

Mayor's Parramore Task Force *Meeting*

Minutes – February 4, 2004

The meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2004, 8:35 a.m. at Orlando City Hall, ninth floor, Harvard Room. Brian Butler presiding.

Members Present:

Greg Clendenin
Veronica Anderson
Derek Burke
Ed Carson
Alvin Cowans
Terry Delahunty, Jr.
Lonnie Thompson
Dr. Tommy Dorsey
John Ehrig
A. Aminah Hamidullah
Juan Lynum
Bill Segal
Hudie Stone
Lonnie Thompson

Members Absent:

Ann Brown
Marjorie Brown
Bob Carmichael
Cari Coats
Paul Stevens
Ed Timberlake
Cheryl Taubensee

Staff Present:

Wayne Rich
Walter Hawkins
Brenda March
Rick Howard
Ben Reddick
Capt. Mary Ann Salazar
Lt. Robert Pigman
Lisa Early
Kevin Edmonds
Mary Ann Schwabe
Lelia Allen
Laurie Botts-Wright
Tammy Hughes
Joyce Sellen
Frances DeJesus-Davila

Staff Present Continued:

Sgt. Michelle Pearson

Capt. Sonja White
Sgt. Christopher LaBoo
Marcia Hope Goodwin
Lisa McCoy
Linda Rhinesmith
John Perrone
Steve Leonard
Tanja Gerhartz
Desnee Young

Others Present:

Dr. Tim Adams
George Papageorgia
Anthony Galloway
David van Gelder
William Ashcraft
Neil Brantley
Phil Cowherd
Nick Trimarche
Anthony Sims
Ali Dhanani
Rev. Ron Mizer
Wanda Perez
Neil Brantley
Michelle Ku
Maudie Walker
Sean Fuchs
Retz Joseph
Desiree Sanchez
Randall Grief
Andrea Gold
Kelly Brewington

Chairman Brian Butler began the meeting with welcome, opening remarks and introductions. The Mayor's Parramore Task Force members reviewed the meeting minutes. Mr. Alvin Cowans stated that his name was not listed in attendance at the January 7th meeting. Subsequently, the Wednesday, January 7, 2004 Mayor's Parramore Task Force meeting minutes were approved and accepted to include Mr. Cowans' being present at the meeting.

Chairman Butler asked each Subcommittee Chairperson to give a synopsis of meeting concerns:

Subcommittee Reports

Ed Carson, Housing Chairman

Mr. Carson stated that have had several meetings since the last Mayor's Parramore Task Force meeting and have developed preliminary recommendations. Mr. Carson commented that he appreciated support received from city staff, other Subcommittee

members and community input. The Housing Subcommittee recommendations will be beneficial for the city as well as the residents of the Parramore community. He made the following recommendations:

- Inadequate lighting is a major concern in the Parramore community.
- Homeless shelter and how to deal with the homelessness

Derek Burke, Master Planning/Zoning Chairman

Mr. Burke stated his Subcommittee has met twice since the last Mayor's Task Force meeting. At the January 14th meeting the Subcommittee focused on the Mayor's charges three and five:

- 3) Provide recommendations on how to bring back the business and entertainment district on Parramore. What can the city/state feds do?
- 5) Examine open spaces and make recommendations on the need, if any, for additional open spaces or parks.

The Subcommittee meetings have run on an open format allows the public to contribute as well as the Subcommittee members. The Subcommittee's goal is to establish consensus on issues and go through the meetings to generate recommendations that will be incorporated into the overall Task Force recommendations.

The Subcommittee recommended that there should be incentives to encourage businesses and entertainment to open or relocate to the Parramore district. The majority felt that the incentives should encourage African American businesses in particular in order to preserve the culture and history of the neighborhood. Discussion ensued regards to the need for concert series on a regular basis in the Parramore district and the culture corridor designation to be expanded in the Parramore as well. There also were discussions on the deficiency of parks in Parramore.

The Subcommittee also discussed strategies to bring invited speakers that have been involved with neighborhood revitalization efforts in other communities to glean their experiences. There was discussion about putting a hold on any new project initiatives in the Parramore community. At the January 28th meeting, it was discussed having an urban design assistant team which consist of experts outside of the community to be invited by the city to continue the work of the Task Force after it convenes to provide further input and strategies.

