SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OCTOBER 7, 1999

Committee Members Present

Bradley Straley- Chair
Carrie Washington
Thomas May
Faye Richardson
Elaine Burnett
George Leverrt
Diane Kerr
Linda Moore
Erma Cole
Rosa Stephens
Larry Solomon
John Allen
Jean Lewis

City/Staff/Public/Media

Lorrie DeFrank
Noah Henderson
Jocelyn Turner
Ruth May
Linda Straley
MattThompson
Ada M Green
KenAvery
Al Barlow
Judy Truett
E. W. Castellani
Winova Hart
Jamie Brooks
Lt. Carl Thorwart

Chairman Straley called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM. Larry Solomon gave the invocation.

Staff Comments

Lorrie DeFrank, Outreach Manager- Neighborhood Services Division , mentioned that over 50 persons from Jacksonville attended the Florida Neighborhoods Conference that was held in St. Petersburg, FL on Oct. 1-2, 1999. She also announced that the Neighborhoods Department had received 10,000 tickets for free admission to the Jacksonville Zoo which would be distributed to underprivileged individuals and groups.

Lt. Carl Thorwart of the Jacksonville's Sheriff Office announced that crime in Zone 5 was down overall as compared to last year this time. He also mentioned that although crime was down overall for Zone 5, there still is a major problem with business burglary and tractor trailer tire theft. Additionally, he stated that speed humps are being used to slow speeding traffic. In response to questions regarding the parking of rigs, he stated that in some areas it is legal to park and right across that street it could be illegal. He advised those who had concerns to contact the Sheriff's Office.

Ken Avery of the Planning & Development Dept. stated that the zoning exception for Harris Mortuary on Edison Ave. is still being deferred.

Director Judy Truett, Community Services Department, announced that the JCCI study on the "Sex Trade in Jacksonville-From the Streets to the Suites", which was contracted out to JCCI by her office is currently underway.

Business:

Judy Truett introduced Jamie Brooks, Program Administrator for Breaking the Cycle program. Mrs. Brooks gave the following information. Out of two cities in the nation (Tacoma, WA being the other) the City of Jacksonville received a $3.4 million competitive grant to plan and implement the Breaking the Cycle program. Planning took place the first year of the program. The implementation of the program has only been in existence for four days and 29 people are getting help. For the first 60 days the program will be working with those who have drug charges, afterward, the program will be opened to all felons. The program requires that after one is released from jail, they must follow up with a drug test and if one refuses to get in the program, the judge can put them in the program. Mrs. Brooks stated this is a research project and she would be back to give an update on the program.

Matt Thompson of the Jacksonville Children's Commission made a presentation on the New Ways Initiative program which is implemented each year. He gave the following information. Again this year, each CPAC will make recommendations of grants for children programs in their area based on each CPAC being allocated $25,000.00. Some feedback received regarding the program were (1) this program is good for children (2) the concept of this program is good. Some feedback for improvements included getting earlier notice to the CPAC members, more public awareness, and getting publications disseminated in the area announcing the program. The application is more user friendly and it only contains eight questions. The deadline for the upcoming grants is March 10, 2000. The Northwest CPAC awarded more applications and they have been very conscientious and committed to their recommendation process. Carrie Washington is to be commended for her leadership in chairing this committee for the Northwest CPAC. Carrie Washington thanked Mr. Thompson for working diligently with the Children's Commission Northwest CPAC sub-committee.

Ed Castellani, Rapid Transit Project Manager-JTA, gave a presentation on Phase A of the Transportation Alternatives Study (TAS). He distributed a draft copy of the Jacksonville Phase A-Corridor Selection Study prepared by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. for JTA. He pointed out that Table 1 (1995) and Table 2 (2020) from the handout included a summary of subarea data. He also pointed out from the maps and charts in the handout the subarea analysis and the North District and West District major travel movements. He stated that there was a good cross section from the community on the advisory committee and the next meeting is scheduled for October 26 in the JTA board room. Chairman Straley asked Mr. Castellani again for the revised map that showed the Northwest corridor. Mr. Castellani mentioned in a previous meeting that there will be a Northwest Corridor and he would get the map to them.

Other Business:

Chairman Straley and the committee discussed bill # 99-358, which defined what a neighborhood is and is requiring neighborhoods to re-register with the Planning Department. It was pointed out that over 300 neighborhoods are registered with the Neighborhoods Department and this should be a legitimate list for the Planning Department to use to send out zoning notices. Chairman Straley stated that now it is being requested that each group provide their boundaries, which is part of the ongoing

bureaucracy on this matter for the past 1 ½ years. The Northwest CPAC committee unanimously voted that there is no benefit to having the neighborhoods to re-register.

