



**City of Jacksonville – The Jacksonville Journey**

**Neighborhood Safety & Stability**

**MINUTES**

**OF**

**NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY &**

**STABILITY**

**SUB-COMMITTEE**

**April 1, 2008**

# **The Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability**

## **Sub-Committee**

**April 1, 2008**

**2:30 p.m.**

PROCEEDINGS before the Jacksonville Journey – Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee taken on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, Edward Ball Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor – 214 N. Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida commencing at approximately 2:30 p.m.

### **Neighborhood Safety & Stability Committee**

**Tony Boselli, Chair**  
**Oliver Barakat, Member**  
**John Clark, Member**  
**Charlie Commander, Member**  
**Michael Edwards, 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**  
**Diane Kerr, 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  
DEVIN REED, Member

### **ABSENT MEMBERS:**

OLIVER BARAKAT, Member  
JOHN CLARK, Member  
MICHAEL EDWARDS, 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  
DIANE KERR, Member  
LISA MOORE, Member  
EDDIE STATON, Member  
JIM ROBINSON, Member  
TONEY SLEIMAN, Member  
ERIC SMITH, Member

### **STAFF:**

KERRI STEWART  
CHAD POPPELL  
JENNIFER SAVAGE

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

James Richardson  
Pam Wilson  
Kelly Boree  
Anna Bradley  
Wight Gregor  
Mary Kay O'Rourke  
Roslyn Phillips  
Shorty Robbins

**PROCEEDINGS**

April 1, 2008

Neighborhood Safety & Stability Chair/Committee 2:30 p.m.

**Call to Order and Comments.** Chair Boselli called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

**Purpose of Meeting.** Discuss the Mayor's crime initiative - The Jacksonville Journey - Take a Step - Neighborhood Safety & Stability Sub-Committee. Specifically, this meeting was to finish discussions with the Department of Parks, Recreation, Entertainment and Conservation regarding the future of community centers.

Chairman Boselli opened the meeting and stated that the purpose today was to ensure that community centers play vibrant and critical roles in communities. Unfortunately, Boselli, said, currently many of them are underutilized or closed down. He would like to see them capitalize on reaching out to children and families, placing an emphasis on public/private partnerships to create a more efficient and accountable method for running the centers.

At this meeting, the committee members and the representatives from the parks department reviewed the wording and intended purpose of the following recommendations:

- All funds that are currently appropriated for after-school programs and community center operations as well as any future funding identified should be pooled into one fund on an annual basis for programming. The Jacksonville Journey's

Positive Youth Development Committee should define appropriate programming models. The Parks Advisory Board (or any board reflective of providers and users of the programs) should assess program outcomes and recommend funding on an annual basis (this is based on the Jacksonville Children's Commission and the Housing Commission model).

- The City of Jacksonville should revisit the make-up and duties of the Parks Advisory Board to ensure that it reflects the providers and users of the park system and its programs. Members should have skill set required to oversee program dollars.

Boselli said the goal is to craft language that will enable us to leverage resources to benefit parks. Committee member Charlie Commander said we should prioritize community centers in hot spot areas, and that if there are no community centers in those areas, then we should find alternative building space to serve as a center. Boselli said he would like to see the effort implemented citywide. Boselli then asked the current purpose of the Parks Advisory Board, to which Kelly Boree responded that it is primarily fundraising. She added that the board is made up of four people appointed by the mayor and three people appointed by the council, and that the board has begun meeting regularly and is establishing work groups, etc. Boselli then asked Boree if public/private partnerships are the way to go as far as community centers are concerned, and she said yes. Boree said she envisions the city maintaining responsibility for recreation but that education, cultural and specialty

programming would be taken on by an outside provider. Each center would have a manager that would work with the community to determine the programming they would like in the center, and to oversee programs. Commander asked if there were centers already set up like this and Boree said Emmett Reed and Robert Kennedy would be good examples. Roslyn Phillips added it is her intent to start programs similar to the ones listed above in the centers in Zone 1, and that she would like to see the centers open 12 hours a day with a greater focus on education programs. Boree added that the parks dept. is exploring the idea of using a "Rec and Roll" van that has the components of a recreation center that can travel to areas that don't have centers.

Boselli then asked how do we take the city dollars spent on community centers and leverage them for matching in the private community? The committee discussed several successful community partnerships, and Boselli asked the committee to translate those successes into a developing a program that will be successful for the city. Committee member Reed suggested having a position in parks focused on developing private partnerships. Roslyn Phillips said currently that work is contracted out, but that she is exploring bringing it in-house.

Shorty Robbins then compared Jacksonville's community center programming to others across the state. The main difference she found was that most cities are charging for these programs. In fact, she believes Jacksonville is the only one that does not. The result is that these centers that charge are able to have better programming. She also stated that

Jacksonville is the only large park system that does not have a foundation set up for donations.

Roslyn Phillips added that a system for measuring success must also be in place moving forward. Boselli asked if it would be possible to have the Jacksonville Children's Commission oversee and measure all programming in the community centers, and Robbins said that they are meeting later this month to discuss that option.

Boselli returned to the topic of having a Parks Advisory Board oversee the parks budget. Kerri Stewart added that the board could be similar to that of the Jacksonville Housing Commission in so much that it does not hire or fire...it pools money, recommends how it should be spent, and the City Council has final say.

Boselli said that he felt he had what he needed to complete the recommendation and would have it ready for review at the April 8 meeting of the Neighborhood Safety & Stability subcommittee meeting. He thanked Kelly Boree, Pam Wilson, Roslyn Phillips and Shorty Robbins for attending. Based on the discussion, Boselli crafted a new draft of a recommendation:

- The city should have in place a board similar to that of the Jacksonville Housing Commission or Jacksonville Children's Commission that appropriates funding under the condition that its actions encourage public and private partnerships and enhanced and additional after-school programming.

This recommendation will be discussed at the April 8 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

**2. Action Items**

None.

**3. Discussion Items**

None.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.