MEETING SUMMARY
NORTHWEST CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Bradham Brooks Library – 1755 W Edgewood Avenue
November 9, 2000

Committee Members Present

Brad Straley, Chair
Diane Kerr, Vice Chair
Elaine Burnett
George Leverett
Thomas May
Rosa Stephens
Alton Yates
Gloriden Norris
Norman Study
Carrie Washington
Erma Cole
Rev. Anthony Wyche
Pastor Eugene Johnson
Mary McDowell
Reeda Harris
Lydia Miller
Laura Lee
Rita Nesbit
Larry J. Solomon
Reeda Harris

City/Staff/Public/Media

Joe Miller, Director of Public Works
Matt Thompson, Children's Commission
Valerie Williams, JEDC
Officer Denis Sanchez, JSO
Jim Green, FDOT
James Bennett, FDOT
Matt Thompson, Jacksonville Children's Commission
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, Neighborhood Services
Frances Levertt
Lou Myers
Henry Cue
David Shakespeare
Jessie Eutsay
Kimberly Dorsey
Pearlie Lang
Carol Gamble
A. W. Davis
Robert Releford
Mae M Dinah
Robert Harris
Shantell Bing
Ada Mae Green
Nita Draper
Felton Hamilton
Patel Samir
Ehgin Foreman, Jr.
Officer Grady
Rhonda Baker, Magnolia Project
Barbaralyn Woodson, Times Union

Vice Chair Diane Kerr called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. at the Bradham Brooks NW Library at 1755 West Edgewood Avenue

Invocation: Rev. Anthony Wyche

Vice Chair Kerr welcomed everyone. Chairman Straley was at the quarterly Meeting of CPAC Chairs with the Mayor and would be here shortly.

Guest Speakers:

Matt Thompson, Jacksonville Children's Commission, did a presentation on the New Ways Initiative Grant. These grants are for neighborhood residents and community groups to improve the lives of families and children in the neighborhood. There was a handout of the grant application with 3 categories:

1. Neighbor-to-Neighbor $10,000
2. For Kids by Kids $ 1,000
3. In Our Community $ 5,000

An information sheet on "Commonly Asked Questions" was also handed out. The dead line is March 9, 2001. Carrie Washington stood to commend Mr. Thompson for his support. Mr. Thompson wanted to thank last year's members: Carrie Washington, Erma Cole, Mary McDowell, Rosa Stephens, and Elaine Burnett. It was an invaluable service. Alton Yates said that he would write a letter to say how helpful Mr. Thompson is and the program. If you need help, please call Matt at 630-6432.

James Bennett, Florida Department of Transportation, did a power point presentation on the upcoming improvements for Beaver Street Resurfacing from Edgewood to McDuff. There is a safety issue with the utility poles. There have been 7 accidents with the poles in the last 3 years. The poles will be joint use with the Phone Company and JEA together which will eliminate some poles. Completion is expected in 60 to 90 days once started.

Staff Comments:

Joe Miller, Public Works Director – Made a presentation on the Better Jacksonville Plan. They are having a citizen oversight committee. There will be opportunities for different committees depending on interest. Working collaboratively with JTA, FDOT

and JEA is critical for delivering the projects on time. It is very important that the plan be done in a way as not to cause gridlock in the City. The goal is NOT to close off entire neighborhoods as the work takes place. There are 60+ road projects NW of the river and 30 SE of the river. The road-resurfacing project should be done by 2003. He will need our help to let everyone know what will be coming. Hiring will be taking place for qualified temporary workers for Program Managers, Project Coordinators and other positions. The Arena and Baseball Park should be done by May 2003. The Main Library by May 2003. The Courthouse may take longer but hopefully in 2005. The problem is where and having the input on what is needed from all parties in the building. All of the information is on the web page. Town Hall meetings will be coming to keep us informed. In 2005 Jacksonville will be a different looking city and citizens have the opportunity to participate. The plan is $7.8 billion dollars Joe Miller is excited to do the best job possible. If you need to reach Joe Miller you can call 630-1665 or JRMiller@coj.net.

Officer Sanchez, JSO – Reduction in crime especially in burglary has helped but with the holidays approaching need our help. Do not leave packages out where people can see them. Lock your car and house/garage doors.

Jim Green, FDOT – Dec. 4th there will be a meeting at FDOT training facility at 5:30pm on the annual work program from 1 year out to 2006. This will not be the same as the Better Jacksonville Program. High Speed Rail is unknown at this time.

Valerie Williams, JEDC, - There will be a meeting on November 20th at 4pm in the City Hall Annex 14th Floor on the NW Trust Fund and the Better Jacksonville Plan.

Mr. Alton Yates thanked everyone for the support of the tree ordinance getting 76% of the vote.

Old Business:

Waiver to Sell Alcohol: The Waiver for the selling of alcohol on 45th Street was a very hot topic. Mr. Patel, the owner of the store spoke on his behalf. He stated that the 2 establishments across the street already sell beer and wine and he wants to do the same. Officer Releford and Officer Grady, owners of the shopping center also spoke on the benefits for the neighborhood. He wanted to have some facts presented. There is a mortgage of $200,000 on the property. There was a 3-year grant for $65,000 and the Royal Terrace Community Building had $180,000 loan. The Plaza's design is the same as the one on the south side. Officer Releford didn't like the raggedy streets when he was undercover. He wanted the citizens to pick their fight. Having the store will have competitors selling products to the community at lower prices. This is not a liquor store. There are other businesses in the Plaza such as the Dental Clinic, Dry Cleaner, Women's Center and Day Care. He was very disappointed since he worked so hard for this community. He was offended and insulted. He is here to make money but hasn't yet. He doesn't live in this community. He gave the community free space for 8 months and Saint Clair Evans money for tutors. He has charged less for the Women's Center than normal prices. He is taking a loss to make an investment to benefit the community. Officer Releford than said he was: 1. Robert Releford a businessman, 2. Christian 3. JSO. After Officer Releford's presentation he continued to comment while other members were talking. The Chairman had to ask Officer Releford to respect the position of the chair and the process of speaking.
Questions of how will they control people buying the alcohol and drinking it outside were asked? How would the women that go into the Center feel if people were loitering outside drinking? Wasn't this building supposed to have space for the community since it was part of the Friend of a Friend Grant? How can alcohol be sold so close to a Day Care and school? Will the decision to sell alcohol benefit this Intensive Care Neighborhood? The question of how can establishments get a waiver when they are so close to a school continually came up. There was also a question of how can they add another problem to an already busy traffic corner? The Planning number is 630-6133. A statement that we want growth and prosperity but the concern is children learn what they live. Young black males are the largest population in jails. If we don't expose the children so early in life (Day Care) it can lead to some bad habits. Do we need this at the cost of our children? The Day Care and the Woman's Center are not in support of this as well as a neighbor who did receive notice. Mr. Patel, Officer Releford and Officer Grady left and that's when the neighbors who oppose it were able to speak without being interrupted. *A vote on the appeal was taken. All were in favor of the appeal. Chairman Straley will compose a letter*. Rosa Stephens has a petition that opposes this with over 500 signatures to date to bring to the City Council Meeting.

Chairman Straley attended the Mayor's quarterly meeting with CPAC chairs. There will be a Planning Department representative at the CPAC meetings as well as a Code Enforcement Officer. He did not get the Mayor to agree to have all Neighborhoods automatically registered with the Planning Department and this is a personal failure. You must register to get Land Use and Waivers from the Planning Department. Don't let things go in your neighborhood without knowing what it is. Chairman Straley requested names for the nominating committee: George Leverett, Diane Kerr, Norman Study, Rosa Stephens, Carrie Washington, Frances Leverett and Erma Cole. The public notice on the Nominating Committee should be posted so the attorneys will not be coming to the December Meeting when we vote on the new Chair and Vice Chair. There will be a potluck holiday event and the hospitality committee needs your help. Please call one of the following to tell what you will be bringing to the event:

Carrie Washington 768-464
Diane Kerr 387-4641
Erma Cole 358-1147

Announcements:

- Rosa Stephens invited everyone to a "Ribbon Cutting for Royal Terrace Park" on Tuesday, November 14th at 11am. This has been a project that has been needed and worked on for the past 3 years. Thank you to Councilwoman Yates for her support!
- There was a Zone 4/5/6 ShAdCo Meeting at the Clarion that was great and you are invited to ShAdCo N meeting on 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm at Lincoln Villas.
- Mayor's Holiday Senior Festival will be on Sunday, December 10th at the Prime Osborne. It cost $1 and you can buy tickets at City Hall on the 2nd Floor and the Mary Singleton Center.
- Thanksgiving "Operation Blessing" will be on November 21st at 2p.m. at Heritage Park off of A. Phillip Randolph.
- John Carter, Times Union Reporter, wants neighborhoods, organizations and churches to let the TU know of upcoming events and things that are going on to get into the paper. His number is 359-4539 and you can mail him at P.O. Box 1949, Jax. , Fl 32231.
- Thank you to the Jacksonville Transportation Authority for the bus and information provided for the CPAC Bus Tour. They will have a Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting on November 16th at 6p.m. at 100 N Myrtle Avenue.
- If you have any Code Enforcement concerns, please see Marilyn Fenton-Harmer at the end of the meeting.
- December CPAC meeting we will have elections for the Chair/Vice Chair. A very nice party follows the elections. Everyone is welcome to come. Everyone usually brings a dish. Please see the hospitality committee after the meeting if you would like to bring something.
- Flyers for various events were also passed out.

Chairman Straley thanked everyone for coming and wished everyone a fantastic Thanksgiving.
Meeting adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Next meeting: 6 p.m., December 14, 2000, Bradham Brooks NW Library at 1755 W Edgewood Ave. 765-5402