

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**June 10, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise E. Lee (Chair), Greg Anderson (arr. 10:18a), John Crescimbeni (arr.11:51a), Warren Jones, Jim Love (arr. 11:49a)

**Excused:** Council Member Bill Bishop and Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Council Member Elect Garrett Dennis; Council Member Doyle Carter; Cleveland Ferguson – Mayor’s Office; Peggy Sidman and Paige Johnston – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Folks Huxford – Planning & Development Department; Kimberly Scott – Regulatory Compliance Department; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Chief Pat Ivey – Jacksonville Sheriff’s Office; Robert Campbell – 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 10:14 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve June 4th minutes – Jones/Anderson (4-0)

1. Update on 2015-340 – CM Jones

CM Jones provided a brief summary of the bill which Council approved on June 9, 2015. The bill increases the vacant property registration fee to $250 along adding a renewal fee of $250. The registry will be a source of funding for agencies to assist citizens with foreclosure counseling and meditation. Agencies receiving funds will be determined by the RFP process which is expected to begin within next 60 days and should take approximately 3-4 months to complete. It was stated the registry has approximately $1.5 million in the account.

*Assignments:*

Robert Campbell – provide the actual account balance at next meeting

1. History of 1767 East 24th Street – Robert Prado

Mr. Prado explained that the main structure on the property was deemed unsafe and eventually demolished in August 2013. Since that time, the second building has recently meet criteria as an unsafe structure and is in the process for demolition. He presented an activity timeline on the property.

*Assignment:*

Mr. Prado

* provide dates notices were mailed to owner
* provide dates of inspections to the property
* provide criteria for unsafe structure
* mail information to Mr. Hosea Small
1. Update on Sign Law Poster – CM Jim Love

CM Love requested the committee’s input with moving forward with posting fact sheet regarding sign requirements. Suggestions included placing sheet in the Building Inspections Office; changing the placement and highlighting the information on the website and mailing sheet to sign shops to be posted. The committee will review the informational sheet next week for final approval.

*Assignment:*

Joy Bradley – work with sign subcommittee to make changes on website

1. Complete Status Reports – Renee Goode, Jim Robinson & Chief Ivey

Reports were presented by JEA, Public Works and JSO regarding their contributions to fight blight. JEA identified 15,000 addresses that have not had utilities within two years. This list will assist the City in moving forward with the foreclosure process with some of these properties. JSO and Public Works selected Moncrief Road and 13th Street as a pilot area to test JEA’s new LED lighting structures. JSO presented various multiple crime presentations; and maintains oversight of the illegal dumping surveillance cameras. In response to discussion regarding JSO’s past initiative to obtain trespass warning authorization of vacant residences in M sector, Allison Albert (JALA) offered to collaborate with JSO in notifying banks that may own these properties.

CM Jones and Peggy Sidman will convene a meeting with representatives from Real Estate Division, Housing and Community Development Division, Code Enforcement Division, JSO, Planning and Development Department, and JALA to discuss strategic property identification on various types of properties. CM Jones will chair the subcommittee.

*Assignment:*

Paul Soares – provide status report on DCPS contributions to the fight blight effort

1. Garbage Collection and Recycling Brochure – Jim Robinson

The draft brochure will be presented at the next committee meeting.

*Assignment:*

Jim Robinson – provide draft brochure

1. Florida PACE – CM Crescimbeni and Caleena Shirley

CM Crescimbeni reported the agency representative is unavailable for a few weeks. A presentation will be scheduled at a later date. There are currently 12 municipalities in Florida participating in this program. Ms. Shirley provided a summary of the program based on information received from a program manager in Orlando, Florida.

*Assignments:*

Caleena Shirley – provide list of program eligibility criteria and agency brochures; contact representative in Orlando to schedule presentation at next meeting

Paige Johnston – research program to provide some legal direction

**Next Week’s Agenda**

Collection Bins – CM Crescimbeni

Florida PACE – Caleena Shirley

Update on Sign Law Poster – CM Love

Update on Foreclosed Properties – CM Jones & Caleena Shirley

Update on Junk Vehicles 2015-377 - CM Jones

**Public Comments:**

Ms. Doretha Tompkins expressed her concerns regarding collection bins that present as blight. She stated furniture at these locations is not being picked up.

Mr. Mark Anino commented he would like to have the sign fact sheet in a poster size to be distributed to sign shops as posted accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

06.10.15 5:00p.m.