**Minutes of meeting of the AD Hoc Blight Committee Members**

**February 11, 2015**

**3 p.m.**

**Time and date:** 2 p.m. Monday, February 9, 2015

**Location:** Conference Room B Suite 425, City Hall – At. James Building 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance**: Council Member E. Denise Lee, Council Member Greg Anderson, Council Member Bill Bishop, Council Member John Crescimbeni, Council Member Bill Gulliford, Council Member Jim Love, Council Member Warren Jones, Carnell Oliver, citizen; Jim Klement, DIA; Phillip Peterson, CAO; Peggy Sidman, OGC; Paul Martinez, IGS; Paige Johnston, OGC; Aleizha Batson; PAO & PIO, Kevin Kuzel, District 14 ECA; Leeann Krieg, At-Large Group 4 ECA; Khemi Shakur, Humanists Ankh Coalition, Julian Brown, Peaceful Build; Biko Misubiko, Peaceful Build; Makia Wicker, Peaceful Build; Shameeka Dream, and Dan Macdonald, District 8 ECA.

**Meeting convened:** 2:07 p.m.

Council Member E. Denise Lee called the meeting to order and explained why the planned Tuesday, February 10 public awareness press conference was cancelled. She expressed a concern that the draft script prepared by the Intergovernmental Services Department posed too many opportunities to politicize the Blight Committee’s work. She was also concerned that holding the press conference on a City Council meeting day would conflict with appointments other council members have with constituents on that day. She suggested that the press conference be postponed until after the first primary election that is set for March 24.

Council Member John Crescimbeni suggested that they wait until after the general election on May 19.

Council Member Jim Love reminded the group that the next scheduled tire buyback event is set for March 28 and a press event needs to happen to publicize this effort. However, he could support delaying the press conference.

Council Member Bill Bishop emphasized that if there is a press conference it should focus on the work and accomplishments of the Blight committee.

Council Member Bill Gulliford suggested that a press event be driven by finality of particular bills. In particular, he focused on the bill that would designate how funds from the Vacant Property Registry could be used as a continuing and dedicated funding source for blight initiatives.

Council Member Greg Anderson wanted assurances that delaying the announcement wouldn’t delay the rollout of items like the Blight app.

Council Member Warren Jones shared his concern that the event could become political as drafted.

Paul Martinez, director of Intergovernmental Services, said that his department was ready for the press conference, short of having the bus wrapped with its blight message. That project was put on hold when the press event was originally cancelled. He wanted to see the event to go on in the near future in so much as his employees had put a great amount of effort into making it happen.

CM Gulliford proposed that the Blight Committee organize the press conference. He said he know of an agency that would do the organizing work pro bono for the Blight committee. He emphasized that he didn’t want to exclude anyone and that mayor will be invited to attend the press event.

Aleizha Batson of PAO & PIO suggested that the new organizer keep the proposed set up of a “Fight Blight” wrapped bus parked in front of city hall, a podium placed in front of the bus facing Hemming Park as well as the Blight tent and kiosk being erected in Hemming Park and manned with city workers to explain how to sign up for the blight app and explain its use. The blight mascot would close out the event by exiting the bus.

The committee agreed that the press event would happen at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 4 prior to the already scheduled Blight meeting. The press event will be held and the Blight meeting will immediately follow in the Lynwood Roberts Room.

CM Lee opened the floor for public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8. The written minutes for this meeting are only an overview of what was discussed. For verbatim comments for this meeting, please listen to the audio CD.

Minutes package includes: Minutes, audio recording, copy of proposed press event script and attendee sign-in sheet.