

## Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Commission Meeting Summary

*November 30, 2007*

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**What:** Final meeting of the Abandoned and Neglected Cemeteries Commission.

**In attendance:** Commission members: Jerry Spinks, Chair. Brenda Ezell, Jon Ferguson, Emily Lisska, Hazel Mack, Joel McEachin, Richard Mueller, Louise Warren. Concerned citizens: Dianne Johnson, John Johnson, Daryl Joseph, Shannon Palmer, John Pittman, Thomas Waters. JCCI Staff: Steve Rankin.

**Meeting Time:** 9:00 – 11:15 a.m.

**Discussion:** Mr. Spinks welcomed everyone and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to complete review of the draft action plan and conclude the Commission's deliberations. He noted that three public forums were held earlier in the week (November 26 at Bradham-Brooks Library; November 27 at Regency Square Library; and November 29 at SOS Academy). These meetings were held to solicit any remaining public input on cemeteries issues prior to the Commission concluding its work. Summaries of the three meetings were provided as handouts.

Mr. Rankin then facilitated the group's review of the portions of the proposed action plan not discussed at the Commission meeting on November 7. Commissioners and concerned citizens present provided point-by-point input on the document, and a number of modifications were suggested.

Upon reaching consensus that the revised document fairly reflected the group's intentions, the Commission was briefed on the process for moving ahead. Mr. Rankin explained that he will circulate a revised copy of the entire action plan incorporating the modifications approved by the Commission. Following final review and approval, the Commission's report will be sent to Jacksonville City Council auditor Kirk Sherman, then to Public Health and Safety Committee Chair Kevin Hyde. Councilman Hyde will subsequently determine the date and manner for the report to be presented to the full City Council.

Mr. Spinks suggested that the Commission offer to remain intact after the final report is provided to the City Council to provide ongoing advice or assistance in the implementation phase of the project. A consensus of Commission members agreed with this recommendation. Mr. Spinks then thanked each Commissioner and interested citizen for their interest and dedication to the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.