SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 1998

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley, Chairman
Elaine Burnett, Vice-Chair
Norm Study
Mary McDowell
Rosa Stephens
Carrie Washington
Mary Jones
Larry Solomon
Christine Campbell

Rosa Walker

City Staff/public/media

Lorrie DeFrank
Noah Henderson
Sgt. Steve McCleod
Annie Henderson
Diane Kerr
Ann Allen
Rev. G Boston
Suzanne Jenkins
Sandra Washington
Pearlene Merritt

Mr. Brad Straley called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. Mrs. Carrie Washington gave the invocation.

Staff Comments

Lorrie DeFrank, Outreach Manager Neighborhood Services Division, acknowledged Chairman Straley and Vice-Chairperson Burnett and presented a token of appreciation to them for their outstanding leadership for the 1998 year. She also reported that copies of the December 98 issue of the neighborhood magazines had been mailed and there was a pull out section that provided information to citizens on proper waste disposal in Jacksonville. Additionally, she mentioned that the City's Property Safety Division had asked for two representatives from each CPAC to serve on a committee to define the term "JUNK". Two CPAC members (Mary McDowell and Elaine Burnett) and one alternate (Rosa Walker) signed up.

Stg. Steve McCleod of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office reported that the overall crime rate for Zone 5 was down 6.95 per cent.

Business

The CPAC committee members discussed the meeting sites for the 1999 year. They agreed to rotate to a different site every three months. Committee members recommended sites for the purpose of geographically scheduling the meetings throughout the Northwest CPAC area for next year.

Chairman Straley brought up a discussion on Ordinance 97-824. This ordinance deals with procedures which ensure procedural due process and maintain citizens access to the City land use decision making process. The issue of boundaries of neighborhood organizations was discussed . It was also pointed out that only a few of the neighborhood organizations of the over three hundred in the city was registered to receive zoning information. The committee members emphasized the importance of ensuring that all neighborhood organizations that are effected by specific zoning in their area are properly notified.

Committee members discussed Ordinance 98-135, which deals with regulating the motor vehicle title loan industry. Committee members felt that the current practice of charging customers an exorbitant interest rate was not only detrimental in eroding those customers that were caught up in having to obtain these loans but also, it was very unfair to these customers to allow the Title Loan Industry to charge these exorbitant interest rates. At this meeting, the public comments that were expressed indicated that they agreed that the Title Loan Industry practice was not fair and the Mayor's ordinance 98-135, which regulates the Title Loan Industry, should be approved. Sandra Washington, aide to E. Denise Lee, mentioned that she had received calls from concerned citizens in which half expressed their support for the Mayor's ordinance and half expressed their opposition to the Mayor's ordinance. Committee member Study moved that a letter from the Northwest CPAC supporting the Mayor's ordinance (98-135) is forwarded to the proper places. Committee member Burnett seconded the motion. The CPAC members approved unanimously.

Suzanne Jenkins made a presentations on the upcoming JaxPride activities. She stated that JaxPride week will take place February 27 thru March 7, 1999. She encouraged those who were interested to register their projects with JaxPride before Friday February 20, 1999. Those projects that were eligibly registered will be considered for an award of excellence and the award of merit in four categories, which the winners will be presented an award at the Mayor's Environmental Luncheon in the Spring of 1999. She also stated that JaxPride will conduct a Neighborhood Inventory of Visual Pollution (NIVP) for those neighborhoods or organizations that were interested. She concluded by stating that JaxPride will do a charette (a detail blueprint artist rendering of a specific area which is done based on input from interested community members, businesses, architects, planners, landscape designers, and engineers.) for an area in the city. Committee member Burnett mentioned that she had been involved with the Park & King Street Area charette process and she strongly encouraged interested individuals to take part in a charette process. She stated that this was an excellent process for communities to have input in coming up with a visual vision of a plan to implement to improve or revitalize ones community.

Announcements

Chairman Straley announced that the Mayor's Town Hall meeting for the Northwest area, which the location is still being determined, is scheduled for Monday, January 25, 1999 at 6:00 p m .

Vice chairperson Burnett invited everyone to attend the Riverside/Avondale luminary activities on Sunday December 20 at 6:00 pm. For detailed information about the activities, she mentioned that the RAP office should be called.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.