

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 425

4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

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**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SAFE AND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**City Council Chamber, 1st floor, City Hall**

**February 7, 2018**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Location:** City Council Chamber, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Reggie Brown (Chair), Anne Brosche, Bill Gulliford, Lori Boyer (arr. 1:10p), Katrina Brown (arr. 1:21p), Sam Newby (arr. 1:33p)

**Also**: Paige Johnston and Peggy Sidman – Office of General Counsel; Tommy Carter – Council Auditor’s Office; Jordan Elsbury – Mayor’s Office; Yvonne Mitchell – Council Research Division

**Meeting Convened**: 1:00 p.m.

Chairman R. Brown called the meeting to order and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. He requested that JSO, JEA, and Parks & Recreation attend the next meeting to provide presentations. Ms. Stephanie Burch, Director of Neighborhoods Department, provided an update on Tipping Point Communities. The department used a model that involves analyzing various factors within the communities such as neighborhood appearance, civil engagement, adequate infrastructure, safety, and schools. The next phase requires the collaboration with District Council Members to identify a specific neighborhood (a five-block radius) with or adjacent to a park or school, or an area with current or future infrastructure projects. The identified area would undergo an inventory by all necessary city departments. The final phase includes planning improvements, coordinating with appropriate local and state agencies, identifying funding resources, and engaging residents.

Ms. Burch continued her presentation with updates on activities in District 4, Brookview Neighborhood and District 8, 29th Street and Chase Avenue Neighborhood. All of the right-of-ways (ROW) have been mowed and roadways evaluated for resurfacing in both neighborhoods. Over 90% of the streetlights in both areas have been converted to LED. JEA is prioritizing the remaining conversions. Planned improvements for Brookview include resurfacing Dibble Circle and the completion of two perimeter sidewalks by the end of FY 17/18. The Brookview Elementary Park will be upgraded with a community garden, gazebo, and a natural walking trail. The completion of this project is spring 2018.

It was reported that there were several active Code Enforcement cases within the 29th & Chase area. To date, 13 cases have been abated or out for a contractor to complete abatement. Additionally, 18 cases are in various stages of the demolition process. Planned improvements for this area include resurfacing Moncrief Road and Myrtle Avenue by the end of FY 18/19 and completing demolitions and abatements as soon as possible. The Simonds Johnson Park will reopen to provide after-school and summer programs. Other improvements include the addition of outdoor fitness equipment, renovating existing basketball courts, and converting park lighting to LED.

In response to Council Member Boyer's inquiry, Dave McDaniel, Chief of Mowing & Landscape, stated ROW are being mowed approximately every four months. He shared that a collaborative effort is necessary between the city, neighborhood residents, and the state to help keep blighted areas clean on a more frequent cycle. Council Member Gulliford suggested organizing a community event such as a neighborhood cleanup to engage residents. He stated that an incentive should be provided after the activity. For community engagement, businesses could donate food or other items as the incentives. Chairman R. Brown requested Ms. Burch to begin to plan a Spring Clean Up activity in both districts. He believes there is a need to develop more youth programs through collaboration with the nearby school.

Council Member K. Brown provided an overview of a recent community health fair sponsored by the Florida Department of Health Fair (FDOH). The event was well attended by residents in the area. She spoke with representatives from FDOH regarding future events in other districts. Council Member K. Brown referenced a pending collaboration beautification project with Council Member Newby, Ju’Coby Pittman (Clara White Mission), and E. Denise Lee (Director of Blight Initiatives). The project will cover 33rd Street & Moncrief Road to 45th Street & Moncrief Road. Ms. Burch commented that partnerships, especially with residents, are important as it relates to the long-term success of clean neighborhoods. Mr. Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks & Recreation Department, stated the completion deadline for the Simonds Johnson Park improvements is the spring. He suggested a community day at the park as the actual kickoff for the teen center. Chairman R. Brown requested Ms. Burch look into planning a cleanup activity in both districts. Chairman R. Brown stated that Ms. Denise Lee’s participation was essential to this process and requested that she attends meetings as a part of the committee.

In response to Council President Brosche's inquiry, Ms. Burch stated that the city does not currently have a toolkit for neighborhood improvement. However, she is gathering information during this first cycle to assist in formulating a standard model. Council President shared that she has been meeting with all the CPACs and will be providing the committee a report of her findings. Chairman R. Brown requested Ms. Burch prepares a presentation on 1) Neighborhood Bill of Rights; and 2) strategic plan for rebuilding neighborhood associations, for the February 28th meeting. Council Member K. Brown applauded Ms. Burch and her department on their work with the neighborhood association grants. She requested that the associations are recognized for their efforts and possibly encourage other neighborhoods to get involved.

Chairman R. Brown plans to compile a list for next year’s improvement process. He will request each Council Member to identify an area in their district and submit in the committee’s final report to the Council President.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

Upcoming Topics:

1. Presentations – JEA, JSO, and Parks & Recreation Department
2. Timelines and follow-up from departments

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

\* The written minutes for this meeting are an overview of the discussion. For verbatim comments, the audio version may be retrieved from the Office of Legislative Services.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

02.09.18 Posted 1:00 p.m.

Tapes: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – LSD – 02.07.18

Handouts: Special Committee on Safe and Healthy Neighborhoods meeting – 02.07.18