



## **4<sup>th</sup> Precinct MPACT Meeting Minutes**

June 18, 2015 - 6:00PM

Linwood Holton Elementary

### **Call to Order**

Zane Robinson, Program Manager

### **Presentation(s)**

#### **Department of Parks and Recreation: Northside Dog Park, Barry Russell, Deputy Director**

- Mr. Russell informed the attendees that currently there are no current plans for Northside Dog Park, due to the limited number of city resources. Mr. Russell stated that community garden groups and Friends of the Park help maintain the city parks. Mr. Russell stated that in the past, there was a group that helped maintain the dog park in the past, but currently there are no active groups that assist with the upkeep of Northside Dog Park. There were several residents expressed several recommendations and ideas on how to improve the park. Mr. Russell informed the citizens that they can meet with himself as well as other staff members in the department to discuss any ideas.

#### **Code Enforcement Abandoned Properties: John Walsh**

- Mr. Walsh provided residents with the adjustments in the Code Enforcement department. Mr. Walsh stated that he broke Code Enforcement division in several parts, so there would a better workflow within the department. The divisions were broken down into:
  - The special programs, which focuses on derelict structures, tax sale properties, demolition properties, boarding's as it relates to abandoned properties.
  - Property maintenance, which focuses on property maintenance violations.
  - Special projects, which focuses on environmental issues. Mr. Walsh stated that inspectors will deal with targeted enforcement. There will be a new program, in which the department will add more resources to corridors and thoroughfares. Mr. Walsh informed the attendees that all the special resources are being devoted to the UCI race routes.

Mr. Walsh informed the attendees that Mr. Walsh stated that the current vacant property list is out of context because there is no way to properly analyze the list because all vacant properties are placed on the same list. Mr. Walsh stated that in the past, vacant properties have sat on the list and the responsible parties hadn't received a notice of violation in years. Moving forward, each responsible party that Code Enforcement is able to contact will receive a notice of violation and they will property list originally contained 3000 properties. Mr. Walsh gave his staff a directive to go out and inspect each building and see if any violations exist. After inspection, each vacant property was classified into one of three categories:

1. Vacant and compliant structures- These are properties that are ready to be occupied.
2. Vacant and workable- These are properties that are vacant and have violations and have a responsible party that can be contacted and cited.
3. Special programs unit- these properties are properties in which an owner can't be located, been abandoned for several years, owners who have passed away and don't have a responsible heir, etc. These properties will go into another program such as tax sales, derelict structures, advertised demolition, and spot blight.

Mr. Walsh stated that the City's Attorney Office will upgrade the tax sale process, in which they will move 300 buildings a year through tax sale function process. The properties will be auctioned restrictions that state the properties will have to be redeveloped within a certain time frame or else the property will be given back to the City. The first tax sale will occur on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion Items**

- A citizen asked Mr. Walsh if there is a process that a citizen can follow, when they report a vacant property.
  - Mr. Walsh stated that if a citizen calls 646-6398, the administrative assistant can provide the status of the property.
- A resident asked if the CAPS (Community Assisted Public Safety) still exist.
  - Mr. Walsh stated that CAPS currently doesn't exist but there are still CAPS cases. CAPS is a program that brings multiple agencies such as the Zoning Department, Fire and Police Department, and other agencies to investigate individual properties that may be used as rooming houses, illegal nightclubs, drug houses, etc. Mr. Walsh stated the Department of Planning and Development Review is looking to revitalize the program.

### **Public Comment Period**

- Citizen stated that he put in a request into the Citizens Request System for a complaint at 403 Bancroft for an open sewer line.
  - Property was inspected and an unsafe notice was issued. Code Enforcement Inspector Walter Jackson spoke with the owner about the issue. The property is scheduled for re-inspection on July 16.
- Citizen stated the property at 3017 Chamberlayne Avenue has overgrown weeds.
  - The property is currently being worked by a Code Enforcement Inspector. A violation was issued for overgrown weeds and it will be re-inspected this week.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:30PM

**NOTE: All persons scheduled to present is required to bring a minimum of fifteen (15) copies of all handouts to the meeting.**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 2015, 6:00PM, Lindwood Holton Elementary library, 1600 West Laburnum Avenue**

**Staff Contact: Zane Robinson, 804-646-0275, [Zane.Robinson@richmondgov.com](mailto:Zane.Robinson@richmondgov.com) or Christopher Clark, 804-646-1301 [Christopher.Clark@richmondgov.com](mailto:Christopher.Clark@richmondgov.com)**

