

Mayor's Parramore Task Force

Wednesday, November 12, 2003

Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force was called to order at 6:18 p.m., November 12, 2003, at the Dr. J.B. Callahan Neighborhood Center, 101 N. Parramore Avenue, Orlando, FL 32801. Brian Butler, Chairman presiding.

IN ATTENDANCE	NOT IN ATTENDANCE	STAFF IN ATTENDANCE	GUESTS	GUESTS
<u>Mayor Buddy Dyer</u>				
<u>Chairman</u> Brian Butler	Veronica Anderson Marjorie Brown Bob Carmichael Greg Clendenin Cari Coats Alvin Cowans David Hughes Dan Kirby Hudie Stone Ed Timberlake	David Dix Richard Levy Kevin Edmonds Joe Robinson Walter Hawkins Marcia Hope Goodwin Susan Denton Lelia Allen Pete Gauntlett Frank Billingsley Joyce Sellen Tammy Hughes Capt. Samuel Ings Peter Gauntlett Laurie Botts-Wright	Mary Donnelly Bernard Dudley Ken Edwards Robert Edwards Joseph Felder Joe Fernandez Nan N. Fielyis Lawana Gelzer Betty Gelzer Ken Goodwin Bruce Gordy Wayne Grant Thomas Hage Cynthia Harris Monroe Harrison Annie Hawkins Mark A. Hayes Brian Henties Matt Hong Kisa Hooks Nia Hope Rick Howard Donald E. Jackson Bruce Jensen Anthony Johnson Kumi Johnson Oliver Jones Sandra Joseph Shakeer Khan Kamona L. King Arthur J. Kleckley Barbara Lawrence Al Lewis Mohammad X. Lufti Jerrie G. Magruder Anthony Major Mary Maxwell James Q. Mitchell	Tiffany Moore Brian Mulvaney Valerie Mundy Rollie Murray Jr Lynn Nicholson Lorraine Nicholson Tana M. Porter Ben Reddick Susan Reddick Charlie Jean Salter Rev. Kevin Seraaj Ozzie Smith Shamika Songui David Van Gelder Sonja White David Williams Jerome Williams LaCary Williams Carol Wingerter
<u>Team Members</u> Ann Brown Derek Burke Ed Carson Terry Delahunty, Jr. Tommy Dorsey John Ehrig Aminah Hamidullah Juan Lynum Bill Segal Paul Stevens Lonnie Thompson Cheryl Taubensee				
		<hr/> GUESTS		
		R. Arnett William Ashcroft Clyoth Bell Francine Boylin Neil Brantley Kelly Brewington Hope Bryant Shirley Bryant Vivian Bryant Gwendolyn Bryant Preston Bryant Bakari Burns Vencina Cannady Mercerdese Clark David Clarkson Phil Cowherd Erica Crawford Beatrice Demps Leroy Dennis		

I. Introductions

- a. Chairman Brian Butler began the meeting with a welcome, introductions and a brief description and objective of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force. A summary of the tour of the Parramore area was also given along with the purpose of the meeting. Chairman Butler introduced Mayor Buddy Dyer.
- b. Mayor Dyer emphasized the purpose of the meeting indicating that the Task Force is there to listen to the comments and suggestions in an effort to bring about positive change in the Parramore community. Mayor Dyer pointed out that the Task Force is an action group formed to help facilitate improving Parramore in areas of Public Safety, Housing, Master Planning/Zoning and Social Services/Education.
- c. Chairman Butler added that the goal of the Task Force is to take input from the community along with recommendations from past and present plans and prioritize in an action strategies report. Chairman Butler gave a brief background of himself. Then read the [Mission Statement](#) and the [Nine Charges of the Task Force](#).
- d. The Task Force is charged to address the transitional needs of residents as well as restoring the historical aspects of Parramore. Each subcommittee will have an opportunity to perform a block-by-block analysis of community needs. Finally Chairman Butler introduced the four subcommittees and chairpersons. They are as follows:
 1. Housing Committee – Ed Carson, Chair
 2. Master Planning & Zoning – Derek Burke, Chair
 3. Public Works – Greg Clendenin, Chair
 4. Social Services & Education – Veronica Anderson, Chair

Each subcommittee will include tackling past and present issues raised by the community.

