

**The Better Jacksonville Plan
Citizens Oversight Committee
Quarterly Meeting
July 26, 2001**

Co-chair Ron Salem called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and introduced the Mayor.

Mayor Delaney thanked the committee for their feedback regarding the structure of the meeting and the format of the report. He assured the committee that the staff would continue to develop the right format for the quarterly report.

The Mayor introduced the new members of the Better Jax team:

Joel Reitzer – Chief of Better Jax Projects and Programs
Chris Boruch – Project Manager – Courthouse
Alice Jones – Project Manager – Finance and Administration
Doug Layton – Project Manager – Roadway Improvements

The Mayor presented the Quarterly Report and highlighted the milestones.

Chair Ron Salem opened the floor for questions.

- Q. Are we designing the baseball park and the arena to attract large sporting and entertainment events that will positively impact our economy?
- A. Yes, the both the arena and baseball park are being designed to attract 1st rate entertainment acts and major sporting events. Our new arena will have the capacity to host the first 2-4 rounds of the NCAA championship and the baseball park will be AAA expandable. The quality of both facilities will surpass many competing venues.
- Q. What will happen to the old coliseum?
- A. The old coliseum will be demolished and cleared for additional parking.
- Q. Are there funds available for pedestrian cross-overs?
- A. There is funding available for a limited number of crossovers in extremely high-traffic areas.
- Q. Are the media reports accurate that the BJP resurfacing program is over-budget?
- A. The resurfacing program is fine. We divided the program into 4 sections to spread the work to four contracting companies. We have awarded 3 of the 4 areas and will re-bid area 4. Our resurfacing team has researched several methods to extend the life of each

street to be resurfaced for 15-20 years. These methods allow the City to customize our program to meet the needs of each individual street.

Q. Is the BJP dealing with the rapid growth and infrastructure needs on the Westside and in the NW quadrant?

A. Every sector of Jacksonville will benefit from the BJP infrastructure improvements. We are emphasizing road improvements to accommodate the growth on the Westside and have created the Northwest Economic Development Fund to support the infrastructure needed for development in the NW quadrant.

Q. Are homeowners required to hook up to the new sewer systems when it is installed?

A. If their septic tank system is failing or if the homeowner decides to sell their home, they are required to upgrade to sewer. There is a program to subsidize these hook-up costs.

Q. How is the installation of sidewalks prioritized?

A. The BJP staff works closely with City Council, the School Board and residents to determine how to prioritize the sidewalk construction. Safety is the driving factor.

Q. When do you decide to close a contaminated park area?

A. If we receive test results that say there may be a problem, we close the area until further testing can be done. We want to be extremely careful to test a site fully before we reopen it to the public.

The Mayor thanked the Citizens Oversight Committee and invited them to continue to contact him with their questions and comments.

The meeting was adjourned.