

**NORTH DISTRICT  
CITIZENS PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
FCCJ North Campus – 4501 Capper Road  
June 9, 2004**

**Meeting Summary**

**Agenda Item 1. Call to Order and Verification of Quorum**

Chair Robert Lee called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. There was verification of a quorum.

**Agenda Item 2. Presentations – Latree Carswell, Community Development Division, Planning & Development Department**

**Topic: Community Development Grants**

**David Kaufman, Senior Director, Government Relations, Real Estate Planning & Development**

**Topic: Proposed permitted cruise terminal site near Sisters Creek and Joe Carlucci Park**

**Agenda Item 3. Summary of Previous Meeting for Approval**

A motion was made to approve the summary from the May 12, 2004 meeting. After being seconded, the motion passed and the summary was approved.

**Agenda Item 4. Old Business**

None

**Agenda Item 5. Chair's Report**

Chair Lee announced that the presentation next month would be regarding preservation. Elizabeth Kohler will be the presenter. Numerous requests to make presentations are coming in each month.

The Northeast Florida Center for Community Initiatives, an applied research center at the University of North Florida, is holding a public forum to discuss impediments to fair housing in your neighborhoods. The public forum will be June 23, 2004, 7 p.m., at the Gateway Mall Small Business Center. The forum is to obtain your perspective on affordable housing in Jacksonville and how it relates to your lives.

Nominees for the Mayor's Individual and Neighborhood Awards are needed in the next couple weeks. A meeting to discuss the Third Annual Citywide "Clean It Up Jacksonville Day" is scheduled on June 22. Arthur Sullivan volunteered to attend since Jack Stuart will not be available. Chair Lee also plans to attend.

Last month Dr. Darby presented the North CPAC with an award. Harry Wagner will get to keep the award since it was to be presented last September while he was CPAC Chair.

Chair Lee and Vice Chair Berry covered their notes from Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs. Please submit items of interest prior to the Mayor's Town Hall Meeting scheduled on July 20, 2004, at 6 p.m. The location is being determined.

**Agenda Item 6. Subcommittee Reports**

**Governmental Affairs** – report given by Richard Berry

- 2004-498 CPAC recommended approval
- 2004-505 CPAC recommended approval
- 2004-550/51 CPAC recommended approval
- 2004-555 CPAC recommended approval
- 2004-556 CPAC recommended approval, 1 opposed
- 2004-557 CPAC recommended approval
- 2004-560 CPAC recommended approval, 1 opposed
- 2004-562 CPAC recommended approval, 5 opposed

**Education** – no report

**Children’s Commission** – no report

**Beautification** – no report

**Membership** – Harry Wagner reported that he’s still working with communities to increase membership. Let him know about neighborhoods not being represented. Letters were mailed to all north district organizations registered with the Neighborhood Services Division, including those with CPAC representatives whether or not they attend meetings. BCM Services, Inc. assists communities with developing homeowner associations. Jenelle Bray inquired about Angel Lakes HOA and who their representative was.

**Transportation** – Richard Berry reported that he attended a public meeting discussing the 2030 Program over the next 25 years. The meeting was successful. Details will be available at a later date.

A brief discussion took place regarding Governmental Affairs subcommittee meeting minutes being available prior to CPAC meetings so that members could review bills in advance.

**Mayor’s Representative** – no report

**Councilman Warren Alvarez** – C/M Alvarez opened the floor for questions. Everyone is invited to the Installation Ceremony of the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect, Tuesday, June 29, 2004, at 6:30 p.m., in the City Council Chamber.

**Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office** – Auto thefts are up during the summer months. Seven violent crimes occurred in April, and five in May. New construction burglaries are also a problem.

**Building Inspection Division** – George Baker reported that his division is responsible for city unlicensed building activity and the enforcement of the city’s sign ordinance. A permanent crew is on staff to remove illegal signs.

**Property Safety Division** – Del Miley reported that Danny Connell and Debbie Collier are the code enforcement officers assigned to the north district. A third officer will be assigned eventually. A sheriff’s walk is scheduled for tomorrow in the Polly Town section.

