

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**July 17, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

**117 W. Duval St., 1st Floor**

**Don Davis Room**

**Attendance:** CM Denise Lee (Chair), CM Greg Anderson, CM John Crescimbeni, CM Bill Gulliford, CM Warren Jones (arr. 10:13a), CM Jim Love

**Excused:** CM Bill Bishop

**Also**: Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Kirk Sherman – Council Auditor’s Office;Peggy Sidman– General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist 8; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

CM Lee began the meeting with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd to approve June 19th minutes – Crescimbeni/Gulliford (Approved 5-0)

**Old Business**

1. **Security Camera update/Powerpoint Presentation – Jeff Foster & Cheri Fyfe**

Mr. Foster briefly explained the need for cameras to assist in reducing illegal dumping. Per the request of committee, he scheduled a presentation from the company of choice to make purchase. Ms. Cheri Fyfe with Q Star Technology provided a very thorough presentation on the FlashCAM-880SX. The features highlighted included solar charged battery; motion activated up to 100 feet; a high resolution image with wireless image download; and captures license plates at 250 feet in total darkness. The committee held an extensive dialogue regarding number of cameras needed, funding, and decoy machines. Det. Dave Matsick commented that the camera system would be a benefit to the county. His recommendation as the only officer assigned to illegal dumping would be to purchase 10 cameras and increase number of officers. **CM Lee requested the Mr. Foster report back on the top illegal dump sites. Mr. Jim Robinson will schedule a meeting with the Sheriff to discuss funding of cameras.** **Ms. Fyfe stated that she would provide statistics on the cost of savings of various cities with the investment of the camera system. Mr. Foster will present this information at next meeting. CM Lee appointed CM Crescimbeni and Ms. Bowling to chair the Camera Subcommittee.** Asst. Chief Nemeth commented that infrared light should be a feature because of the potential of the camera boxes to be damaged from consistent gunfire. **CM Lee stated that a notebook of previous minutes and actions of the committee would be provided to CM Anderson.**

Motion/2nd for subcommittee to move forward in gathering additional logistics, engaging JSO & PW in discussion regarding procurement of camera(s), and providing recommendations - Jones/Crescimbeni (6-0)

1. **Media Awareness about reporting Blight violators – Paul Martinez & Aleizha Batson**

Mr. Martinez updated the committee on the direction taking in developing public awareness notices. The concept discussed was a reward system for reporting illegal dumping. The committee was provided a handout with various PA notices. The committee suggested publicizing the logistics of legal dumping and available sites instead of being a strictly punitive approach.

CM Lee appointed Ms. Bowling to chair the subcommittee for Public Awareness. The subcommittee is requested to present a theme and look for the campaign at the next meeting.

1. **Report on the status of scheduling and maintaining troublesome roads and thoroughfares – Dave McDaniel**

Mr. McDaniel stated the Mowing & Landscape Division is actively working on the list of roads received from CM Lee. The list is a combination of input from Council Members and citizens.

**Note: All reports distributed may have not been covered during the meeting but are attached to minutes.**

**Other Discussions**

CM Lee reviewed the list of sub-committees and appointed chairperson(s):

Solid Waste Bar B Q – CM Crescimbeni & Karen Bowling

Cameras – CM Crescimbeni & Karen Bowling

Public Awareness Campaign – Karen Bowling

Fines – Karen Bowling & Jay Higbee

Vacant Properties – CM Bishop & CM Love

Abandoned/Junk Vehicles – CM Jones

Enforcement of COU (Certificate of Use) – CM Jones

Abandoned Properties – CM Gulliford

Videos – CM Love

**CM Crescimbeni requested that K E House is scheduled for a presentation before the committee since there is a pending bill before the Council.** Ms. Good stated that K E House is scheduled for July 25th at Stand Up For Your Neighborhood Committee. **Mr. Macdonald will make contact with company.**

Ms. Bowling suggested that project owners submit a one sheet update to committee on assigned topics to include a section that list decisions or next steps. This will assist the committee in being updated on all old business in the event the topic isn’t covered during meeting. **Mr. Macdonald will send a letter to Ms. Bowling to move forward with suggestion and informing everyone of request.**

**Public Comment**

Mr. Mike Anania expressed his concerns about 1609 Morgana Road that has been abandoned for several years. He submitted pictures and fact sheet from property appraiser’s office. **CM Lee requested that Ms. Kim Scott follow up with complaint and provide update at next meeting.**

Mr. Eddie Diamond encouraged the committee to purchase surveillance cameras because they could also be beneficial in obtaining evidence and apprehending criminals of more severe crimes other than graffiti and illegal dumping. He emphasized the importance for steeper financial fines for illegal dumping to ensure community understands that it will not be tolerated.

Mr. Terrence Allen stated that prisoners were being allowed to move into the neighborhood which has caused major concern for the citizens. The address provided was 1536 W. 10th Street off Myrtle Avenue and 1316 Steele Street. CM Crescimbeni shared that Florida Statute allow these type of community based group homes in residential areas with occupancy requirements. **CM Lee requested that Ms. Scott follow up on the address for any possible violations. It should be noted that residents are currently living at both addresses.**

Ms. Alison Good wanted to provide clarification for the record that 2014-427 does apply to historic homes. She stated lines 22-31 allow an owner 60 days to apply for a COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) for purpose of mothballing structure. If the 60 days expire, then the City can proceed with abeyance.

Mr. Hosea Small wanted to reiterate that the issue involving the group homes for ex-offenders in the community has been going on for a very long time. Ms. Scott explained that the State allows for certain conditions that supersede local standards. **Code Enforcement will inspect both properties for any violations and research whether the State has provided any certifications. Ms. Scott will provide update at next meeting.**

Mr. James Breaker stated the retention pond located at Moncrief Rd and 20th Street Expressway, Family Dollar Shopping Center has begun to create rodents and snakes. The pond has been reported several times with no evidence of Code Enforcement citing the area. He explained that the Family Dollar Store is currently closed for three days due to rodent issue.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 6th due to fifth week Council schedule. A notice will be sent regarding time and location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research Division (904) 630-1679

Posted 07.23.14 9:00 a.m.