

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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**STAND UP FOR YOUR NEIGHBORBOODS**

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**August 13, 2014**

**9:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Don Davis Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair), Greg Anderson, Bill Bishop, John Crescimbeni (arr. 10:34a), Warren Jones, Jim Love (arr. 10:33a)

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Chief Pat Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Janice Billy – Council Auditor’s Office;Cherry Shaw and Loree French– General Counsel Office; Dan Macdonald and Kevin Kuzel – ECAs; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Council Member Lee called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. In her opening remarks, CM Lee encouraged all entities to remember the purpose of our work which is improving the quality of life for all citizens in Duval County beginning with cleaning up our streets. All partners in this endeavor are asked to commit to continuous collaboration and effective communication to improve processes and provide opportunities for everyone to participate. The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd to amend minutes to correct street name on p. 4 Jones/Bishop (4-0)

Motion/2nd to approve minutes as amended Jones/Bishop (4-0)

**Legal Problems with 2014-427 Jason Teal, OGC**

Mr. Teal provided a thorough overview of potential legal problems regarding 2014-427. The current proposed legislation conflicts with the mothballing procedures in historic districts. Mothballing allows up to 3 years coverage; whereas, another structure outside of historic designation could be demolished after 24 months. Mr. Teal provided a single sheet handout of suggested criteria to be added to the proposed legislation for clarity for a city wide perspective. In response to Mr. Teal’s report, the committee held extensive discussion. The consensus of the committee is that CM Jones subcommittee will continue meetings, including Mr. Teal, to make changes based on criteria for blighted unsafe structures; continue addressing the appeals process; and discuss procedures for shortening the process time to act on demolitions (earlier than 2 years). **CM Bishop requested the subcommittee review benefits of foreclosure rather than demolition.** CM Crescimbeni reported there were 112 structures on the FY 2013 Demolition List. Fifty-seven of the structures were categorized as an emergencies and fire damage. The remaining structures were simply unsafe blighted structures in neighborhoods that needed to be demolished. Chief Ivey commented the possibility of criminal challenges in adding specific JSO criteria due to proving property (house) being involved or a result of the criminal activity.

**Update on criminal surveillance cameras by JSO – Chief Ivey**

Chief Ivey reported JSO will proceed with monitoring and maintaining intelligence data for illegal dumping and its criminal component. He has received approval to purchase an additional twenty cameras. Ten will be designated for the City’s top 10 illegal dumping sites. Once an area has improved, the camera will move to the next location on list. Det. Matsick will continue to coordinate this program with the assistance of specific patrol officers assigned to each camera.

Operation Cease Fire is in the next phase of its action plan. The remaining ten cameras are will be placed in covert locations as a part of OCF. The purchase of the cameras comes from the proceeds of illegal transactions. Chief Ivey commented once the cameras are up and running, he would like the committee to attend one of the Sheriff’s zone commander’s meetings. This will give committee insight on the illegal dumping progress as its reported to the Sheriff every two weeks.

Chief Ivey shared the importance of receiving cooperation from businesses in the community with obtaining no trespassing warning authorization. This is another effort to address human blight and reducing the potential of criminal activity. **CM Lee requested an update on Camera and Operation Cease Fire at the next meeting.**

**Report on policy regarding structures 50+ years old – CM Warren Jones**

CM Jones stated the information provided from Mr. Teal would be discussed and incorporated into the subcommittee’s recommendations. CM Jones, CM Anderson, Karen Bowling and Jay Higbee are the committee members.

**Subcommittee on business permitting & licensing (COUs) – CM Warren Jones**

CM Jones reported that the subcommittee awaiting answers from Ms. Paige Johnston regarding legal opinions on several questions.

