

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**September 10, 2014**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (Chair), Greg Anderson (arr. 10:11a.), John Crescimbeni (arr. 11:10a), Bill Gulliford, and Jim Love (arr. 11:00a)

**Excused:** Council Member Warren Jones

**Also**: Council Member Lori Boyer; Karen Bowling – Mayor’s Office; Peggy Sidman**,** Cherry Shaw and Paige Johnston – 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 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 move to approve August 20th minutes – Gulliford/Love (5-0)

**Old Business**

1. Update on Comprehensive Mowing Plan – Jim Robinson/Dave McDaniel

Mr. Robinson reported HDR Company is partnering with the department to finalize the comprehensive plan. The expected completion is the end of October. CM Lee requested date of completion be moved up. Mr. Robinson will provide CM Lee a more definitive date by the end of the day on Wednesday, September 10th.

There was discussion regarding the corridors of significance and prioritization of categories. The committee reviewed maps and financial breakdown of cost associated to number of maintenance cuts per year. Mr. Robinson was requested to submit a plan that is prioritized according to locations/sections of neglect. It was suggested that Paul Martinez and Aleizha Batson to begin creating a scorecard on mowing vendors and developing webpage to post criteria for neighborhood associations. CM Boyer suggested encouraging neighborhoods to take a more active role in monitoring the area. Criteria will be developed along with additional information to provide to neighborhood associations/CPACs. **CM Gulliford and CM Crescimbeni will co-chair this subcommittee.**

1. Satellite Garbage Sites – Jim Robinson/Jeff Foster

Mr. Foster reviewed the statistics regarding illegal dumping, litter and tire dumping through CARE issue reports. The top five Council Districts are: 8, 7, 9, 10, and 11. **CM Lee requested a chart to show category breakdown.** The committee reviewed the revised top 20 list along with GIS maps of prone illegal dumping sites.

Mr. Foster provided information on Household Hazardous Waste Remote Events along with a list of items that are eligible for drop off at remote sites and Commonwealth Avenue Facility. This service is free to Duval County residents. Businesses can drop off materials at the permanent facility for a fee. CM Gulliford commented that broadening the number of permanent sites for hazardous waste more convenient for residents would assist in the overall goal. He suggested that Mr. Foster research City properties that accommodate the need and contacting the beaches community regarding be a permanent facility. There was discussion about funding and the procedure for handling waste after remote collections.

Mr. Foster submitted a narrative of the blight process in Solid Waste Division. It was reported that in one day a driver picked up 109 tires. Mr. Foster stated the specific action items addressing blight include: four supervisors and 16 inmates canvassing COJ Service Area IV on Wednesday for collection of yard waste following normal Tuesday yard waste collection routes; one dedicated tire truck and driver for daily collections in COJ Service Area IV; litter crews work Monday through Friday on collection of materials for the entire City; residential collection personnel of three crews perform concentrated cleanup efforts on Wednesdays in current zip code target area; and enforcement of residential haulers reporting illegal dumping along their routed.

1. Status of the Compliance Issues 13th Street & Moncrief Road – Devron Cody

Mr. Cody stated the foreclosure process has been initiated by MCC. Five requests for legal services, to included additional properties of the owner, have been submitted to the Office of General Counsel. The ten active cases heard by the Special Magistrate are due for re-inspection on September 22nd. CM Lee requested a list detailing the specifics for the ten active cases. Ms. Shaw reported that 1054 & 2306 W. 13th Street have other judgments on the properties and the other entities must be notified of foreclosure process. There was discussion regarding the process of notification of tenant/owner of property to request access for inspection. **CM Lee requested MCC to submit suggestions regarding improvement of the process and timeline for addressing access into properties when contact has not been made with tenant/owner after follow-up visit.**

1. Media Campaign Update – Aleizha Batson

Ms. Batson passed out draft of webpage for approval. An email will be sent to all committee members with draft attached for comments. CM Lee will contact Ms. Batson on Monday, September 15th to discuss next step. Council Members Crescimbeni and Love offered several suggestions for additions to webpage.

**Topics not covered from agenda**

Stormwater Pond Subcommittee

Status of the proposed ordinance

Report from OGC on the process to pursue out-of-town violators

Report from MCC detailing process in handling in handling retention pond

Update on the ownership of the pond at Moncrief Road and MLK Parkway

**New Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Ms. Thomas commented that she emailed committee members information regarding the City of Glocester, NJ which could assist the committee with addressing blight.

Ms. Ballet commented that City employees needed to take more responsibility. She reported on several occasion of stopping City employees and inquiring about issues; yet, she received a negative response.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

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

Posted 09.12.14 5:00 p.m.