Greg Clendenin, Public Safety/Public Works Chairman

Mr. Clendenin stated his subcommittee has met three times since the last Mayor's Task Force meeting. The Subcommittee's attendance has increased as well as input and instruction. Mr. Clendenin commented on staff's valuable input and helpful service.

Many Subcommittee recommendations will come from previous documents and support of observations and recommendations dated from the 1980's. Crime is a major overriding issue and sees it to be an obstacle to actions happening and vision fulfilled if crime is not properly addressed. The issue of resources needed to address the crime issue as it relates to the revolving door of the jail. Mr. Clendenin invited everyone to attend the next Subcommittee immediately after today's meeting. Judge Alan Lawson address the Subcommittee regarding the judicial system of the revolving door. Also, code enforcement is a major issue and is directly related to helping to solve crime. The Coalition for the Homeless (men's campus) is another major issue in terms of Parramore revitalization an issue that needs to be dealt with directly. All aforementioned combined

with ongoing efforts to establish neighborhood watches and neighborhood involvement. Mr. Clendenin also commented that his Subcommittee is supportive of ongoing public works projects such as paving of streets and drainage.

Veronica Anderson, Social Services/Public Works Chairman

Ms. Anderson stated that the Social Services/Education Subcommittee met several times since the last Mayor's Parramore Task Force meeting. This particular Subcommittee broke up into three Task Teams to address issues such as: Task Team #1- Social service providers, Team #2 – Who are the social service agencies in the Parramore community and Team #3 – Focus on education.

Issues:

- Need to involve the community directly, possibly a community event
- Involvement of community partners to sponsor an event
- Education – Pre-K
- Need for more parental involvement
- Eight elementary school, several middle schools and one high school the children in the Parramore community attend which divides the community
- Consent decree regards to desegregation

Chairman Butler thanked Subcommittee Chairs. There were discussions in regards to pursuing a community event. Ms. Anderson commented that this is way to put together a survey with Task Force members input to assist with getting the survey completed. This will include a focus group format to record the answers. Discussion followed: Bill Segal concurred that the focus group format is the best way to gather information. Mr. Carson had concerns regards to the timeline to achieve the community event. Mr. Clendenin commented that there has not been a lack of opportunity for Parramore residents to provide input in this process. At the Public Safety/Public Works Subcommittee meetings, residents have participated in meetings and this should not be necessary tied in to meeting the timeline, possibly ongoing implementation of the revitalization process. Ms. Anderson commented that community leaders have given input but is trying to reach residents who have not attended meetings. Her target is to engage citizens in a more relaxed environment to include broader input based on the residents we have not been reached who will be impacted.

Chairman Butler concurred that the Mayor's Parramore Task Force has allowed opportunities for residents to attend meetings within the Parramore community. Discussion ensued. Greg made the motion that the community event idea is used for implementation and not to be tied to the timeline. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carson and passed with three opposes. Chairman Butler commented that the Task Force has to meet and discuss the recommendations for the revitalization process as time goes on. Chairman Butler put the issue to the floor for discussion. Ms. Hudie Stone commented that any questions that Task Force members would like to provide, please forward to the Social Services/Education Subcommittee for consideration. Ms. Anderson wanted to clarify the motion with the consensus for the Social Services/Education to host an event outside of the timeline. Mr. Clendenin referred to a mid 90's survey that outlined the top 10 pressing problems in the neighborhood. The top three were:

1) presence of drugs, drug users and drug dealers, 2) safety of the neighborhood and 3) crime and violence from drug problems. Then, he commented the survey concluded 10 areas of concerns and summarized into three which include: drugs and the crime related to them, general appearance of the neighborhood and youth needing help to stay in school and out of drugs. Past surveys have gathered information from Parramore residents and we are not starting from scratch.

