

*(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, October 15, 2012 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by the Chair.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair  
Representative Robert Jacquard  
Brian Dupont  
Richard Martin  
Amy Sinyei  
Michael Behm  
Matthew Papino  
Council President Anthony J. Lupino

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano  
Council Vice-President Emilio L. Navarro, Vice-Chair  
Senator Beatrice Lanzi  
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration

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

### **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:**

On motion by Mr. Martin, 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:**

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

## **PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:**

- Update for Amanda/Fletcher (Chair)
- Status of upper Perkins Ave buyout - have State funds been approved, if yes, when is the public comment period for the program design? (Amy Sinyei)
- Status of Lower Perkins Buyout: (Amy Sinyei)
  - Appraisal Appeal Process
  - Detailed breakdown of the Administrative fees of ~\$280k
  - Buyout Program Design - does the design have an appeal process, and if so, what does that entail?

**Chair** indicated to emails sent by the Director of Administration for this meeting regarding the items on the agenda.

### **Email regarding Fuss & O'Neil Flood Wall Update**

**Council President Lupino** indicated to the email where it states "Next Steps", "major complication" and asked who is contacting the home owners and why have they not responded. He also asked how many residents this involves. Chair asked that the Administration provide the following information: which property owners have not consented and when in November will the meeting be held. Council President Lupino asked that he would also like to know what proactive steps were taken to present this to the residents.

### **Email regarding Voluntary Acquisition Program and HUD Grant**

**Mr. Dupont** stated that he is disappointed that this Committee is receiving this information by email. There should be a representative from the Administration present to be able to answer questions. He stated that \$63,853 is being allocated to someone that works for the City and receiving a paycheck. Chair asked that Mr. Dupont forward a list of questions by email to the Director of Administration and he respond back to him.

**Chair** indicated that the Board of Contract and Purchase has advertised this past week in the Cranston Herald to bid out for demolishing of ten homes. He questioned why ten homes are planned to be demolished when there were nine homes originally planned for the buyout. Chair asked that the Clerk check with the Purchasing Agent, if in fact, it is for ten homes.

**Chair** indicated that the Administration has not provided any update on Amanda. He asked that this be provided by the Administration.

**Ms. Sinyei** indicated to the handout entitled "Action Plan", which was provided by the Administration, and stated that Section 2 states ten properties, which was always nine; as to the number of families, it should be eight single-family and one multi-family; and the demolishing number is also wrong. There are a number of errors in this document.

**Mr. Behm** questioned why the appraisal process being used in normal property appraisals is not being used for these homes.

**Mr. Dupont** stated that he is extremely frustrated that the Committee and the home owners can't get an answer to the additional funds.

**Public Speakers:**

**Resident of 14 Union Ave.**, appeared to speak and stated that she is also frustrated because at every meeting there are questions and they get continued to the next meeting and no answers are provided at that following meeting. She is in the second phase for the buyout and she has received no information at all. One of the homes being considered in the buyout is being foreclosed. She asked how this home can be considered for a buyout.

**David Englund**, 92 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak and stated that Joe Lagana from the Community Development Office, stated to him that the reason for the tenth home is because "we don't want to have a single tooth in the mouth on the street".

**Ms. Sinyei** stated that she questioned Mr. Lagana how the buyout of the tenth house can be accomplished.

**Jackie Pearson**, 104 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak and stated that Mr. Lagana stated to her that only six of the homes were going to be purchased and the home that is in foreclosure, the City was going to purchase it for \$37,000. He also stated to her that it stops at seven homes because there would not be enough money. She questioned where the ninth or tenth homes number is coming from.

**Robert Fiore**, 64 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak.

**Cindy Palmieri**, 1 Moore Ave., appeared to speak and stated that it is an absolute disgrace that the people who have the answers are not present this evening. The taxpayers are present at every single meeting and the Administration does not care and does not attend these meetings.

**Mr. Papino** stated that it is disheartening that there are people on this Committee who never attend these meetings, in particular his Ward Council person. He also asked for an update on Fordson. Chair asked that Fordson Ave. update be added to the next meeting's agenda.

**Mr. Papino** presented a copy of a Providence Journal article from September 29<sup>th</sup> of the State's first two houses to qualify, especially the house in Cumberland. He questioned how they qualified, especially the house in Cumberland and what is the process those two towns used.

**Representative Jacquard** suggested that he and Mr. Dupont try to meet with the Administration to obtain information on questions brought up this evening.

**Council President Lupino** stated that he and Senator Lanzi are members of this Committee and they are not up for re-election, Councilman Santamaria is up for re-election, the rest of the members are neighbors and residents. Representing the Administration, Mr. Cordy has represented the Public Works Director. Two months ago, the Council appointed a Public Works Director and he is not present this evening, nor is Mr. Cordy. It has been frustrating that the Administration has not had representation at these meetings.

**Chair** stated that another meeting will not be scheduled due to the upcoming elections and the holidays. Follow ups on updates requested by this Committee this evening will be done by email.

**Council President Lupino** asked that the Clerk check to see if an Ordinance was passed asking that this Committee continue with the new incoming Council in January.

**Mr. Behm** addressed the residents in the audience and asked that they speak to candidates when they come to their doors campaigning to make sure that this Commission move forward.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosalba Zanni  
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees