

JCCI Forward

2001 Issue Forum: Community Growth and Development

This forum group sought a better understanding of issues pertaining to living downtown. They posed the question: What does downtown Jacksonville need to become a thriving neighborhood?

Key findings:

- Downtown lacks historic designation.
- Citizens and businesses alike require a better grasp of the government regulations related to downtown.
- There is insufficient information available to the community on the status of the DMP (Downtown Master Plan).
- There is no mechanism in place to require existing buildings, not undergoing renovations, to adhere to the DMP.
- The city lacks a "process map," which is critical for community involvement.

Action plan:

- The committee will devise a report, consisting of committee findings, gaps, and recommendations.
- The committee intends to inform and publicize the committee's work by sending the report to key government officials and organizations, businesses, media organizations, and resource speakers. To provide greater access to the report for citizens and businesses, the Committee intends to utilize JCCI by placing the report on the Forward website and having copies available at JCCI.
- The committee has made a commitment to personal education by pledging to stay updated and involved in the progress of downtown living by attending Design Review Committee meetings as well as other meetings pertaining to downtown refurbishment. Individual committee members intend to lobby to get report recommendations implemented and foster accountability.

Issue forum groups met with both community leaders and resource experts who provided valuable information for group discussions. We thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Forward process.

Jack Diamond; Rink, Reynolds, Diamond, & Fisher Architects
Joe Miller; Department of Public Works
Mary Sorge; Bank of America
Al Battle; JEDC; DDA
Terry Lorince; Downtown Vision, Inc.
Ben Baggett; Downtown Resident
Jason Thiel; Downtown Development Authority
Lt. Robert Connor; Commanding Officer of the downtown bicycle & walking beats; JSO
Darrell Smith; mass transit operations; JTA
Paul Krutko; Downtown Development Authority
Alex Coley; Hallmark Partners
Mike Lissner; Young Men's Shop
Brett Williams; downtown resident

Forum groups met biweekly for five months. They received information from knowledgeable resource people and additional written materials provided by *Forward* staff. We congratulate their efforts, civic involvement, and advocacy.

Carol Brock; Chair
Nancy Kilgo; Vice Chair
Jim Crooks; JCCI Advisor
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Melody Bierwirth
Jennifer Bloch
Cathy Disbrow Courson
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