

**The Better Jacksonville Plan
Citizens Oversight Committee
Quarterly Meeting
January 24, 2002**

The meeting was called to order in the Mayor's Large Conference room at approximately 6 p.m.

Ron Salem opened the meeting and introduced Mayor Delaney for remarks about The Better Jacksonville Plan. The Mayor began by discussing the recent media attention surrounding the contingency fund. He explained that he came to the projected costs through a range of studies and staff visits to facilities similar to those that we were building. SMG studied the arenas, KPMG did a development study for the Baseball Park and Providence Associates did 2 studies for the libraries. There were over 100 reports for the road projects.

The Mayor also:

- Discussed how some projects are saving money, starting with the chilled water plant that JEA is constructing that could save the city \$8-\$10 million. As well, the city has pooled insurance for the projects and this is expected to save millions of dollars.
- Touched on the Main Library competition and stated that four well-known firms competed in the competition. The Mayor had the choice to go with the committees' choice or throw them all out and start again. He went with the recommendation of the committee and that was Robert A.M Stern.
- Courthouse has four well-known architects involved in the design competition.
 1. KBJ Architects
 2. Cannon Design
 3. Rink, Reynolds, Diamond Fisher Wilson Architects teamed with Reynolds, Smith and Hills.
 4. Spillis Candela & Partners teamed with Smith McCary Architects

We are on target to dedicate the Courthouse in 2005.

- Road Resurfacing – 307 miles have been resurfaced to date. We are under budget on this due to the price of asphalt dropping.
- Sidewalks – 15 miles of sidewalks are finished to date. The Scott Mill Recreational Path is not finished, the base layer is down, but there is still more work to do.

Minority business participation is at about 25% right now. It goes up and down depending on contracts.

The Mayor introduced Rex Holmlin, Project Manager for the Library projects.

Rex presented a Power Point overview and status report on the Main Library and library branches.

The following points were reviewed:

- ✓ New Main Library – virtual tour
- ✓ Project review (6 new branches and 13 renovations)
- ✓ Project site layouts

- ✓ Project details for each venue including:
 - Location
 - Size
 - Budget
 - Technology

Questions from the Citizens Oversight Committee focused primarily on whether to construct a walkway from the garage to the library or put people on the street.

- About 80% thought that the pedestrian bridge was needed due to weather conditions, handicap access and parents with young children.
- A promenade was discussed to keep people on the streets downtown and thought to be a great idea, but traffic flow would be a problem to consider.
- A discussion about building a library in Maxville instead of Baldwin arose. Rex stated that consultants chose the areas to build new libraries and came to the conclusion that the Regional library was close enough to service Baldwin and that Maxville needed a new library.
- The technology in the libraries will be state-of-the-art. The Main Library will have the infrastructure to change with technology. There will be technology for the disabled to include Braille, listening devices, large print books for seniors and all areas will be handicap accessible.

Q. How many books will be held in the Main Library?

A. Rex will get back to Fred Hartmann with that answer.

Q. How will the library help the school system with its literacy problem?

A. There will be a Center for Adult Literacy that is larger than our current one and the Literacy Coalition is currently pulling information together to help put energy back into reading.

Q. Why did the Arena move?

A. The Mayor said that they moved the Arena to make it more accessible and create a more fluid pedestrian walkway toward Alltel Stadium, linking all elements of the Sports Complex.

Discussion took place regarding the intersection improvements at Atlantic and University Blvd. Joe Miller and/or the Mayor will have an update at the next meeting.

The Mayor thanked the Citizens Oversight Committee for their ongoing commitment. The Equestrian Center is the topic for the April COC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.