Ms. Valerie King, Office of Diversity Initiatives, University of Central Florida, clarified the cultural differences as it relates to issues addressed to the community as well as information gathered. She commented the need to receive that the buy-in process is just as important as the product for survey results. *(Ms. Anderson inadvertently handed the microphone to Ms. King, member of the public)*

Ms. Stone stated the cultural sensitivity issues would be addressed as it relates to the focus groups. She mentioned previous surveys but the Parramore community has not historically had a social awareness campaign about issues that can be addressed such as drugs and crime issues. The Social Services/Education Subcommittee has had seven meetings. This Subcommittee is an ongoing, hands-on with the help of the University of Central Florida, we would accomplish our goal.

Ms. Anderson commented that we should be careful how we present our final plan. She is concerned about the silent voices that we have not heard from in the community and understands timeframe. Discussions ensued

Chairman Butler introduced Tanja Gerhartz, Director of Economic Development.

Ms. Gerhartz presented an overview of the City of Orlando's Economic Development programs, agencies and how it impacted Parramore.

Economic Development Mission:

To stimulate and guide the development of a vibrant, livable city that nurtures a creative, diverse and balanced economy for Orlando's citizens, businesses and visitors.

Priorities:

- To work with other organizations to build strategic partnerships to work with those organizations and the citizens of Orlando in the area of economic development
- To create a unique sense of place for the residents of Orlando to both live, work and play
- To grow the City of Orlando tax base in the most cost effective manner which includes redevelopment and new development

Discussion ensued during and after the presentation.

Ms. Gerhartz disseminated handouts of her presentation.

Chairman Butler thanked Ms. Gerhartz for a thorough Economic Development presentation. Subsequently, he reviewed the updated timeline recommendations and commented to the Mayor's Parramore Task Force members and attendees present on their input and time served.

Chairman Butler commented on the need to look at other city models similar to Parramore as mentioned by Derek Burke earlier. Chairman Butler suggested the following to be considered at meetings and/or request of documents or meeting materials:

- 1) Public input at Mayor's Parramore Task Force and Subcommittee meetings should be allowed at the end of the meeting with a time limit of five minutes per speaker.
- 2) All public request should be directed to staff for a response.
- 3) Advised members that individuals' recommendations not to be distributed to the general public, city officials, media, etc. unless they have been presented and accepted by a particular Subcommittee or Mayor's Parramore Task Force for adoption.

Chairman Butler opened the floor for public comments from Bridgette Monroe and David van Gelder addressed their concerns to the Task Force members.

Mr. Segal made a motion and commented on the Master Planning/Zoning Subcommittee recommendation to have the Mayor's Parramore Task Force make a recommendation to the city that no new development programs be started until the Task Force recommendations are put in place.

Mr. Clendenin had concerns with the motion. One proposal has been reviewed for the development of the Otey/Livingston/Federal Place redevelopment.

Lelia Allen commented that the city's Housing Department yearly plans its activity in order for the city to meet its goal, the funds have to go out in the community on a timely basis and development must be completed on time. Proposals are received monthly to the extent of a moratorium; it would put the Housing Department in a bind to accomplish this fiscal year's goals.

Mr. Burke concurred with Ms. Allen. He suggested that it would be wise to consider programs and strategies that this Task Force is recommending in light of any plans that may be coming to the table between now and the final recommendation period.

Mr. Segal clarified the motion and stated that the Task Force recommends to the city to suspend the award of the Otey/Livingston/Federal Place project until the Task Force recommendations have been completed and made to the Mayor and City Council. The motion was second by Hudie Stone. Discussion ensued regards to this matter. Chairman Butler requested Joyce Sellen to address the motion.

Ms. Sellen explained the Otey/Livingston/Federal Place project proposal status. She stated that the redevelopment initiative was approved by City Council/CRA in the mid-90's for authorization for staff to proceed with the acquisition of that specific property for the purpose of residential development.

There was a motion and a second to table this discussion until everyone has been briefed on the Otey/Livingston/Federal Place project details. The vote passed with two opposed. Ms. Anderson opted to abstained from voting.

The next meeting of the Mayor's Parramore Task Force Executive Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 8:00 a.m., Orlando City Hall, second floor, Conference Room U and March 3, 8:30 a.m., Orlando City Hall, 9th floor, Overlook Room.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Butler concluded the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Brian Butler Chairman

Brenda R. March, Recording