II. Community Comments

1. Bernard Dudley

Mr. Dudley has “long and deep roots” in the Parramore community and is unhappy with the construction of the Hughes Building. He pointed out the former home of the Negro Chamber of Commerce was demolished. He was concerned that the Task Force members have no ties to the Parramore community and the displacement of the elderly residents. Mr. Dudley stated the community would like to be left alone and live their lives as their grandparents. He explained that there is crime but have learned to live with it.

2. Dr. Tim Adams

Dr. Adams graduated from Jones High School and his parents grew up in Parramore. He commented in regards to things needing to be changed as well as left alone. People who live in Parramore have chosen to reside there. He fought for equal and fair housing and concerned with the lack of safety and protection. He discussed the inverted pyramid principal and explained that most decisions are made by outside entities. He would like to see the actions of the city dictated by the voice of the community.

3. Mary Donnelly

Ms. Donnelly does not reside in the Parramore community, but stated she would like to organize local businesses to help donate money to the community. She asked the Task Force members to assist with her efforts. She stated that those Task Force members that stand to gain financially from gentrification to step down and allow someone from the community to serve.

4. **Thomas Haig**

Mr. Haig commented that he is the third generation of his family to own several businesses in Parramore. He has twice participated in similar programs such as the Task Force but stayed away because of inaction. He is concerned that there are not more business owners on the Task Force.

5. **Rev. Kevin Serraj**

Rev. Serraj commented on the flawed process to select the Task Force members and that there should be more community representation. He recalled past committees and plans to change the Parramore community. He questioned why those plans were never implemented and the purpose of the present Task Force.

6. **Donald Jackson**

Mr. Jackson commented on the proposed Public Safety building and the displacement of residents as a result of this project. He questioned the lack of financial incentives for those displaced residents. He also questioned the status of the Public Safety building and how it will affect Parramore residents.

7. **Valerie Mundy**

Ms. Mundy explained how the McFall Avenue redevelopment project is lead by her and suggested the Task Force approach the redevelopment of Parramore as it relates to housing:

- Concerned with the lack of home ownership
- Neglect of absentee Landlords
 1. Names of property owners
 2. Evaluate obsolete housing
 3. Point out owners of neglected properties
- Make land affordable and available
- Take into consideration that this is an urban redevelopment
- Carefully consider design of housing
- Set aside money to redevelop properties owned by residents
- Relocate residents to good quality homes
- Hold property owners accountable
- Property valued need to increase
- Income diversification
- Cultural diversification
- Focus on a facility for nuisance abatement
- Develop a public relations campaign

8. **Shawn Fuchs**

Mr. Fuchs petitioned the city to tackle the drug and prostitution problem in the Arlington Heights neighborhood. He is concerned about the future plans for Arlington Heights, the lack of landscaping and increased police patrol (Mr. Fuchs came with a collection of photos of illegal activity in the area). He proposed the Task Force hold all property owners accountable for the condition of their property.

Chairman Butler requested the photos be passed around for review.

9. **Lawanna Gelzer**

Ms. Gelzer is concerned about the process by which the Task Force members were chosen. She stated that she has completed several city board applications, but she has not been appointed to serve. She commented that Task Force members should disclose their financial status along with how they may benefit from the Parramore project. She expressed concerns regards to the city's "public input process". She is appalled that the city would use eminent domain to obtain property in order to sell it for a profit. She would like the community to be "at the table" in the decision-making process.

10. **Betty Gelzer**

Ms. Gelzer commented that the Task Force members should think about the "little people" that have good ideas but do not sit on the Task Force.

11. **Dr. Charlie Jean Salter**

Dr. Salter commented that Parramore has been allowed to deteriorate and go unnoticed for a long time. The city should bring those who are most affected by the plans together and make them a part of the decision making process.

