



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Neighborhood Safety & Stability

MINUTES

OF

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY &

STABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE -

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WORKGROUP

April 3, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability

Sub-Committee – Economic Development Workgroup

April 3, 2008

2:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee - Economic Development Workgroup taken on Thursday, April 3, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor - 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee - Economic Development
Workgroup

Joni Foster, Chair
Charlie Commander, Member
Alberta Hipps, Member
Suzanne Jenkins, Member
Mack Bisette, Member
James Richardson, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

JONI FOSTER, Chair
MACK BISSETTE, Member
ALBERTA HIPPS, Member
SUZANNE JENKINS, Member
JAMES RICHARDSON, Member

ABSENT MEMBERS:

CHARLIE COMMANDER, Member

STAFF:

CHAD POPPELL
LYNN RIX

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jenna Emmons
Jennifer Holbrook
Dawn Lockhart
Wight Greger

PROCEEDINGS

April 3, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair/Committee 2:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chairwoman Foster called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Purpose of Meeting. Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee.

Chairwoman Foster had prepared draft recommendations that were poured into five (5) "buckets". The workgroup agreed to the buckets in principle and had no other buckets to add. These draft recommendations can be found on the website at:
<http://www.coj.net/Mayor/Jacksonville+Journey/Minutes.htm>

Recommendation 1: The first speaker was Dawn Lockhart of Family Foundations representing 1000 in a 1000. The name comes from the concept of bringing 1000 families out of poverty in 1000 days.

Q: How does 1000 in a 1000 differ from Center for Working Families? 1000 in a 1000 takes it a step further by providing stabilization of the whole family, not just economically.

Q: What City of Jacksonville department would this interface with? Community Services. (Proper department name is Recreation and Community Services).

Q: What is the status of this program? We are ready to test whether this model is sustainable. What is the rate of return on investment? Bundling services that the city already provides.

Amendment: Add to recommendation 1 a second sentence that reads: "Use under utilized community centers in hot spots for this purpose."

Q: Is this program neighborhood based? The pilot consists of 50 families and is not neighborhood based, but is a cross-section to determine which income bracket can be helped the most. Ultimately the program will be location or neighborhood based.

Q: Recommendation needs to look at locating program in emerging

hot spots, not just current hot spots. This will be addressed in recommendation 2.

There was a discussion about having a clearing house or neighborhood pipeline at the neighborhood level for referrals to services already in existence rather than the actual delivery of service.

Q: Why is there a gap, why isn't Work Source able to fill this gap? Some people in the hot spots are harder to place because of past mistakes (ex-offenders), long-term unemployment, or lack of job skills.

Q: Need to add a 6th recommendation addressing social services and unintended consequences. A social services location can bring in other non profit groups who believe that funding is available. Clustering of these non profits can bring undesirables who feed off the weaknesses of people in need, i.e., drug dealers. Suzanne Jenkins and Alberta Hipps will separately develop a list of what to social service providers should avoid and what detracts from economic development. They will bring their lists to the next meeting on April 7, 2008.

Recommendation 2: The second speaker was Wight Greger, from City of Jacksonville Housing and Neighborhoods Department. Ms. Greger explained the role of her department with neighborhood coordinators, funding social services and economic development as

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well as mapping projects.

The Northwest Jacksonville Economic Development Fund (NWJEDF) currently has 16 active projects for job creation. It has funding for commercial corridors. There was discussion about the need to expanded NWJEDF or a similar program to blighted areas on the Southside and Arlington. The Housing and Neighborhoods Department is the economic engine of funding for neighborhood-based, small scale 50 to 200 jobs at a time.

The Jacksonville Economic Development Commission (JEDC) primarily focuses on downtown revitalization and redevelopment. Secondary focus is large scale economic development, the port and manufacturing.

Q: Do you have the same incentives available as JEDC? No, we do not have the funding available that JEDC has.

There was much discussion regarding establishment of a Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) in the hot spots. It was determined that state laws have changed making this option very limiting. There is a Community Development Area program included in public policy, but it has no funding. These areas are eligible the for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. A possible recommendation would be to expand the Enterprise and Empowerment zones in hot spots. The workgroup asked for a codified list of Neighborhood Action Plans (NAP) be provided at the next meeting.

Recommendation 5: Discussion then segued into recommendation 5. Because of the perceived restrictions and limits it was decided to change the wording of recommendation 5 to "explore" rather than mandating the use of CRA, TIFs, BIDs for funding. It was also decided to add exploration of CDBG, NWJEDF, and CDA as funding sources.

Recommendation 4: A motion and second was made. After discussion it was amended to add to the end of sentence 1 "as demonstrated by the Springfield model and in addition investigate the CleanSlate model."

Recommendation 3: There was discussion about fully funding the Seeds of Change program. The program is already community-wide. Fund what part of it? A possible recommendation would be to keep people working on this to change archaic zoning laws and supporting urban landfill. The Planning Department is working on the re-write of the visionary plan.

Derek Igou or Kim Scott will come on Monday to further address code enforcement and zoning enforcement. The workgroup would like their input into recommendations being made so that it can best help them do their job.

Additional recommendation: That the Mayor find some way to expand

the time for the exploration of economic development. This will become recommendation 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

2. Action Items

Recommendation 4: A motion and second was made. After discussion it was amended to add to the end of sentence 1 "as demonstrated by the Springfield model and in addition investigate the CleanSlate model."

3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.