**Duval County School Board** – no report

**Planning and Development Department** – Doug McDowell stated that the department is working on getting information to the CPAC more efficiently. Changes are coming.

**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** – Milton Locklear provided status reports on various north district projects. Asphalt along Heckscher Drive will have to be replaced.

**Duval County Health Department** – Jocelyn Turner provided information and statistics regarding prostate cancer. Free screenings will take place on Sunday, June 27, 2004, at various local churches. First Timothy Baptist Church, located on Biscayne Boulevard, will screen from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 665-2520 for additional locations.

**Consumer Affairs Division** – no report

**Neighborhood Services Division** – Cami Cooper provided information regarding important dates. The deadline for submitting applications for 2004 Mayor’s Neighborhood Matching Grants is June 30. The 2004 Neighborhood Leadership Training is scheduled July 6 – August 26. Volunteers are still needed for the Florida Neighborhoods Conference in September.

**Agenda Item 7. Public Comments**

C/M Warren Alvarez encouraged everyone to attend Sail Jacksonville this weekend.

**Agenda Item 8. Adjournment**

Chair Lee adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

## Message from Chair Bob Lee:

**Clean-it-up / Green-it-up: Scheduled for Saturday (October 23, 2004):**

At the July meeting, we will need to identify **two locations for registration/collection points** (i.e., a place on cleanup day where participants will come to register, receive bags & gloves, and be assigned to various cleanup locations). Participants will bring bags back to the collection point. However, if the location is too distant or there are many bags involved, they can leave the bags in one spot and call in that location (cell phones will be used).

**Please come to meeting with some ideas/suggestions of locations for the two registration/collection points. Also, come with suggestions as to cleanup locations** that may be different from and satellite to the registration/collection points.

## Mayor Peyton's Quarterly Meeting with CPAC Chairs June 8, 2004

### *SUMMARY*

Mayor Peyton opened his third quarterly meeting with the CPAC chairs by giving a summary of the administration's initiatives. They are working on their second budget -- the first one that is theirs entirely: Instead of presenting it to City Council at one time they are rolling out initiatives at intervals, including:

- Parks – from the biggest in America to the best: A parks task force of about 12 people has been established to determine what is best for parks in Duval County.
- Mayor's Safety First: Unprecedented initiative that included the sheriff and fire chief to develop a three-year plan to work toward a goal of creating the safest city in America.
- JEDC: Calling a temporary moratorium on incentive dollars to determine clear objectives, measurability and accountability
- Literacy: Not launched yet, it will be the first time the city invested in a major way in something to do with education. Focus: 3- to 5-year-olds.

The mayor discussed the courthouse controversy and his commitment to design to a budget. He said the building would be safe, entirely functional and dignified. Several chairs expressed their support of his decisions.

### **The mayor invited the chairs and vice chairs to voice their concerns:**

Several chairs commended the mayor on his proposed literacy initiative and offered suggestions.

**Super Bowl Security:** Charles McBurney asked about the governor's veto of Super Bowl security funds.

*Mayor: That number was a big wish list that included all of the authorities, too. The city will apply for federal assistance. Overtime of police, fire and rescue is a big expense.*

**Conservation:** Dick Berry suggested that under the Preservation Project that the city turn over conservation to Soil and Conservation and let professional foresters manage it.

**Freedom Commerce Center:** Angie Vannatter said she has been "managing perception" concerning Freedom Commerce Center. The CPAC established a task force to look at wetlands and transportation. The project is at St. Johns River Water Management now and a hearing is scheduled for July. The developer is cooperating and has put another 100 acres of wetlands into conservation – property worth an estimated \$50 million. Residents are concerned about transportation and growth; Baymeadows Road and Phillips Highway are already jammed.

**Southside Generating Plant:** Angie served on a task force that studied use of the property. JEA believes the Haskell offer will be accepted. There has been substantial progress on getting the site cleaned up and they are happy about the way things are going. The Haskell drawing shows a nice-sized park.

**Condemned property:** Robert Lee said the Wingate North Community is upset about a condemned home where people work on cars and leave trash. Neighbors have called the city several times. The city has responded but the situation remains.

