MEETING SUMMARY
NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 18, 1999

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley, Chair
Christina Campbell, Vice Chair
Faye Richardson
Rosa Stephens
Ada Mae Green
Carrie Washington
Elaine Burnett
Laura M. Lee
Rita Nesbit
Erma Cole
Diane Kerr
Norman Study

City/Staff/Public/Media

Lorrie DeFrank, Neighborhood Services
Chief David Gueterman, JSO
Howard Sweet, Character Counts
David Jones, Health Department
Carol Miller, Legal Aid

Chairman Brad Straley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. **Carrie Washington** gave the invocation.

Staff comments

Chief David Gueterman reported that Seaboard Credit Union and the JSO are negotiating a sublease for JSO to use 4,000 of Seaboard's 10,000 square feet for a Zone 5 substation. Seaboard will pay 100% of the lease for eight years. The original plan was to build the substation at Paxon, but costs estimates came in $100,000 to $250,000 higher than anticipated. Although the Seaboard site at 3020 Warrington is not as centrally located in the district as he would like, Gueterman said it is a good location because it is across the street from the Weed and Seed area. Northside Skill Center students will help with renovations.

The chief reported a 13.9% reduction in crime so far this year compared to the previous year in the zone. In Section M (I-95/I-10 to 20th Street and to Edison), violent crime is down 25.7%. In Section N (north of 20th), violent crime is down 4.7%. Residential burglaries throughout the zone are "down tremendously," but business burglaries continue to be a problem – an average a three a night. The residential improvement is attributed to the successful truancy detection program. Gueterman advised members to warn citizens, especially the elderly, that robberies are on the increase now that the holiday season is near.

Lorrie DeFrank reported that Neighborhood Services Division Chief John Fleming has received several applications for the Northwest neighborhood coordinator position to replace Noah Henderson, who retired. The hiring process is still under way. She commended CPAC members on their successful district tour, which was discussed later in the meeting.

Business

Howard Sweet from Character Counts! In Jacksonville spoke about the national program that started in Aspen, CO, in 1993. He showed part of a video of the late Congresswoman Barbara Jordan and actor Tom Selleck – former national CC chairpersons – touting the program that has been adopted by businesses nationwide. The push is on now for Jacksonville businesses and other organizations to teach and practice the program's six "pillars of character," which are:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- Citizenship

Sweet asked CPAC members to talk about the pillars whenever possible and to encourage church and other groups to invite CC speakers to their meetings. The number is 396-2228, Ext. 225.

David Jones, program manager for the Environmental Toxicology Program of the Duval County Health Department, updated members on the city's efforts to educate citizens about possible contaminated dump sites across the city and what is being done to clean them up. He said teams of inspectors will be inspecting soil, wells and groundwater at more than 350 sites citywide to determine if they are contaminated by ash from old incinerators or other pollutants. He encouraged residents to cooperate with investigators because their most valuable sources of information will be people who lived in the neighborhoods and saw things being dumped and poured there. Jones said the good news is that all wells tested so far have water that is safe to drink. However, he cautioned that many more remain to be tested and that several former dump sites – including Doeboy and others in the Northwest district – may be contaminated in other ways. He said lead is the No. 1 environmental danger to children. He said the health department also wants to know the locations of former dry cleaning businesses and gas stations, which may be polluted from oil byproducts. People with information – or any questions – are encouraged to call him at 630-3251.

Old Business

Elaine Burnett, tour chairperson, thanked her committee for putting together an inclusive and informative tour that "shows how active we are." She plans to show her video of the tour at the December holiday party/meeting. She thanked the Neighborhood Services Division for compiling the tour survey responses and encouraged CPAC members to start now to think of locations for next year's tour. About a dozen members participated in this year's tour, which was held on Oct. 29. David Jones and Dr. Aaron Hilliard from the Health Department were on the bus to point out dump sites and talk about the city's programs. Although trash remains a problem in many areas, participants were pleased with the overall improvements to the district, including the many new HabiJax homes.

Carrie Washington, who chairs the committee to find applicants for the Jacksonville Children's Commission New Ways grant money, displayed an appreciation plaque that the CPAC received from the commission that day. She said she enjoyed serving on the committee and working with the other CPACs and the commission on the program, adding that she was encouraged because the commission has used some of her ideas. The chairman commended her for her work on the committee. The deadline for new applications is March 10, 2000.

New Business

Chairman Straley read a card from Noah Henderson to the CPAC expressing his appreciation and thanks. Henderson said he enjoyed working with the CPAC and will miss that.

Chairman Straley asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to nominate a chair and vice chair for next year. **Rosa Stephens, Diane Kerr** and **Norman Study** volunteered. They will meet at Edison Avenue Veterinary Hospital at 3 p.m. Nov. 29 to come up with names of nominees to present at the Dec. 9 meeting, when the election will be held.

Elaine Burnett agreed to oversee the menu for the holiday party next month and solicit food from members. **Carrie Washington** offered to help.

Announcements

Chairman Straley announced that City Council will vote on the increased Homestead tax exemption for senior citizens on limited-incomes next Tuesday, Nov. 23, because the deadline for the program is Dec. 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Holiday party and election of officers, 6 p.m., Dec. 9, Bradham-Brooks Library, 1755 W. Edgewood Ave.