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|  | **OFFICE OF THE**  **CITY COUNCIL** |  |
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**SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEE ON JACKSONVILLE’S**

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**June 24, 2015**

**10 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Minutes prepared on June 26, 2015. The minutes are not a transcript of the meeting. Meeting audio can be found on** [**www.coj.net**](http://www.coj.net)**.**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise E. Lee (Chair), John Crescimbeni, Warren Jones, Jim Love and Bill Gulliford (10:29a)

**Excused:** Council Member Bill Bishop and Greg Anderson

**Also**: Council Member Elect Garrett Dennis; 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; 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 10:15 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions around the main table.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve June 17 minutes – 4-0.

1. The meeting began with Council Member John Crescimbeni congratulating Council Member Lee for being awarded the Charles Webb Award at June 23 City Council Meeting for her work as Ad Hoc Blight Committee Chair. The other members of the committee offered their congratulations and made remarks.

2. Update on sign law poster for print shops

Council Member Love explained that he took the verbiage from the COJ website and it represents only a fraction of the city’s sign ordinance. CM Crescimbeni suggested that the poster include the Fight Blight logo and that bullet points 3 and 5 be placed in bold in that they pertain to fighting snipe signs. Aleeziah Batson said those two items should be moved to the top and kept in bold to make sure they are read. It was suggested that the posters be placed in city print and sign shops as well as the city’s building department where sign permits are obtained.

CM Crescimbeni suggested an ordinance be drafted that would require sign and print shops to post the sign. Because the city’s sign ordinances are lengthy, CM Crescimbeni suggested that the poster also have a QR Code for easy access to the COJ website. Other suggestions included the Office of General Council and regulatory Compliance work together to place the bulleted items in order of importance and that fines be placed on the poster.

**Assignment**:

Paige Johnston and Cm Love will work on drafting an ordinance and present it at the next meeting.

3. Garbage and recycling Brochure – Jim Robinson

CM Crescimbeni and CM Love worked on editing and making suggestions to the draft document. Suggested changes included:

* A better map on page 5
* Missed pick up information needs to be more detailed on page 13
* The picture is clip art and should be replaced by trucks used in Jacksonville on page 14
* The clip art of recycled materials needs to be replaced with one that includes all recyclable items that are collected I n Jacksonville.

CM Crescimbeni offered to go over the brochure in greater detail and present any other suggestions at the next meeting.

The discussion then went to discuss missed Friday garbage pickups and how to better serve customers. Bill Stubblebine of Advanced Disposal said communication is the problem when it comes to missed Friday pickups. When a customer gets home at 6 p.m., there is no one manning phones at 630-CITY to report the missed pick up to Advanced Disposal. CM Lee said a new communications system needs to be developed. CM Lee created a subcommittee to be chaired by CM Crescimbeni with CM Love as a member to communicate with trash haulers about missed Friday pickups.

**Assignment**:

Robinson is to write a form letter that will be sent to contract haulers that have continual service problems with missed Friday pickups.

At the next meeting, Public Works is to bring the list of items that will be on the table at next February’s rate adjustment meetings.

4. Presentation of the School Board’s Contribution to Blight – Paul Soares

The report was brief talking about blight presentations given about schools in every district and a study comparing crime and truancy. While no direct correlation was found, Soares called it a worthwhile exercise.

**Assignment**:

Paul Soares is to bring updated truancy figures to the next Blight meeting.

5. Report from the Collection Bin Subcommittee – CM Crescimbeni

Bill 2015-327 was passed at City Council on June 23. Beginning on July 1, bins will have a notice pasted on them telling operators that the bins are no longer legal and that they have until July 31 to remove the bins. After the grace period, beginning August 1, fines will be levied.

**Assignment**:

Public Works is to come up with a plan to remove the bins by July 31.

6. Blight Accomplishments Packet

CM Lee explained that everyone received a packet of passed legislation, pending legislation, a list of subcommittees and a list of Ad Hoc Blight Committee accomplishments.

7. Residential Donation Ordinance – CM Warren Jones and CM Bill Gulliford

CM Jones explained that 2014-427, which was passed in December, needs to be amended to state that houses need to be boarded for only 6 months rather than 2 years as to increase the number of houses that qualify. CM Jones went over the various changes in the bill draft.

**Assignment**

Paige Johnston and Caleena Shirley will work on the draft ordinance as to make sure additions do not place undue hardships on CDCs. Once changes are made, the bill will be filed under the names of the current Ad Hoc Blight Committee members.

8. Fight Blight Brochure – Jim Robinson

The completed and printed brochure was shown to the committee. While most were happy with it, the cover was still too dark. CM Lee wanted another draft but was told that the brochure in the committee’s hands were part of a 1,000 brochure order that already had been accepted. When these brochures are ready to be re-ordered the Blight committee wants to see a draft with a lighter colored cover. CM Crescimbeni also asked that the brochure identify it is a Jacksonville brochure wither through a larger city seal or by incorporating the city’s name more prominently.

9. Meeting Conclusion – CM Lee

CM Lee concluded the meeting by praising the committee members, the Administration, staff, members of the audience and participating ECAs. The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Dan Macdonald, District 8 ECA

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