**Status Report on 13th and Moncrief – Robert Prado**

Mr. Prado reported the owner denied MCC access on their initial contact. The second site visit was approved by Mr. Clark; however, the renters denied further access. On July 22 before the Special Magistrate, Mr. Clark was determined to be in violation and provided 30 days to comply for the store; and 60 days to comply on the residential units. The store will be re-inspected on August 22nd; the residences are scheduled for September 22nd. Mr. Prado stated he went by the location on August 12th and observed very minimal changes to the units and the store. The case is being moved to the next phase which is filing for an additional fine ($250 a day) with from Special Magistrate to accumulate to a total foreclosure amount. **CM Crescimbeni requests the type of fines and total amount regarding this case by the close of business on August 19th.**

**CM Lee requested that all cases, especially habitual offenders, be reviewed that could proceed to foreclosures based on the previous rolling fines mandated by Special Magistrate. Mr. Prado will present information at next meeting.**

In response to a question regarding Certificate of Use, Loree French referenced the provisions in Chapter 197 states that a certificate holder cannot apply for tax deed until two years after purchase.

**Report on neighborhoods organized over last 3 years – Daphne Colbert & Kenny Logsdon**

Ms. Colbert reported the database is completed as of August 12th to include new requests and updates. Mr. Logsdon provided an overview of the organized neighborhoods. All neighborhoods are not associated with a CPAC. **CM Lee requested a copy of the database for each committee member at next meeting. CM Lee appointed CM Crescimbeni to lead the subcommittee on neighborhood groups.** The committee will define specifics of neighborhoods and organizations to clarify classification.

**45th Street Amoco Station PUD – Cherry Shaw**

Ms. Shaw presented draft legislation for review. Mr. Folks Huxford provided an overview of the property’s current land use, in addition to the proposed zoning changes. **CM Crescimbeni requested information on superseding the grandfather clause in Part 7.** Ms. Shaw will follow up on this inquiry. **CM Lee requested Chief Ivey to gather statistics on 45th & Avenue B.**

**New Business**

CM Lee discussed a recent shooting of a 6 year old girl near 13th & Moncrief Avenue. This location was discussed earlier in Mr. Prado’s report. The property owner has not been cooperative in clearing the violations of his store and units. This area breeds violence and has multiple violations with Code Enforcement. A TV segment from local news was shown of the area. It clears depicts the corner store and multiples units.

**Public Comment**

Sandra Small-Adegbayibi

Ms. Adegbayibi expressed her concern for the neighborhood. The property of the recent shooting in the neighborhood is adjacent to her back door. She mentioned that neighbors are harboring individuals at their residence that incite negative behavior. She would like for officers to begin checking ids to find drugs or weapons. Chief Ivey explained that calls need to be made regarding loud music or other disapproving behavior. This will allow officers to stop at a particular residence. The calls can be anonymous.

Alison Good

Ms. Good inquired about whether a sold tax certificate precludes demolition. In response to her question, the property is still eligible for demolition and purchase could be considered a bad investment.

Amanda Hicks

Ms. Hicks requested assistance in her neighborhood to stop the violence. She commented that the community is tired so being afraid to come outside and just want some help.

**Previous Topic Updates**

Ms. Aleizha Batson reported that PR subcommittee will have a report ready at the next Blight meeting.

Mr. Paul Tutwiler was requested to provide a report on Payne Street and 13th & Moncrief.

Mr. Jim Robinson will provide an update on thoroughfares. Mr. Robinson briefly commented the thoroughfares report will be discussed in 3 categories: a) many of corridors named are already on regular schedule with City or DOT; some corridors named that are not on anyone’s regular schedule; and some corridors not named but should be placed on a schedule to fill a gap; and c) some corridors that should not be on list.

**CM Lee requested that Alex Pellon schedule a meeting with her to discuss UNF students providing services.**

Ms. Kim Scott gave personal recognition to Ms. Sandra Adegbayibi, a former City employee. Ms. Scott acknowledged that Ms. Adegbayibi trained and is a big part of her professional success. Ms. Scott requested to present to the committee regarding redevelopment and rehabilitation of neighborhoods. She explained that a front end plan is necessary for foreclosure properties. Thus, foreclosed properties become City owned and the responsibility of Public Works which will require additional funding. She stated that getting other non-profits involved along with CDCs will assist in the process. Housing Community Development and Real Estate will be included in discussions and submitting of recommendations. Ms. Scott agreed to work with CM Jones subcommittee to develop a process and submit recommendations.

The next Stand Up for Your Neighborhood Blight meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2014 at 10:00a.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

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

Posted 08.19.14 4:30p.m