12. **Rev. Rollie Murray, Jr.**

Rev. Murray commented in support of the Mayor's seriousness to revitalize the Parramore community. He also stated changes can be done but everyone must work together.

13. **Wayne Grant**

Mr. Grant is concerned with the Task Force's position in monitoring the use of the property, and making sure the lots don't lay dormant. He commented that the city should make sure long time property owners benefit and proposed property trade within the Parramore community. He understood the Parramore project will be a painful but necessary process in order to move forward. He asked about the status of the Public Safety building.

14. **Mary Maxwell**

Ms. Maxwell challenged the Task Force to appoint community members to serve on sub-committees. She is concerned about preserving the rich Parramore history.

15. **Senator Gary Siplin**

Senator Siplin would like to know the exact plans for the Parramore community and form a partnership with the city to provide input to the Parramore project.

16. **Beatrice Demps**

Ms. Demps is concerned about the transients in the area.

17. **Anthony Johnson**

Mr. Johnson bought documentation to show history and appraisal of his family's home. He is concerned with criteria used in order to determine appraised value. He is commented that he does not believe a fair price was offered.

18. Shirley Bryant

Ms. Bryant suggested neighborhood health care services be considered.

19. David Van Gelder

Mr. Van Gelder commented that property values would appreciate in time and with effort. He is concerned that there are too many non-stake holders participating on the Task Force. He was especially concerned with the following issues:

- No community voice
- Crime control
- Financial assistance for homeowners
- Property appreciation

20. Lina Dunbar (on behalf of Earl Wright)

Based on a study conducted by her organization the following concerns were outlined:

- The community is not being heard
- Disconnection between residents and local government
- The appraisal process
- Housing structures being built
- Prior renters and owners having first priority
- Residents being given financial assistance

21. Mohammed Lufti

Mr. Lufti commented that the neighborhood needs to be cleaned and the people need to work together.

22. Vivian Bryant

Ms. Bryant gave a summary of the Carver Court Housing Authority relocation process:

- The Housing Authority is a city partner not a city agency
- Carver Court was built on a landfill and was sinking
- Housing relocated everyone from Carver Court.
- Prior residents will get first preference
- Plans for new structures were changed based on community input.
- The new site will contain 206 mixed income public housing units including a community center
- Focus on homeownership
- Deadline for new structures is September 2008

23. Dr. Kahn

Dr. Kahn commented that he and his wife provide low cost medical services. The Kahn Medical Center is located on the corner of South Street and Division Avenue. He requested code enforcement to rid the area of drugs and prostitution. He is concerned that he was framed for making an abundance of calls to the Orlando Police Department.

24. James O. Mitchell

Mr. Mitchell made the following points:

- Lack of response to crime in an effort to buy property at a cheap price
- Habitat homes on Randall Street are being used for drugs and prostitution
- Provide fair treatment and services to the community

25. Mercerese Clark

Ms. Clark made the following points:

- Provide the funds for public safety
- Look into exceptions in the HUD rulings
- Teach the first time and current homeowners maintenance and budgeting
- Establish more private partnerships and eliminate some of the high fees for business owners

26. Christine Saunders

Ms. Saunders commented that the gas company should be moved as it poses a risk to the community. She is concerned that expensive housing in the Parramore community is unnecessary and people would not relocate to pay high rental fees. She is also concerned that the community needs more low-income housing units.

27. Diane Gordon

Ms. Gordon proposed that the Orlando Police Department use vacant property as police substations. She is concerned that eminent domain is not the answer.

28. Martha Bryant Hall

Ms. Bryant proposed the following:

- Teach parenting skills to residents
- Teach self-awareness and self-esteem
- Control the drug problem
- Train residents on how to build and maintain their own homes
- Teach the entire community how to keep their neighborhood clean

29. Melody Keith

Ms. Keith commented that business owners should show more respect to residents in the community.

The next General meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. at the Dr. J. B. Callahan Neighborhood Center.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Brian Butler
Chairman

Brenda R. March
Recording