



OFFICE OF MAYOR DONNA DEEGAN

NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVES SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday July 5, 2023
12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Committee Members

PRESENT:

Wayne Wood, Co-Chair
Diallo-Sekou Seabrooks, Co-Chair
David Garfunkel
William Hoff
Leslie Jean-Bart
Carla Jones
Jim Robinson
Isaiah Rumlin
Garrett Dennis

ABSENT:

Eunice Barnum
James Coggin
Michael Kirwan
Tyler Matthews

COJ Staff Support:

Barbara Florio

Guests Present:

Shay Hill – Government Relations-JEA
Austin Nicklas - Government Affairs-NEFBA
Kenny Logsdon – COJ HCDD
Jennell Milton – Government Relations
Denise Wallace – BCM Services
Kim Pryor – Citizen

Call Meeting to Order, Welcome

Co-Chair Seabrooks called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm welcoming members and visitors.

The Neighborhoods Initiatives Subcommittee has been tasked with developing recommendations through specified actions and focus.

- Recommend processes and procedures to revitalize and improve underserved communities.
- Explain how investing into these communities will improve quality of life for residents, socially, economically, and educationally.
- Hold publicly noticed listening sessions with the established CPACs and major neighborhood groups.
- Meet with the current and/or immediate past chair of the City Council's Neighborhoods, Community Services, Public Health, and Safety Committee (NCSPHS) to review current or future priorities and to identify neighborhoods with the greatest need.



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Discussions and primary focus are:

- Specific obstacles to infrastructure improvement citywide.
- shovel ready projects in the Northwest Quadrant as well as COJ's older and underserved neighborhoods.
- Review the current CIP for overdue/upcoming/neglected infrastructure improvement areas, especially as it pertains to sidewalk, roadway, and utility improvements.
- Review in detail all current Septic Tank Phase-Out projects and consider expansion opportunities.

Committee members reviewed and discussed the above assigned tasks. The Committee established action steps and approaches to accomplishment of their charge.

- The Mayor's office should request from all COJ departments an inventory of all infrastructure projects and repairs currently needed in the City's older and underserved neighborhoods.
- Each meeting will have a scheduled guest speaker from the following: JEA, JTA with DOT, Public Works, Planning, and CPAC Management from Neighborhoods Services Division. Desire is to have a 'shovel ready' projects list, methods of accountability and matrix of the work and accomplishments, determination of what processes are in place, and address problem issues.

There were numerous recommendations brought forth for discussion by the Committee.

- Begin with 'low hanging fruit' to allow for quicker results.
- Pick a single neighborhood to impact, complete, then move on to another neighborhood.
- Communication internally needs to improve – one hand knowing what the other is doing.
- MyJax (630-City) service levels needs to be addressed. Long wait times, cumbersome, incorrect handling, and inconsistent, incorrect information.
- Create neighborhood 'hubs' providing COJ information, support, and assisting with issues.
- Add a position of "Infrastructure Czar" to have a single place to acquire information and improve communication for infrastructure related issues.
- Blight enforcement – proactive COJ staff members to address.
- Phase Out Septic Tank project – perhaps use a private partnership to complete.
- COJ Parks are underutilized. Revamp to include active screens providing community information, available resources and other communications.
- Alleyway Integrity – create taskforce to address and resolve.
- Review and learn about vacant property process.
- Ambassador Program—expand, consider moving to Neighborhoods, provide subject matter experts.
- Institute/reinstitute – neighborhood summit, CPAC University expansion, blight issue.
- William Hoff was asked to draft a satisfaction poll letter to the CPAC's.

This Committee will be gathering information from the various agencies/speakers to further the development of recommendations to the Administration. This will take place over the next 6 weeks with a target completion date August 30, 2023. There was some discussion about increasing the number of meetings from once a week on Wednesday at noon to perhaps evening meetings or additional meetings. No resolution on this issue.

Meetings were changed from Noon–1:30 to Noon – 2:00 Every Wednesday.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Every Wednesday through August 30, 2023



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**THE DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING IS DATE.
WEDNESDAY JULY 12, 2023
NOON – 2:00
ED BALL BUILDING – 7TH FLOOR
CONFERENCE ROOM 721
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

CERTIFICATION

Recorded, Transcribed and Submitted by:

Barbara Florio, Operations Manager-HCDD
COJ Staff Support

Approved by:

Wayne Wood, Co-Chair
Neighborhoods Subcommittee