SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 14, 1999

Committee Members Present	**City Staff/public/media**
Brad Straley, Chairman	Lorrie DeFrank
Elaine Burnett, Vice-Chair	Judith Youngblood
Rosa Walker	Jim Fuller
Mary McDowell	Kenneth L. Manuel
Erma Cole	Melissa McLean
Linda Moore	Terri Lindermann
Thomas May	

Mr. Brad Straley called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Ms. Rosa Walker gave the invocation.

Staff Comments

Lorrie DeFrank, Outreach Manager Neighborhood Services Division, made the following announcements. The next two meetings, February 11th and March 11th will be held at the Charlie Joseph Center, which was the agreement of the committee to rotate the meetings every quarter. The Mayor's next Town Hall meeting will be held on Monday January 25, 1999 at North Shore elementary School in the auditorium. The Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grant applications will be available in February and the deadline for submission is June 30, 1999. The St. Johns River clean up is March 20th. The Environmental Protection Board 1`998 annual awards will be given out at the Earth Day Week Luncheon and entry forms for nominations are now available. The African American Reading Chain wanted people to know that Black History month is in February and they asked for individuals to participate by reading a book by a Black author.

Ken Manuel, ,representative of the Duval County Public Schools, mentioned that a series of nine community meetings are being held to obtained input on the issue of uniforms for students. He further stated that there is presently a task force comprised of parents, students and community representatives studying this issue and after the community meetings this task force will make a recommendation to the superintendent, at which time he will move forward to the Duval County School Board Level if he decides it is needed. On this issue, he concluded by emphasizing the importance of parents coming out to get the pros and cons of the uniform issue and by encouraging neighborhood organizations to get involve. He also reported that meetings had been held with Crystal Springs Elementary School Advisory Committee and the general public to get a recommendation on the boundary change for Crystal Spring Elementary

and Normandy Village Elementary to relieve overcrowding at Crystal Springs elementary. He stated that the Duval County school Board will take action on this issue, along with four other

school boundary change issues, at their February board meeting. In concluding his report, Mr. Manuel mentioned that those who have children in public school should have heard their children talking about the Superintendent's initiative of having students to read twenty-five books as an effort to improve their literacy skills. He stated that the district is making a big push in the area of literacy improvement. He concluded his comments by stating that children with strong reading skills succeed in school and the Duval County School System is working closely with the Mayor's office, the Jacksonville Children's Commission and day care centers to began discussing and implementing programs to get children to acquire basic reading skills prior to coming to school.

Lt. Jim Fuller gave a comparison report (city wide to Zone 5) of various crime categories. He stated that a new initiative, which involved surveying victims and neighborhoods where residential burglaries took place, resulted in leads to make arrest in 21% of the cases. He further stated that he felt residential burglaries were down due to the presence of police officers in the areas. He also stated that the Sheriff's Office has begun training officers in community policing.

Business:

Judy Youngblood, representative of First Coast Development Academy, made a presentation on the First Coast Development Academy. She stated that the facility that they are currently operating has been around for many years and was formerly Jacksonville Infant Day Care. She mentioned that day care services are offered for infants to 12 year olds and they do offer before and after school programs.

A representative of the Jacksonville Sports and Entertainment Board brought flyers and information about Soccerfest 99. He stated that this event is a soccer match which features the USA vs Germany on Saturday February 6th at Alltel Stadium.

Old Business:

Chairman Straley stated that a letter was sent to Mayor Delaney supporting Ordinance 98-135 (an ordinance regulating the motor vehicle title loan industry). He further stated that the city council had passed this ordinance with an amendment that set the maximum interest rate that these companies could charge at 18%, which was different from the Mayor's proposed maximum interest rate of 30%.

Subcommittees:

Chairman Straley announced the subcommittees and he encouraged each member to join a least one of the committees. He also asked for new subcommittee chairpersons for those that needed them.

A motion was passed to establish a membership subcommittee. Rosa Walker was appointed Chairperson.

Other Business:

In response to Chairman Straley's questions as to any Hot Topics for the Mayor's Town Hall meeting on January 25th, committee members mentioned that they had concerns about transportation and safety at construction sites and at the schools.

The CPAC committee members discussed and made the following suggestions to improve attendance and to increase membership.

-each member that does not have an alternate member should bring the name of an alternate member to the February 11th meeting and encourage the alternate member to attend the meetings. The alternate member will be able to vote in the absence of the primary member.

-contact other organizations and businesses and ask them to provide an interested member

-contact all those neighborhood organizations in the Neighborhood Directory that do not have a member on the CPAC and invite them to join.

Announcements

Chairman Straley invited members to attend the Property Safety Division Visual Blight meeting , which will discuss what is the definition junk in our neighborhoods, on January 27th. Chairman Straley also mentioned that Carrie Washington had called and would not be able to attend tonight's CPAC meeting because she needed to attend the Jacksonville's Children Commission New Ways Initiative Grant orientation meeting.

Committee member Linda Moore extended an invitation to TURN AROUND JACKSONVILLE 3rd Anniversary Celebration on Tuesday, January 19th at 7 PM at Mt. Olive Primitive Baptist Church. She stated that the Butterfly Garden was moving along just fine and it should be completed in the near future. She thanked all who attended the North Riverside Community Development Corporation December meeting and annual Christmas party. She also suggested that a political forum be held.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.