SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
August 12, 1999

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley- Chairman
Christina Campbell-Vice-Chair
Larry Solomon
Thomas May
Linda Moore
John Allen
Mary McDowell
Norm Study
Diane Kerr
Rosa Stephens
Mary Jones
George Leveret

City Staff/public/media

Hon. Lad Daniels
Hon. Reggie Fullwood
Noah Henderson
Judith Truett
JuCoby Pittman
Joan Haskell
Mary A. Study
Terri Lindemann
Rasheedah Sabazz
Lorrie DeFrank
Roslyn Phillips
Frances Leverett
Lt. Jim Fulller
Florestine Meeks
Donna Husley
LaCree Carswell
Nichelle Hayes
Dorothy Brown
Laura M. Lee
Rita Nesbit

Chairman Straley called the meeting to order at 6:10 P.M. John Allen gave the invocation.

Staff Comments

Lorrie DeFrank, Out Reach Manager-Neighborhood Services Division, distributed a list of organizations that were awarded the Mayor's Matching Grant for 1999-2000. She also announced and provided information on the Florida Neighborhood Conference in St. Petersburg, Florida on October 1-2, 1999.

Lt. Fuller gave an update on the crime stats for zone 5. He also mentioned that plans are in progress to locate a sub-station at Warrington St. and McDuff Ave. and the station should be operating by the end of the year or the first part of next year.

Donna Husley, Regional Manager of Region 2 - Duval County Public Schools, distributed a notice entitled "Get Off to A Great Start!". She pointed that this was a notice to emphasize the fact that public school begins Wednesday, August 18, and all parents and guardians should get their students to school on the first day because learning begins day one. She also distributed information on The Little Red Schoolhouse program and information about immunization. Additionally, information was provided about bus transportation and the uniform policy. Ms. Husley mentioned that the Superintendent major goals were school safety, discipline and high academic achievement. She mentioned that last years slogan "AIM HIGH" has been expanded this year to "AIM HIGH, TAKE FLIGHT, SORE" In response to a question about the contamination issue at Mary McCleod Bethune Elementary, she stated to about 80 parents had opt for transferring their children.

Judith Truett, Director of Community Services Department, distributed the new D.A.R.T. brochure and she announced that the City of Jacksonville had requested and contracted with JCCI to carry out a study on Prostitution. Also, she gave an update on the Truancy program and she stated that another grant had been applied for to establish another center, which will bring the number of centers up to three.

Business:

Roslyn Phillips,Chief, Community Development-Planning & Development Department, made a presentation on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Action Plan 1999/2000 and the 1998/99 GPR/CAPER. She stated that the City of Jacksonville has submitted its CDBG Action Plan, which list, along with budget, the proposed projects to be carried out for the upcoming year. The funds will be available on October 1, 1999, which will be use to fund projects throughout the city that benefit low to moderate income persons. The major areas that the funding will be used are Neighborhood Revitalization, Housing and Economic Development/Job Creation. Also funds for Housing Opportunities for Person with Aides (HOPWA), Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and the HOME program will be available. She further stated that the proposed projects were the result of citizen input from several public hearings, which some of the public hearings were conducted at the CPAC meetings, and a review by their Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC), which the committee is composed of a least 1/3 of grassroots community representatives. Additionally, she explained that the Grantee Performance Report (GPR) had been submitted, which is a requirement by Federal HUD for the city to list all CDBG projects with the amount of funds spent on each project during the previous year. Also, she explained the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which was a Federal HUD requirement that entails a narrative report on the CDBG projects, HOPWA projects, ESG projects and the HOME program. In closing, Mrs. Phillips stated that copies of these reports were available at all public libraries and at their office which is located at 128 E. Forsythe Street.

Joan Haskell and JuCoby Pittman , representatives of the Human Rights Commission, made a presentation on Unity 2000, Working Together as one "Neighbors". They stated that this project was being undertaken to promote racial harmony in the community. They further pointed out the JCCI 1998 Quality of Life indicators update revealed that 52% of the people stated that racism is a problem. Additionally, they mentioned that this project will take a proactive role in dealing with racism and is scheduled to be launched in January 2000 . They distributed a questionnaire and they remained after the meeting to answer additional questions and to collect the questionnarie.

New Business

Mark Middlebrook, Senior Advisory for Research and Govenrment Operations- Mayor's Office, made a presentation on the Mayor's Preservation Project. He stated that in February, Mayor Delaney announced the formation of the Mayor's Oversight commission for the Preservation Project.

He stated that this project was established to manage growth, protect environmentally endangered lands, improve the quality of our waterways and increase access to our natural areas by acquiring or otherwise preserving undeveloped land. As a result of the Preservation Project, he stated that there will be an increase public assess to the St. Johns River and other natural assets and more than 100 neighborhood parks will be enhanced. He further stated that this project will take place over the next five years and will entailed the joining of local, state, federal and private friends to buy as much as 10 percent of the remaining developable land in Duval County.

At the request of Chairman Brad Straley, Vice-chair Christina Campbell read ordinance 1999-690-E, which Jacksonville City Council passed to rename the College Gardens Nutrition Site in honor of Mr. Louis Dinah.

Announcements:

Chairman Straley stated that he has not received the current maps on the Transportation Alternative Study that shows two proposed corridors in the Northwest district. He stated that his map was promised to him by Ed Castillano of JTA.

Committee member Thomas May announced that the roofing work has been completed at the Thomas Jefferson Center . He also mentioned that he had attended Y2K training.

Diane Kerr, of the North Riverside Community Development Corporation, announced that she had attended the Weed and seed National Conference in Texas.

Committee member GeorgeLevertt of Better Living Community Association expressed their gratitude of the renaming of the College Gardens Senior Nutrition Site in honor of Mr. Louis Dinah. He also stated that there was a protest march in his neighborhood regarding the over abundance of Habijax houses.

Committee member John Allen, Paxon-Youth Action Council, stated that he has been tracking five youth groups that he feels will be willing to get involve in community services project.

Committee member Mary Jones, invited those who were interested to go on a Habijax tour on Saturday , August 14 at 9:00 AM.

Committee member Mary McDowell, Lackawanna Community Group, stated that they were dealing with the drug problem in their neighborhood and she invited everyone to participate in a walk on Monday, September 13, which will emphasize that they will not tolerate crime and drugs in their neighborhood.

Committee member Norm Study, Cisco Gardens, expressed his concerns about the issues of dumps in his area, traffic into UPS, junk cars and the increase in fees to use Hanna Park.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.