

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**August 20, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair, arr. 10:14a), Bill Gulliford, Warren Jones (arr. 11:46a), Jim Love, Greg Anderson (arr. 11:02a.)

**Excused:** Council Members Bill Bishop, John Crescimbeni

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

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

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

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

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve August 6th minutes – Love/Gulliford (Approved 3-0)

**Old Business**

1. Mr. Mike Anania presented a package of information regarding abandoned and blighted homes. Copies of the additional properties will be forwarded to committee members. In response to information provided by Mr. Anania, CM Gulliford recommended that these specific concerns be discussed in the Abandoned Properties subcommittee.
2. Robocall system update regarding snipe signs – Robert Prado

Mr. Prado reported the Robocall system was activated on August 11th. There have been eight citations issued. He provided a list of all the phone numbers currently in system. The list is updated twice a day. Violators receive approximately 6 or 7 calls a day per sign in system until citation is picked up; and have ten working days for due process to appeal or pay citation. Mr. Prado showed the TV segment from News4Jax on Robocall system. **CM Lee requested Office of General Counsel to inquire about legal process to pursue violator(s) out of town.**

1. Update on bill 2014-553 – Robert Prado

Mr. Prado provided a brief overview of 2014-553. He suggested that language regarding fines on page 3, last paragraph be amended to be more aligned with committee’s recent recommendation to increase fines. Mr. Prado offered civil fine up to $1000 per contested citations; and a $500 civil fine per uncontested citations. **CM Gulliford expressed importance of a grace period and public awareness blitz to educate community on the new fines**. Additionally, it was stated that political campaign signs placed on the right of way are in violations of the Code. **CM Love recommended that the word “however” (page 3, last paragraph, second line) be removed for consistency.**

1. Report on Stormwater Ponds – Robert Prado & Dave McDaniel

#1 Soutel Drive & Moncrief Road has had eight nuisance complaints filed since 2009 (most recent May 2014). Case is currently assigned to Mowing and Landscape Division. There is an outstanding nuisance lien against property for $4,068.73. There was extensive discussion regarding the process of monitoring violations; maintenance and enforcement of property; developer incentives; and involvement of other regulatory entities. It should be noted that property has been cleared by owner since the last meeting. **CM Lee requested a detailed report on MCC’s due process on handling violations with recommendations, if needed. CM Lee appointed CM Gulliford to chair the Stormwater Pond subcommittee (includes Ms. Scott and Mr. Robinson). Mr. Jim Robinson will contact St. Johns River Management District to schedule a meeting.**

#2 Moncrief Road & MLK Parkway has had eight nuisance complaints filed since 2006 (most recent July 2014). Case is currently assigned to Mowing and Landscape Division. There is an outstanding nuisance lien against property for $338.13. This property is owned by three separate entities: Victoria V LLC, City of Jacksonville, and First Coast Business Investment Corporation. **CM Lee requested Mr. Prado provide background information on owners and the date pond was last cleaned at next meeting.** CM Dave McDaniel reported that the pond will be completed on 8/20/14.

1. Update on 1609 Morgana Road Violations – Robert Prado

Mr. Prado reported that Veteran’s Administration no longer has interest in property. He has made contact with representative from Chase Bank. Re-inspection is schedule for September 1st for nuisance violations; and September 16th for residential violations. If property not in compliance, case will be forwarded to Special Magistrate. CM Gulliford suggested Mr. Prado inquiry with Chase about donating property to a nonprofit. **Mr. Prado will provide CM Gulliford with Chase Bank representative information.**

1. Status on 13th Street & Moncrief Road – Robert Prado

Mr. Prado reported a total of $107,825.00 in past due Municipal Code Board fines on 2306 Moncrief Road (units). The 10 active cases were heard by Special Magistrate on July 22, 2014 and adjudicated with a 60 day order to correct. There are no outstanding fines on 2300 Moncrief Road (store). This address has one active case adjudicated by the Special Magistrate on July 22, 2014 with a 30 day order to correct. There was extensive discussion regarding enforcement and due process. Mr. Prado suggested review of Florida Statutes to apply an injunction or foreclosure. **CM Lee requested the dates when active cases and fines were initiated. CM Gulliford requested the assessment value of the property. Mr. Prado was instructed to proceed with due process (file injunction or begin foreclosure) to resolve issues at 13th & Moncrief.**

1. Public Awareness Report – Paul Martinez & Aleizha Batson

Mr. Martinez and Ms. Batson presented a thorough public awareness campaign. **CM Lee requested to samples of the older flyers at next meeting.** The committees reviewed the packet with various logos, title specific flyers with headline, and mascot options. The concept of this presentation was branding the City’s effort to “Fight Blight”; and distributing materials to the community through PSA, social media, mascot, schools, recreational activities, etc. There was extensive group discussion regarding the selection of the mascot. The trash can receive the majority consensus. There were several suggestions from the audience and committee that will be brought back for review at next meeting.

**Topics not covered from agenda**

Update on comprehensive mowing plan –Jim Robinson/Dave McDaniel

Satellite garbage sites – Jim Robinson/Jeff Foster

Compliance status of 13th Street & Moncrief Rd – Robert Prado

Status report on 2014-427 – CM Warren Jones

**Committee Comments**

CM Lee stated Public Comments will be first item on the next meeting’s agenda.

**New Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Mr. Carnell Oliver suggested that fines be associated to an individual’s license or other item of worth. Thus, if fine not paid, the violator loses privilege.

**Jeneen Sanders**

Ms. Sanders commented that Ms. Scott has been helpful within her premises; however, she has not received any assistance regarding the damage to her mother’s fence. CM Lee stated she would have Ms. Bowling directly contact her.

**Denice Mosbly**

Ms. Mosbly has a non-profit that deal with abandoned properties and attempt to help low income citizens become homeowners. CM Gulliford requested she attend the Abandon Properties subcommittee meeting on Monday, August 25th at 10:00a.m.

**Hosea Small**

Mr. Small expressed his concerns about politicians being held accountable to posting signs inappropriately. Additionally, he shared concerns about the violence, safety of residents, and railroad crossing safety devices at 13th & Moncrief Rd

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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

Posted 08.27.14 10:00 a.m.