

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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

**NEIGHBORBOOD BLIGHT MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**City Hall**

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

**Lynwood Roberts Room**

**Attendance:** Council Members Denise Lee (arr. 10:55a), Greg Anderson (arr. 10:36a), Bill Gulliford, John Crescimbeni (arr. 10:36a), Warren Jones (10:34a.), and Jim Love

**Excused:** Council Member Bill Bishop

**Also**: Council Members Lori Boyer and Doyle Carter; Cleveland Ferguson – Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston and Cherry Shaw – General Counsel’s Office; Jim Robinson – Public Works Department; Dan Macdonald – ECA Dist. 8; Leeann Krieg – ECA AL-1; Kirk Sherman – 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 10:07 a.m.

The meeting began with introductions from the committee and attendees.

CM Gulliford announced the Housing & Neighborhood Subcommittee will convene on Thursday, April 9th @ 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room A to discuss other possible usages of Vacant Property Registry funds in order to move legislation forward. All parties interested are encouraged to attend.

**Minutes**

Motion/2nd move to approve March 18th minutes –Love/Crescimbeni (5-0)

**Neighborhood Blight**

1. Trash Collection Issues – Jeff Foster

Mr. Foster provided a detailed written report on the issues with City and private haulers; and enforcement of contract compliance. March, April and May are considered seasonal months when larger volumes of yard waste are generated by residents. There was extensive discussion regarding excessive missed collections, haulers’ performance, and action needed by committee. Private haulers are assessed liquidated damages for missed collections. 24 hours are allowed to correct missed collection before penalties are applied. A missed premise is $25; and a portion or entire route is $1,000. Since October 2015, Advanced Disposal’s damages total $89,800; SWS Environmental Services total equals $1,100; and Waste Pro total equals $1,300.Typically, during seasonal months haulers provide make up days and extend weekend routes in order to begin the next week on a regular schedule. ADS representative, Chris Hagan, stated the issue has been identified within the company and corrective action has been taken.

Motion/2nd move to send letter of notification to private haulers about this year’s lack of performance - Jones/Love (5-0)

*Assignments:*

Jeff Foster – provide alternative solutions to minimize excessive collections during seasonal months at the next meeting; brainstorm process to allow residents to differentiate recyclable items from waste not placed in blue bin

CM Gulliford – make request of Council President Yarborough to send letter to haulers on behalf of the committee

Jim Robinson – provide an update on entire investigative process regarding collection issues; inquire with all Council Members about CARE issues to ensure accurate numbers

1. Mascot Name Contest – Paul Martinez and Ginger Preston

Mr. Martinez announced the mascot attended the Tire & Sign Buyback event on March 28th. Ms. Preston stated approximately 700 entries were submitted from students from kindergarten to eleventh grade. The top six entries were selected by a vote conducted at the Children’s Commission. CM Crescimbeni reaffirmed his request for committee to receive a comprehensive list of all the entries.

*Assignments:*

Paul Martinez – provide comprehensive list of all entries at next meeting

Paige Johnston – provide a legal opinion or inquire with stadium/Jaguar owners about trademark

1. Snipe Sign Legislation 2014-553 – CM Lee and Cherry Shaw

CM Lee shared her concerns regarding the deferral of the legislation in TEU Committee. There are two separate Zoning Codes that address signs. 2014-553 is specific to the fee structure of snipe signs on public rights-of-way. A sign within 10 feet from public rights-of-way on private property is a Zoning violation. The committee had extensive discussion on the definition of “first offense” and the process of determining subsequent offenses.

CM Crescimbeni was appointed Snipe Sign Subcommittee, Chair. Council Members Anderson and Gulliford will work on committee. Ms. Shaw and Mr. Kirk Sherman were requested to attend meetings.

*Assignments:*

Cherry Shaw – amend the description of “first offense” for clarity

CM Crescimbeni – provide recommendations on Section F and chart in legislation for next meeting

Dan Macdonald – assist CM Crescimbeni with noticing the subcommittee meeting

**Land Blight**

1. Tire and Snipe Sign Buyback Report – Jeff Foster

Mr. Foster distributed a preliminary report on 2015 Tire & Sign Buyback Event. There are still a few invoices pending. To date, expenses total $137,225.52. The number of tires and signs were lower compared to 2014. However, tires were collected Campaign signs were held separately for two days to allow candidate’s volunteers to retrieve them. Signs collected with wood stacks or wires were not redeemable but sent to the Ridge Trails Field. Lesson highlights include securing a better relief crew to eliminate shutting down lines. This may be contributed to the efforts of the Blight committee to be proactive in over the year in and cleaning up Jacksonville and educating citizens

*Assignment:*

Jeff Foster – list every detail (heavy equipment, internal charges, etc.) in final report for transparency; inquire with CSX or Florida East regarding possible transportation to land field or other designation; provide information related to increasing number of tires collected; make sure communication is in writing

**New Business - Topics**

CM Lee stated Blight meetings would resume weekly meetings.

**Next Week’s Topic**

Update from various initiatives from the JSO - Pat Ivey

Snipe Sign subcommittee – CM Crescimbeni

Update of Moncrief Rd – Neighborhood Division

Public Works Department – Update on Tire & Buyback

Operation Urban Back – John Pappas

**Public Comments**

Parking ticket can be received for the Council reception.

Ms. Allison Albert provided a brief update on JALA work through the City grant from the Vacant Registry. Recently, a client was assist with making payment for a client to bring mortgage current to prevent foreclosure. Additionally, JALA had to pursue action against the bank because for bad faith litigation after receiving payment.

Ms. McCastler provided a detailed update on her efforts in advocating for the dropout age to change to 18 years old.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Yvonne P. Mitchell, 630-1679

04.10.15 1:00p.m.