

NEFLAFC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

December 2006

Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force continues to address regional housing crisis

On Wednesday, December 13, 2006, members of the Northeast Florida Regional Council's Affordable Workforce Housing Task Force convened in the Council Board Room to continue addressing the housing crisis in Northeast Florida.

The agenda for the meeting included information on State activities, an update on the Florida House of Representatives Interim Workgroup, the Sadowski Trust Fund and a Florida Summit Stakeholders Report.

In addition, a representative from "Neighborhood America" made a presentation to Task Force members. Neighborhood America provides software to help organizations engage an audience – wherever they are; listen to what they are saying – through meaningful, organized feedback; and act on the information – with structured results that can be immediately integrated into your workflow processes. With an emphasis on solutions for regional planning, transportation planning, environmental planning, Homeland Security, disaster preparedness and recovery, this resource may prove to be an asset to the Task Force in managing information and future efforts for addressing the housing issues that concern our communities.

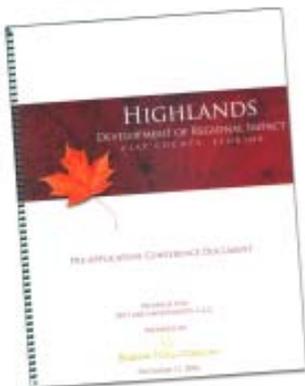
The Task Force also voted to support Resolutions related to the topic of affordable housing. The first being the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's National Call to Action for Affordable Housing through Regulatory Reform. This resolution emphasizes the critical importance of communities continually addressing the need for affordable housing for citizens and workforce. It states that providing this type of housing will help the economic vitality of Northeast Florida among other desirable results. The resolution also calls for an examination of regulatory barriers in the production of affordable workforce housing.

The second resolution, supports the elimination of the cap of the Florida Housing Trust Funds and supporting full funding from the housing trust funds. The Task Force endorses both of the resolutions in an effort to further shine the spotlight of importance on the affordable housing crisis that affects our communities within the region.

For more information, please visit www.neflaffordablehousing.com or contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0880.



Above, Clay County Commissioner Harold Rutledge presides over the Task Force meeting; (left) Kerri Stewart of the City of Jacksonville's Housing and Neighborhoods Department listens intently to the State Activity Update; (below) Matthew Stewart of U.S. HUD - Jacksonville and Palatka Vice-Mayor Mary Lawson Brown both engage in a review of the Neighborhood America program.



Council staff conducts pre-application conference for new multi-use project

On December 11, 2006, staff conducted a pre-application conference for the Highlands Development of Regional Impact (DRI), a proposed multi-use project in western Clay County. The project development plan calls for two five-year phases, with build out anticipated in 2018. The project site is located just east of U.S. 301, south of its intersection with C.R. 218. The development is planned to include 3,000 single-family dwelling units, 1,000 multi-family dwelling units, 1,000 active age-restricted dwelling units, 1,000,000 square feet of light industrial development, 175,000 square feet of office development, and 250,000 square feet of retail development.

For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0880, X 130.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council is very pleased to welcome the newest members to its Board of Directors

Hon. Michael Boyle
Nassau County

Hon. Nancy Harris
Putnam County

Hon. Jim O'Connell
Flagler County

Hon. Paul Bue
Clay County

Hon. Milissa Holland
Flagler County

Mr. Daryl Register
Baker County

Hon. Richard Clark
Duval County

Hon. Bill Leeper
Nassau County

Hon. Chereese Stewart
Clay County

Mr. Todd Duncan
Nassau County

Hon. Tom Manuel
St. Johns County

Hon. Cyndi Stevenson
St. Johns County

Hon. Jon Netts
Flagler County

Upcoming training prepares emergency personnel for response

In an effort to continue the quality instruction and preparation of emergency preparedness personnel, the District IV Local Emergency Planning Committee is sponsoring a Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEOfm) class from 10:00AM until 3:00PM, January 11, 2007 at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Jacksonville, Florida.

This class teaches first responders how to navigate through the software program menus and the capabilities of the software. Students will learn how to plot a threat zone on a map and use this information to help make shelter-in-place decisions. As the class progresses, additional real life factors will be added to the scenarios.

During the instruction, students will apply what they have learned, to answer problems that are critical to a safe hazmat response.

For more information, please contact Heather Golightly at (904) 279-0885, X 113.



Planning for growth is focus of seminar

Council CEO, Brian Teeple, recently spoke as part of the University of North Florida (UNF) Environment Center's Seminar Series. Teeple delivered a presentation entitled "Planning for Growth - Opportunities and Challenges in Northeast Florida."

The Environmental Center was founded in 2004 at UNF and serves the university and its role in the community by forging relationships with local, regional, and national organizations involved in activities directly related to environmental education and research.

For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0880.

