MEETING SUMMARY
NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THOMAS JEFFERSON CIVIC CENTER
FEBRUARY 10, 2000

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley, chair

Diane Kerr, vice chair
Faye Richardson
Rosa Stephens
Ada Mae Green
Mary McDowell
Thomas May
George Leverett
Frances Leverett
Rosa Walker

City/Staff/Public/Media

Councilman Lad Daniels
Lorrie DeFrank, Neighborhood Services
Ken Avery, Planning Department
Assistant Chief David Gueterman, JSO
Martin Randall, U.S. Census
Tom Atkins, Landers-Atkins
William Burke, Landers-Atkins
Carlton Higgenbotham, Parks Dept.
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer
Sandy Straley
Ray E. Melgren
Elaine Lancaster, Property Safety
Sandy Strickland, Times-Union
Kevin Kilpatrick
Rev. Anthony F. Wyche Sr.
Fred Singletary
Ruth May

Chairman Brad Straley called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson Civic Center, 8237 Nevada St.

Staff comments

Lorrie DeFrank announced that the deadline for applying for this year's Mayor's Neighborhood Matching Grants is June 30. She asked people interested in applying to take an application form and offered the services of the Neighborhood Services Division in the application process. Neighborhood groups may apply for up to $5,000 in matching funds.
She also announced:

- JaxPride Week is Feb. 26-March 5. Forms were make available to register projects.
- Mobility 21 (Transportation Master Plan) workshop will be in the Northwest Planning District from 4 to 6 p.m. Feb. 22 in the DOT Urban Training Center at 2250 Irene St.
- Mayor Delaney's next town hall meeting will be in the Urban Core on March 6. Location: The Ritz Theatre at 6 p.m.

DeFrank introduced **Marilyn Fenton-Harmer**, who will replace Noah Henderson as the neighborhood coordinator for the Northwest Planning District. She was not at the meeting in an official capacity because her employment paperwork was not yet complete.

DeFrank also announced that John Fleming has been transferred to chief of the Property Safety Division and that she will replace Fleming as chief of the Neighborhood Services Division. Both changes are pending approval of City Council.

Assistant Chief David Gueterman announced that Zone 5 surpassed its goal of 10% reduction in crime by having an 11.4% reduction in overall crime – the greatest reduction of all zones. He called the improvement a "team effort."

Councilman Lad Daniels said he is pleased that almost a year after its introduction, the Neighborhood Bill was passed by Council this week. The new law grants automatic standing to registered neighborhood organizations for zoning disputes in their immediate area. He urged neighborhood associations to register with the Planning Department so they could receive zoning change and hearing notifications. **CPAC Chairman Brad Straley** also expressed pleasure that the long-awaited bill had finally passed and expressed appreciation to Daniels.

Ken Avery reported that the Westlake Development (Planned Unit Development MM-99-010) received approval at its first hearing, which was held that day. The proposed mixed-use development covers several acres from Old Plank Road north to Cisco Garden. Avery said a City Council subcommittee will vote on the issue on Feb. 15 and the full Council will vote on it on Feb. 22.

Fred Singletary, president of the Thomas Jefferson Civic Club, opposes the plan, which he called "bad zoning." He said the plan endangers environmentally sensitive land and encroaches on the White House Naval Airfield. The plan not only endangers pilots but also has the potential of running the Navy out of the area and into southern Georgia. He said people who oppose the plan also want to avoid congestion such as what has occurred on the Southside because of too much development. Avery urged Singletary to attend the hearing on Feb. 15 at 5 p.m. in City Hall.

Program

U.S. Census:

Martin Randall, manager of the North Jacksonville Office of the U.S. Census Bureau, stressed the importance of obtaining an accurate count in the upcoming campaign. Census figures are used to determine the amount of federal funding that municipalities receive. Because of an undercount in the 1990 Census, Jacksonville missed out on an estimated $12 to $15 in federal funds for roads, schools and social programs, he said. Randall urged neighborhood leaders to encourage residents to cooperative by returning questionnaires that are mailed to them and by talking to enumerators who visit their homes.

Martin announced that people will be hired to visit homes of people who don't return cards at a pay rate of $11.50 an hour. He asked CPAC members to encourage district residents to apply for the jobs because the count will be more successful if people who know the area are doing the

surveying. His office will hire 1,000 temporary employees in March and April. For information, call 1-888-325-7733.

He said this is the first time that the bureau, which conducts a Census every 10 years, has launched a paid advertising campaign. Locally, the bureau is partnering with neighborhood groups, churches, civic organizations and other associations to help spread the word.

Chairman Straley, who was asked by Mayor Delaney to head the Census Complete Count Committee, urged members to do everything they can to ensure an accurate count. "This is big," Straley said. "I've been on the CPAC for four years and nothing has been more important than this."

Jacksonville (Rails-to-Trails) S-Line

Tom Atkins of Landers-Atkins Planners Inc. and **Carlton Higgenbotham** of the city's Department of Parks, Recreation and Entertainment presented the proposed plans for the S-Line, an abandoned railroad line than snakes through the Northwest and Urban Core planning districts. The proposal is to transform the line into a walking/biking trail from 44th to Beaver streets. It will range from 60 to 110 feet wide. The approximately 4.5-mile lighted trail would feature parks along the way and would serve a number of neighborhoods. Physical barriers to the project include: JEA projects, ditches, a school, and active CSX line and cross-streets.

Landers-Atkins is consultant for the master plan, financed by Preservation Project funding. The planners are soliciting public input now and hope to have the plan completed by May.

A community meeting to review the existing site conditions and design criteria developed by the consultants will be sponsored by the Parks Department at 6 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Oaks of Durkeeville Hope Building. The project also will be presented at the Urban Core CPAC meeting on Feb. 28.

Vice Chairman Diane Kerr expressed concern about the trail in the McCoy's Creek area, which is known to be contaminated. Higgenbotham said the proposal does not include building on any ash sites.

Members were asked to make suggestions or comments by calling Atkins at 354-8066 or Higgenbotham at 630-3500.

Announcements

Chairman Straley urged members to attend the Mobility 21 meeting on Feb. 22 and invited them to attend a reception of the unveiling of a program featuring the five most influential African-Americans in the Ritz Theatre on Feb. 17.

He announced that Charlene Taylor-Hill of the Human Rights Commission will conduct a Study Circle on March 15.

Diane Kerr announced that the Citizens Health Advisory Board will sponsor an informational meeting about the incinerator ash issue from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 19 at Clanzel T. Brown Community Center. U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown is scheduled to be there.

Chairman Straley adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Next meeting: 6 p.m., March 9, 2000, Thomas Jefferson Civic Center, 8237 Nevada Street