

NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2008

Regional Council participates in global perspectives roundtable with international visitors to the region

On Wednesday, May 7, 2008, members of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) participated in an event that embraced a global perspective reaching far beyond the Northeast Florida Region.



NEFRC CEO, Brian Teeple, presented an informal presentation on Regional Visioning efforts prior to the larger roundtable discussion that occurred later in the day.

In conjunction with the efforts of the International Visitor Corps of Jacksonville (IVCJ) and Rink Design, Regional Council staff welcomed 16 international experts from a variety of fields for a discussion on "Global Perspectives on Jacksonville's Sustainable Development." Topics of the day included transportation planning, urban planning, environmental protection and cleanup, water and energy conservation, green building and legislation. Jacksonville City Council – Councilman Michael Corrigan formally welcomed the group to a Roundtable Discussion lead by NEFRC CEO, Brian Teeple, that was held at City Hall. The delegates from various nations ranging from Malaysia to Hungary to Cameroon were particularly interested in Jacksonville's potential for cargo shipping growth, ecotourism and transportation. Jacksonville's International Visitor Corps and RINK Design Partnership worked with the U.S. State Department to host the program, making the First Coast the final stop on a three-week national tour.

The discussion concluded after two hours but, according to Teeple, must continue in order to continue to evaluate how Jacksonville and the Region can sustain its growth.

IVCJ (International Visitor Corps of Jacksonville) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization seeking to promote international understanding by hosting international visitors sponsored by the US State Department, the US Congress, and other professional exchange programs.



For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0885 X 104 or visit the IVCJ Web site at www.ivcjax.com.

Council staff attends ULI Conference to begin preparing for Reality Check First Coast upcoming activities

On Friday, May 16, 2008, Council staff attended the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Arizona's "Reality Check for Central Arizona" Conference in Phoenix. The conference conducted the "Reality Check" exercise that will be a part of Northeast Florida Regional Visioning efforts.

Work began in January 2008, on the regional initiatives associated with the First Coast Vision process. The Reality Check exercise will be the high-profile kickoff to a visioning process that will be multi-year, cover a wide range of regional topics and ultimately result in an update to the Regional Council's guiding policies, the Strategic Regional Policy Plan. For more information, please contact Margo Moehring at (904) 279-0885 X 161.



Leadership Academy graduates Class of 2008 and continues recruitment for new members

The Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2008 concluded its program year on May 21, 2008, by graduating its third class of regional leaders.

The Closing Retreat was held at the Thrasher-Horne Center for the Arts in Clay County. Class members participated in a structured day of examining such topics as State-sponsored Regional Visioning as well as Regional visioning efforts within Northeast Florida. They also explored ways to manage growth patterns regionally as they forecast population placement and development into the year 2030 through a popular process called the "Visioning Chip Game."

The class concluded with a graduation ceremony of nearly thirty members and a time of fellowship among the group which continued long after the formal portion of the retreat had concluded.

The Leadership Academy states in its mission that it exists to: "build a strong, diverse, regional network of leaders with a shared commitment to collaboration and to connecting our communities to make Northeast Florida a better place to live and work." The Academy is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2009 as it embarks upon its fourth year of providing recognized, diverse, high-level leadership within and beyond the Region. To download a copy of the application or for more information about the Academy, please visit www.nefria.com or contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 X 104.



Members of the Class of 2008 play the "Visioning Chip Game" and determine how the Region may be affected by anticipating growth to the year 2030.



Council participates in SERDI Conference leveraging knowledge of 11-state organization

Council staff attended the Southeast Regional Developers Institute (SERDI) Conference on May 17-19, 2008, in Naples, Florida. The conference was the 21st annual event of its type which is geared to assisting Regional Councils through the collaboration of an eleven-state region of the SOuttheastern United States.

The conference covered such topics as the Economic Development Partnership, Human Resources and personnel information, economic impact issues and rural land stewardship.

For more information, please contact Mario Taylor at (904) 279-0885.

Town Council Workshop covered Rules of Order Government in the Sunshine and Public Records

Planning and Development staff members traveled to Interlachen on May 27, 2008, to participate in a Town Council Workshop. The topic of the workshop was Robert's Rule of Order / Parliamentary Procedures and Government in the Sunshine / Public Records Requests. The audience was primarily the Town Council and Town Planning Commission as well as some interested citizens who attended.

For more information, please contact Guy Parola at (904) 279-0885 X 135.

Council CEO presents First Coast Vision to Leadership Clay group

Council CEO, Brian Teeple, recently made a presentation entitled "First Coast Vision - Getting Started" to Leadership Clay.

The presentation which includes "economic fun facts" and extensive information on regional growth effects also explores the hot topic of Regional Visioning which will continue to be a focus of the Council's primary efforts. For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0885 X 103.