

# VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMISSION

Meeting Summary – September 21, 2016

**Members Present:** Wesley Barringer, Karen Deprey, Bill Johnston, Billie Mallory

**Others Present:** Jonathan Hollinger, Ken Armstrong, Lee Steele, Melissa Murphy, Della Horton

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Meeting called to order at 10:00am.

Motion to approve July 20, 2016 summary by Bill Johnston, seconded by Karen Deprey.

Approved unanimously.

Jonathan reported:

- The new website is up and running. (Board Members discussed likes/dislikes.)
- The vacant property inspections are on-going.

Discussion of Calendar:

- Jonathan recommended that the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting be postponed to November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Two other meetings will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 21<sup>st</sup>. These meetings will allow the Commission Members to review list of vacant properties closer to the end of the year. The volume should be about the same or a little less than last year.

Summary of Discussion and Actions:

- Members discussed education to public and asked Jonathan about properties being added to list, number that changed ownership, etc. Jonathan will provide some data to provide answers. He gave historical information from 2015, which was the first year for the Commission. There were 229 properties potentially eligible for the list. Sixty met the criteria. Thirty-Five percent changed ownership within that year. Thirty-one of those were occupied at the end of 2015. Fourteen percent had permits or made other repairs, and six percent were demolished by the owner. Jonathan will look at the 2016 data.
- Jonathan will send a quarterly update letter to LBAR regarding vacant properties.

Discussion of Bylaws:

- Jonathan said the major change in Bylaws is a simplified definition to make clear that everyone serves a 4-year term, with the exception of those initial shortened terms, in order to insure the staggering. They begin on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which the

appointment is made, which is the way that our Law Department and Board of Commissions handle that. You don't serve more than two consecutive full terms.

- Shevawn Akers is resigning her position and we will have a new Council Member as a non-voting member.
- At next meeting Members should select a chair and vice-chair.

Motion to approve by Bill Johnston, seconded by Billie Mallory to approve the by-laws as revised. Approved unanimously.

Refund Request – 439 Douglas Avenue

- Jonathan provided the Commission the history of 439 Douglas Avenue, which was on the 2014 list and was removed from the 2015 list. Staff recommendation was to request a refund of \$400.00 for the owner.

Motion to approve by Karen Deprey, seconded by Bill Johnston to approve the request for \$400.00 refund for property at 439 Douglas Avenue. Approved unanimously.

Jonathan introduced Lee Steele, Code Enforcement Division, to Commission Members. Lee will be working with the Vacant Property Review Commission.

Motion to adjourn by Bill Johnston, seconded Karen Deprey. Approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.

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Audio Available: Yes

Video Available: No

Prepared By: Della Horton