*Action: The mayor asked the Neighborhoods Department to follow-up.*

**Lack of meeting space:** The North CPAC sent a letter to Councilwoman Gwen Yates about the lack of public places for community meetings. Highlands Library is not being expanded. There are only three community centers, two of which charge a fee, in the district, which is very large. Two centers were torn down in the past several years.

*Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up. Mr. Lee shared his letters to Council.*

**Asphalt plants:** Dick Berry again brought up the issue of asphalt plants on Heckscher Drive (three blocks from the zoo) and Main Street, which residents say are unsightly. He said the plants are working on Better Jacksonville Plan projects and residents would like them to clean up their operational bases.

*Action: The mayor acknowledged that this has been an ongoing concern and asked that Public Works investigate it again. Dick submitted color photos of the sites.*

*From Sherry Hall, June 9: I've spoken with Rex Holmlin about the photos/information you gave me this morning. He is going to take care of the issue with the contractor. One of us will follow-up with you once a resolution is determined and let you know the outcome.*

**Downtown parking for residents:** Dr. Janetta Norman and Michael Bryant said residents in the Cathedral complex have to move their cars every two hours to avoid getting parking tickets in their neighborhood. Residents have a problem parking in business areas. Michael said they would like to have parking decals for their vehicles. *Mayor: Let's get the scoop on that. I want to do everything possible for the people living downtown. I consider them pioneers. I don't want government service to be a barrier.*

*Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.*

**Codes and zoning:** The Urban Core representatives also expressed concern about the lack of code enforcement officers to do inspections. Diane Kerr said that although courtesy and service from zoning (Planning Department) and property safety (Neighborhoods) enforcement officers have been "terrific," she agreed that more are needed and suggested a part-time summer staff.

*Mayor: We are putting the budget together now.*

Concerning zoning, Diane said that buildings are popping up without going through the permitting process, and to get rid of them there is the issue of property owner's rights. The mayor asked her to get addresses.

*Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.*

**Town Center:** Diane said she appreciates that the North Riverside and Murray Hill projects were funded. She and Marcella Lowe thanked him for the program and requested that more funds be allocated to the initiative.

*The mayor said he is a big fan of Town Centers and hopes to secure funds to move the projects forward. He said he is impressed by the program because “getting residents to share and implement a vision is a good thing.” He cautioned that the budget is tight but said he is committed to the program.*

**Animal Shelter:** Diane Kerr said that EPA received no negative responses from public comments concerning construction of Animal Care and Control’s new building.

*The mayor said there are rumors about pulling that project but there is no change to the plans to date. He said the Humane Society has requested partnering with Animal Care and Control (as it does in other cities) and the city is open to discussion.*

**Equestrian Center:** Carl Moore said the new 150-horse barn has no electricity or water. The mayor said that doesn’t make sense to him and said we would check on that.

*Action: Neighborhoods Department will follow up.*

**Fuller Warren Bridge:** Carl said the roadway at the base of the new bridge is pockmarked.

*Mayor Peyton: The mayor said we have a great relationship with FDOT and offered to talk to them about that.*

**Super Bowl Traffic:** Carl said residents are concerned about the traffic that week because it is already heavy.

*The mayor said that, unlike Houston, people would be able to walk to most venues downtown. He said people are working full time on the traffic situation. Buses will be critical.*

**Old Arlington:** Marcella said residents would like no more apartments, day care centers or pawn shops. A sign advertising a pawnshop to be opened on Merrill Road recently appeared overnight. She said Councilwoman Pat Lockett-Felder said it would not happen.

**Wonderwood:** Marcella pleaded with the mayor not to let the Wonderwood Bridge open until construction is finished on roads that connect to it. She said the roads are dangerously narrow and residents fear for their safety. She stressed that they are not opposed to the project but opening the bridge this summer would be a disaster waiting to happen.

*Mayor Peyton: The mayor offered to call Michael Blaylock at JTA concerning the issue.*

Tom Shouvin announced that the annual CPAC picnic will be Aug. 7 but the location has not been determined.

The mayor thanked the volunteers for the service and said he appreciates their leadership.