

NEFRC

Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

January 2009

RCI Annual Meeting for general members

The Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida, Inc. (RCI) held its Annual Meeting and General Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at the Northeast Florida Regional Council.

The meeting consisted of routine business such as approval of previous minutes and discussion of the Financial Report. However, it also covered the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for the newly established Board of Directors. Future plans and consideration of By-laws were also discussed.

The RCI will become an increasingly more integral part of the Regional Council as Regional Visioning efforts continue to grow. The purpose of the RCI, which serves as the not-for-profit 501(c)(3) wing of the Regional Council, is to advance and promote the vision of Regionalism, as it relates to the quality of Northeast Florida's natural, man-made, economic and social environments. It is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

For more information, please contact Margo Moehring at (904) 279-0880 x 161 or visit the Web site at www.rcinef.org.

Regional Leadership Series Kicks Off

The first offering of the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Series (RLS) took place on January 14 and 15, 2009 at the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC). The RLS is a component of the Northeast Florida Regional Academy (RLA) and will produce the fourth class of graduates adding to the over one hundred Regional Leaders that have already gone through the Program.

Attendees experienced the first program "Our Region 101" which was a comprehensive review of all you need or want to know about the Northeast Florida Region. Council staff, and guest speakers, shared general information about the Region as well as specific details regarding demographics and population trends. Those in attendance were also privy to a thorough discussion of Governance, an Overview of the NEFRC and its roles and responsibilities within the Region as well as a presentation on Regional Visioning and the upcoming high profile event "Reality Check First Coast" - for which the Regional Council is a partner and host.

"Lunch with Regional Leaders" was an interactive feature of the program which brought together former RLA Graduates

who are also leaders in their own communities. Engaging conversation regarding the burning issues of the counties within the Northeast Florida Region complimented this portion of the day.

Day two of the kick off of the new Leadership Series revolved around the topics of "Equity and Diversity." RLA graduate and Diversity Practitioner, Cal Jackson, began the day by setting the stage for diversity, social justice and equity. A diverse panel discussion on the City of Jacksonville Consolidation followed; as did presentations on Jacksonville and Urban Challenges by Planning and Development Department representatives, Brad Thoburn and Joel McEachin and a presentation on Race, Religion and Economic Challenges in the Republican South by Dr. Matthew Corrigan. Lively discussion ensued after all of the presentations and panel.

Evaluations which were submitted by the attendees at the conclusion of each day revealed the newly revamped Leadership Series to be a success. The Series' goal to continue to grow the RLA by building 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.

For more information on the Regional Leadership Series, please contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 x 104 or visit the Web site at www.nefrla.com.



Cal Jackson, Diversity Practitioner and RLA Graduate facilitates a portion of the Equity and Diversity Program on day 2 of the RLS kick off.



Left to right: Commissioner Doug Conkey, Linda Myers, Theresa Smith and John Birney, all RLA Graduates, comprise a panel for the "Lunch with Regional Leaders" segment of RLS Program One.

Planning Directors convene at Regional Council for Quarterly Meeting

The Planning and Development Program Area of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) hosted a Quarterly Planning Directors Meeting on January 22, 2009 at the Regional Council.

Attendees from each county within the Region were present to discuss a variety of issue of Regional concern. Among the items that were discussed were the Regional Community Institute of Northeast Florida (RCI), the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Series and a Regional Water Supply Assessment.

The Council's 2009 Legislative Priorities were also shared with those present at the meeting. Additionally, discussion on Growth Management, Rural Land Stewardship, Transportation Concurrency occurred.

Council staff presented an overview of the State-wide Regional Evacuation Study Program and a Visioning / Reality Check update. The status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) was also discussed.

The Quarterly Planning Directors Meetings are just one way that the Regional Council encourages Regional collaboration and information sharing within the communities that make up the Northeast Florida Region.

For more information, please contact Ed Lehman at (904) 279-0885 x 130.

"Going Regional Part 2: Land Use and Quality of Life" meeting addresses critical issues

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) was highly involved in Part Two of the "Going Regional Series" – "Land Use & Quality of Life" – a well-attended meeting held on January 30, 2009, at the University of North Florida's University Center.

After the issue was set in a Northeast Florida context by NEFRC CEO, Brian Teeple and Director of Strategic Initiatives, Margo Moehring, the topics of discussion for the day were as follows: Land Use, Transportation & Urban Form, presented by Brian Canin, President of Canin Associates; Agriculture & Quality of Life in Northeast Florida, presented by David Dinkins, Extension Director for St. Johns County; and Natural Areas & Quality of Life in Northeast Florida, presented by Dr. Richard Hilsenbeck, Florida Associate Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy.

The meeting was sponsored by the Urban Land Institute (ULI) North Florida. Because of the Regional significance of the meeting, it was considered as part of the class credit structure of the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Series (RLS) and numerous candidates seeking Graduate-status from the Northeast Florida Regional Leadership Academy (RLA) attended.

For more information, please contact Brian Teeple at (904) 279-0885 x 103.



Brian Teeple (at podium) looks on as (from left) Margo Moehring, David Dinkins, Brian Canin and Dr. Richard Hilsenbeck participate in a panel discussion.

Reality Check First Coast scribe and facilitator training prepares volunteers



Participants engage in placing projected population and job amounts at the scribe and facilitator training for the upcoming Reality Check First Coast Exercise.

Regional Visioning continues to build momentum as we lead up to the Reality Check First Coast exercise on May 21, 2009.

Preparation for game day is essential. On January 28, 2009, the Regional Council hosted a facilitator and scribe training for potential participants. In addition to presentations made by my staff to those in attendance, roughly 40 volunteers received specific training on the rules of the game and how to fill the roles of facilitators and scribes.

The training spanned a five hour period and concluded with four tables set up to execute a mock exercise that simulated the actual "game day." The participants in this training, just as actual participants will do at the Reality Check First Coast exercise, placed on maps projected population and job amounts represented by LEGO® blocks for the year 2060. Comment sheets indicated that the training was successful and effective in equipping those in attendance for their future roles at the event.

For more information, please contact Ameera Sayeed at (904) 279-0885 x 151.

NEFRC announces it's 2008 Employee of the Year

Over the past year the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) implemented committees which were intended to address issues of concern to staff as well as to empower employees to be involved in decision making that affected them. One such committee was the Employee Satisfaction Committee. Its purpose is to improve employee satisfaction, morale and enhance the Council's working environment. It includes projects for employee suggestions, rewards and recognition, community service projects and social functions.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council Employee of the Quarter and of the Year is a product of this committee. The Regional Council is proud to announce that the 2008 Employee of the Year is Shirley F. Orberg. Shirley is an Executive Assistant and manages the Council's Personal Services Department. She has served for over eleven (11) years on the staff of the Regional Council and is – in everyone's estimation – most deserving of this award. Congratulations Shirley!



Shirley F. Orberg
2008 Employee
of the Year