. Mrs. Washington also stated that this committee would review the grants and make a recommendaton for funding.

Chairman Straley mentioned that usually at the last meeting the CPAC held their annual Christmas Party. The members agreed to have the party again this year. Christina Campbell agreed to coordinate the party, along with Carrie Washington and Mary McDowell.

Announcements

Chairman Straley announced that Committee member Willie Hickson had a heart attack but was on his way to recovering and would try to make the next meeting. The committee agreed to collect money after the meeting and send a token of thoughtfulness to Mr. Hickson.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.