Committee member Elaine Burnett gave an update on the Northwest Planning District tour. She stated that the tour is scheduled for Friday, October 29 from 1 PM to 5 PM and those who are interested should contact Lorrie DeFrank in the Neighborhoods Department Office by October 22 because seating in limited to the first 35 that sign-up.

Committee member Carrie Washington suggested that a personal invitation be given to groups in the area such as the SHADCO, Friends of the Library, Lake Park Homeowners Association, etc. to attend the next Northwest CPAC meeting. She agreed to follow up with the invitations to these groups.

Chairman Straley acknowledged and thanked Noah Henderson for his service as the city's staff support. He informed those at the meeting that Noah Henderson would be retiring from the City of Jacksonville on October 8, 1999 after 24 years with the city. Noah Henderson said that it had been a pleasure working with the Northwest CPAC for the past 11/2 years and he commended the committee for their intellectual knowledge, their kindness and commitment in working to better their neighborhood and the City of Jacksonville.

Announcements:

Chairman Straley announced that Mayor Delaney's quarterly meeting had been cancelled because of Hurricane Floyd. He also mentioned that for those who were interested in the JCCI Affordable Housing Study should contact JCCI

Committee member Diane Kerr, North Riverside, mentioned that the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Community Leadership Institute conference that was scheduled for September 17-20 here in Jacksonville had been postponed because of Hurricane Floyd and it will be rescheduled at a later date. She also mentioned that four houses in the neighborhood had been painted. Additionally, she stated that at there community meeting, there will be a discussion about a resolution on the Harris Mortuary zoning issue.

Committee member Thomas May stated that they still do not have a traffic light at Beaver and Devoe streets and he had been informed that they are waiting on equipment to be manufactured. He also stated that the restrooms at the Marietta Community Center have not been completed. Judy Truett agreed to get with him to give him an update on this matter.

Committee member Erma Cole, Robinson's Addition Improvement Association, stated that students from Englewood High School will help them with a cleanup on Wednesday October 20th and the residents will be having their annual cleanup on Saturday October 23rd. She also invited and mentioned that they will have their annual Come Together Day/ Bar-B-Que on Saturday October 30th at the Boys & Girls Club located at 1061 Line Street. Ms. Cole mentioned that several residents have humps on their sidewalks that need to be repaired. She further stated that there is still problems (the grass needs cutting and the catwalk needs repairing) with the railroad crossing at Broadway and McQuade.

Committee Member Rosa Stephens, Royal Terrace Improvement Association, stated that a building had been demolished on Avenue B and that signs of political candidates from the election held in the spring were still up. She also invited everyone to the grand opening ceremony of the Royal Terrace Plaza Dental Center located at 180 West 45th Street-Suite 5 on Wednesday, October 27 from 10:00 AM until 12 noon.

Committee member Elaine Burnett announced that the Riverside/Avondale Arts festival was held on Saturday, September 11th and Sunday, September 12th . She stated that there was a problem of rain settling in front of the exhibitors booths and she observed a bad problem with a lot of rain settling at Acosta and Green streets and College and Acosta streets. She also mentioned that work continues to be done on the RADO house.

Committee member John Allen of Paxon School of Advanced Studies announced that he had run for class president and won. He stated that he challenged the students to get involved and approximately 213 students stayed after school. They have agreed to do a Clara White Mission food drive , a book drive for West Jacksonville Elementary school and a mentoring program. He further stated that if you need volunteers for projects, a good volunteer resource would be the seniors at his school because they are required to do 75 hours of community service. Other information the John Allen gave was that his Youth Action Council (YAC) has adopted the road in front of the school, they will put on a career day and a cultural extravaganza. They will also have an internet social club. He requested assistance for the planning of their career day and he stated that they would take books in good condition for their book drive.

Committee member Carrie Washington of Lake Park announced that a new building for a foot and acupuncture clinic was going up in their neighborhood. They also have extended the bus line on Palmdale Ave. She also announced that Mary Brown is the new president for their association. Additionally, she mentioned that the Friends of the Library had resume their activities which included free movies on Tuesdays and they would be having special events such as jazz on Sundays.

Committee member Mary McDowell, Lackawanna Group, announced that they participated in a cleanup on September 4th. She also mentioned that they had to cancel their drug march with Turn-Around-Jacksonville and JSO in her neighborhood because of Hurricane Floyd, however, it will be rescheduled. She said that she challenged her association by submitting her letter of resignation because of their lack of involvement. She stated they asked her not to resigned, which she stated she would not resigned if they would get involved.

Committee member George Leverett of the Better Living Community Association announced that he had been elected president of the association.

Committee member Faye Richardson, Cisco Gardens, announced that they had bus services down to Westside Industrial Park. She stated that they are having traffic problems because of the growth. Additionally, she stated that 55 acres of land will be developed in their area for a commercial project.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.