



City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey

Neighborhood Safety & Stability

MINUTES

OF

NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY &

STABILITY

SUB-COMMITTEE

February 5, 2008

The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability

Sub-Committee

February 5, 2008

4:00 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee taken on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8th Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee

Tony Boselli, Chair
Oliver Barakat, Member
John Clark, Member
Charlie Commander, Member
Ronnie Ferguson, Member
Joni Foster, Member
Mark Griffin, Member
Tripp Gulliford, Member
Alberta Hipps, Member
Suzanne Jenkins, Member
Curtis Johnson, Member
A.L. Kelly, Member
Diane Kerr, Member
Charles Griggs, Member
Lisa Moore, Member
Devin Reed, Member
Jim Robinson, Member
Toney Sleiman, Member
Eric Smith, Member
Eddie Staton, Member

APPEARANCES

COMMITTEE CHAIRS & MEMBERS:

TONY BOSELLI, Chair
CHARLIE COMMANDER, Member
RONNIE FERGUSON, Member
JONI FOSTER, Member
MARK GRIFFIN, Member
CHARLES GRIGGS, Member
TRIPP GULLIFORD, Member
ALBERTA HIPPS, Member
SUZANNE JENKINS, Member
CURTIS JOHNSON, Member
A.L. KELLY, Member
DIANE KERR, Member
DEVIN REED, Member
JIM ROBINSON, Member
TONEY SLEIMAN, Member
ERIC SMITH, Member

ABSENT MEMBERS:

OLIVER BARAKAT, Member
JOHN CLARK, Member
LISA MOORE, Member
EDDIE STATON, Member

STAFF:

KERRI STEWART
CHAD POPPELL
JENNIFER SAVAGE

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marguerite Johnson
Hester Clark, Jax Journey Public Relations
W. Earl Kitchings
Kelley Boree, COJ
Marilyn Fenton-Harmer, COJ
Leighanne Grove
Tammy Colandrea
Jennifer Holbrook
Mack Bissette
David Williams
Kristen Beach, COJ
Shorty Robbins, COJ
Matt Galnor, T-U
Angela Leatherbury
Kristie Allen
Roslyn Phillips, COJ
Carolyn Williams, Library

PROCEEDINGS

February 5, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair/Committee 4:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Comments. Chair Boselli called the meeting to order at approximately 4:06 p.m.

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

Chairman Boselli welcomed the group and recapped the Rev. Rivers events, stating the overall sentiment that he got from Rev. Rivers was the importance of getting the faith community to take ownership of violent crime. Then Chairman Boselli introduced Kelley Boree of the City's Parks Department to participate in a Q&A with committee members on the spreadsheet of Jacksonville's community centers (available on coj.net). The Q&A session started with determining how many centers are staffed and have programs that target young people. Committee member Mark Griffin stated that efforts should focus on offering activities, and also at recruiting participants and providing transportation. Chairman Boselli agreed and said that maybe the committee should target k-6, an age group that is not as hard to recruit. He also said that one problem with city programs is that the staff are facilitators, not leaders. Some key items that came up in the Q&A: centers with programming must have one adult per 20 children, the entire budget for staffing and operating all city community centers is \$5 million, the centers fully rely on staff and not neighborhood

volunteers, and they are not able to track success of programs unless the programs are funded by the Jacksonville Children's Commission. Chairman Boselli asked Ms. Boree her plan for community centers moving forward to which she replied that she would like to put out an RFP for partnerships to provide full day programming at current un-staffed centers and, at currently staffed centers, to put out an RFP for outsourcing homework assistance and related activities to private partners and possibly extending hours to midnight or later and having a "drop in" program. Ms. Boree stated that this is based on a successful model in El Paso. Committee member Suzanne Jenkins said to also look at what area schools are doing to so as to avoid duplication in services. Committee member Joni Foster voiced concerns over running centers effectively with current budget and Ms. Boree responded that it may be best to instead go to the experts in this field and allow them to run activities. For a point of reference, Chairman Boselli said it costs \$135,000 to operate his program at Simonds-Johnson and that funds the operating budget and two full-time employees and reaches 30 children at a time. Committee member Ronnie Ferguson suggested devising criteria that programs must offer such as homework assistance, constructive recreation, serve as a safe haven and serve snacks. Chairman Boselli added that the program must be structured and disciplined to avoid community centers becoming places where kids can run amok. Committee member Curtis Johnson stated that developers should fund programs in neighborhoods in which they are building. Ms. Boree stated that she requests money from developers but that there is no way for

her to make them contribute. Committee member Suzanne Jenkins noted that she has requested money from developers when they apply for a re-zoning and it has worked in the past. City Council member Art Graham spoke and said that there needs to be concurrency with developers to provide for parks and that the program must be standardized, and that this something he is working on as a member of the Parks Advisory Task Force. He also said that the library has a program called Tutor.com that makes it not necessary to have a staff person on site for homework assistance. Committee member Diane Kerr said that recreation programs should be offered to get kids in the door, and then they can be reached with educational programs. Chairman Boselli agreed but said it's important to focus on strategies that will help young people in long term, like education and character development. Committee member Suzanne Jenkins recommended adopting a model similar to PTA where there is a "cafeteria" plan of activities for each community to choose from when creating their center. Committee member Charles Griggs added that the center must be a source of pride for young people, a place with which they want to be associated. Chairman Boselli asked Ms. Boree to bullet her recommendations for the community centers and send them to Staff Liaison Kerri Stewart. Suzanne Jenkins asked that the senior centers be removed from the map, and then have the community centers superimposed over the crime weather map. Chairman Boselli then motioned to approve the minutes from the Jan. 29 meeting, which was seconded and approved. Committee member Mark Griffin spoke on behalf of area pastors and said they

are concerned about crime and are involved in helping to address violence. Chairman Boselli opened the floor to public speakers. Hester Clark of the Jacksonville Journey Public Relations Committee said she has been assigned to help this committee with its public relations needs and to let her know how she can help. Chairman Boselli asked her to publicize the Neighborhood Building Toolkits. Then Earl Kitchings spoke and recommended that the committee review Athletic Administration magazine which lists the top 100 facilities. Chairman Boselli adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

2. Action Items

- Chairman Boselli asked Ms. Boree to bullet her recommendations for the community centers and get them to Staff Liaison Kerri Stewart
- Suzanne Jenkins asked that the senior centers be removed from the map, and then have the community centers superimposed over the crime weather map.

3. Discussion Items

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.