

**Kupfrian Park PACE-EH Project
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2006**

Mary Beverly, facilitator from the Department of Health opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. by giving a brief overview of the Kupfrian Park PACE-EH Project. It is a grass roots community outreach project initiated by the Escambia County Health Department to address Environmental Health issues in our community. It was designed to strengthen the relationship between the citizens of Pensacola, City and County Government, Non-Profit Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and others.

Twenty three attendees were noted on the roster and informational packets were given to everyone present. Ms. Beverly thanked everyone for their attendance and gave a special thank you to the Kupfrian Park resident volunteers and the NAACP Youth group members for their help with the distribution of the preliminary survey. Ms. Beverly stressed to the audience the willingness of the Health Department to help with the issues noted last week, but the only way this project would be successful, was by participation of the residents in the Kupfrian Park area.

The following are issues noted from the last meeting, ranked in order of importance and presented to Kupfrian Park residents in the preliminary survey:

1. Overflowing septic tanks.
2. Standing water.
3. No sidewalks.
4. Poor lighting.
5. Overgrown lots.
6. Depreciation of property
7. Stray dogs.

Ms. Beverly presented the results of the sixteen surveys completed (results attached) and noted that 7 more had been returned since the preliminary results were posted. This additional information will be included in the initial results. It was also noted that more survey forms are needed to really assess the needs of the community. Residents of the area that were in attendance expressed a willingness to keep trying to gather survey results from their neighbors.

Jody Manale, Chief of the Community Redevelopment Agency, reported that lighting issues in the Brownsville and Engelwood near Kupfrian Park communities have been addressed by her agency. Ms. Harriss, resident of Kupfrian Park, stated that there was no lighting on J Street going north and presented a safety issue.

A resident of the Pensacola Retirement Village, requested that a sidewalk, going south on Pace be provided so that residents of the retirement home could access the grocery store down the street more safely. It was noted that the fence belonging to the retirement home runs all the way to the street,

which poses a problem for the installation of a sidewalk. Mr. Wilde, Retirement Village Administrator, stated that the placement of a pedestrian gate is a possibility to resolve that problem.

Ms. Manale announced possible changes to traffic routing on Avery Street by Baptist Hospital. This should help address traffic issues in this area greatly. She also emphasized that this was a good time for input to her agency from Engelwood residents because it is time for updating the redevelopment plan for this area.

Mr. Bob Betts, Mosquito Control Director for Escambia County addressed the Kupfrian Park residents that were present regarding the standing water problems all along Avery Street. Residents of the area report that water stands in the street for over a week. Mr. Betts provided his telephone number (595-3147) to the audience to report problems of standing water and mosquitoes. Data is needed from the area in order for County Engineering to address the drainage problems. Ms. Manale suggested that an invitation to attend our next meeting be presented to County Engineering.

Ms. Beverly advised the group that only five signatures were secured on the petition for public sewer. Mr. Elvin McCorvey, ECUA Board Member was present and indicated that with more community input regarding the drainage problems, and possible storm water drainage construction by the county, it would be more cost effective for ECUA to run public sewer lines in the area at the same time. Mr. McMorvey felt that a lack of education may have prevented a better result on our petition. He volunteered his agency's services in the mailing out of educational materials to the area. Mr. Robert Merritt, Escambia County Environmental Health Director, also indicated that his agency would be willing to assist in the education efforts.

With the next meeting scheduled for October 30, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. and no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Cindy Lounsberry
Meeting Historian

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Attachment (Survey Results)