

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

FLOOD COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Committee was held on Monday, May 21, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair
Representative Robert Jacquard
Brian Dupont
Michael Behm
Amy Sinyei
Matthew Papino

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Senator Beatrice Lanzi
Richard Martin

Also Present: Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Representative Jacquard, seconded by Mr. Behm, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Representative Jacquard gave update of Bill before the General Assembly. He stated that the Bill has been proposed and hearing was held. He is trying to get it on the floor for a vote. The leadership has concerns because it does not have the support of the Administration.

- *Report from Administration on Oaklawn Ave. drainage improvements*

Chair referred to a memo Mr. Cordy forwarded to the Clerk indicating that he will not be attending this meeting due to personal reasons. In the memo, Mr. Cordy states that this is a FEMA Grant application and FEMA went to the site last week for a site visit. They had numerous questions, which the City provided answers to. Other than that, there is no other update.

Mr. Dupont asked that the Administration provide information on the status of the HUD Grant application and how this is progressing. He stated that on May 3rd, there was a meeting at RI Emergency Management and he does not know if anyone from the City attending this meeting. He asked if in future meetings like these, a member of this Committee can attend so this Committee can be kept updated on what is going on.

Mr. Dupont read into the record various correspondence between he and former Mayor Edward DiPrete and the neighbors of Perkins Ave. dating back to 1983 regarding flood problems on Perkins Ave. He stated that if the dates were taken out of these correspondences, it could apply to 2010, 2011 and 2012. He stated that this is very frustrating and nothing has been done. The problems are getting worse. This has been going on for over forty years. It is time to get some answers and stop getting the run around from our government. He feels our Mayor needs to step up to the plate and should be attending these Flood Committee meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

Public Speakers:

Maureen Casey, 87 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak and stated that the residents have been more than patient. The most frustrating thing is the money is there. There are only nine homes in question. There should be accountability. If the Director of Administration could not attend this meeting, a representative should have been present in his place. The Mayor should be present. Ms. Casey stated that this past Saturday, someone was at her home taking photos and she asked who they were and was told they worked for the City. She stated that there needs to be information given to the public.

Representative Jacquard stated that he and Mr. Dupont would be willing to meet with the Mayor to obtain information on the status of the buyout in order for the neighbors to be updated.

Mary Jane Moretti, Amanda St., appeared to speak and stated that the Phenix Lodge was recently approved by the Planning Commission and she asked what will be done to prevent the Amanda neighborhood from being flooded again from the run off. Chair asked that this issue be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Papino stated that at the last meeting, he asked Mr. Cordy the status of the Pocasset River Flood Plain Restoration Project, the CLCF fields and the Budlong Pool area. He has not received a response to this question. Chair asked that this item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Chair asked that "Fletcher Ave. Update" be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Papino indicated that there are a few members who are on this Committee, but not have attended any meetings, in particular, his Councilman from his Ward, Council Vice-President Navarro.

Chair asked that "Amanda Ct./Amanda St. Update" be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Chair stated that the next meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. and the Clerk request of the Administration to have a representative present at that meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees