



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS
500 West Markham, Suite 120W
Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone (501) 371-6825 Fax (501) 399-3461
www.littlerock.gov

Land Bank Commission Minutes

MEETING DATE: February 16, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 12:00p.m., by Chairman Leta Anthony via Webex.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leta Anthony

Mark Leggett

Ken Wade

Jennifer Herron

Karyn B. Coleman

Deniccia Bell

Tavonia Strickland

Jeremy Hill

Natalie James

Kimberly Lee

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Ruby E. Dean, Redevelopment Administrator

Shawn Overton, Staff Attorney

Director Joan Adcock

Director Virgil Miller, Jr.

Kevin D. Howard, Director HNP

DECLARATION OF QUORUM – Quorum

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Lee to adopt the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Bell. **8 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioners Lee and Bell to approve the minutes with one correction. **8 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain)**

UAMS-Housing Initiatives Update

Mariella Hernandez, gave an update on the UAMS Employee and Student Homeownership Promotion Program referencing the success of the program due to the homebuyer counseling, credit, and education programs. Ms. Hernandez stated that participants have increased their credit scores by an average of 30 points within three months of beginning the program. Two (2) participants increased credit scores by over 80 points within 3 months, and two participants obtained financing through USDA and FHA to purchase their first homes. Director Adcock commented on the success of the program and inquired about the employees at Children's Hospital as to whether or not they were participating in the program. Ms. Hernandez stated that Children's Hospital and Baptist Hospital employees are included. Chairman Anthony asked Ms. Hernandez what were some of the barriers with the program. Ms. Hernandez stated that one of the barriers is the lack of existing homes in the area. Kevin Howard stated that one of our partners BCD (Better Community Developers) is developing houses in the area, along with In-Affordable Housing. Chairman Anthony referenced a property in the area that could be a potential site for development.

Kevin Howard also mentioned the Land Bank partnership with University District which has afforded them the opportunity to develop more affordable housing in the area.

Staff Reports by Redevelopment Administrator

Redevelopment Administrator indicated that there is still one Commissioner's vacancy available which is in Ward 2. Housing and Neighborhood "Love Your Block Grant" application is available for Neighborhood Associations to apply. The deadline date is April 25, 2022. The Mayor had a press conference on February 16, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m. on Community Violence Crime. Staff encouraged the Commissioners to listen to 98.9 FM for the PSA on Land Bank activities. Staff also sent letters to owners who purchased properties from the Land Bank for a progress report on their developments. Staff will bring before and after photos to the next meeting.

Current balances are as follows: S35A946'18 - \$1,751.67; S35C273 - \$112,730.99. Total Land Bank Financial Report - **\$114,482.66**.

The Land Bank annual year-end reported was submitted to the City Clerk's office. Commissioner Coleman stated that the policies and procedures committee made provisions on the checklist regarding neighborhood association contact and zoning requirements. Commissioner Coleman also stated that

the committee is continuing the review the policies and procedures, thus making necessary changes where applicable. In addition, the fair housing language should be added to the policies and procedures. Ruby Dean asked should the fair housing language be added on the application as well. Attorney Overton and Chairman Anthony stated yes. Kevin Howard mentioned that most of the changes had already been made to the application and the checklist. Redevelopment Administrator will send to the Commissioners for review.

Attorney Overton reiterated that the applicants are made aware that all applications must have the final approval from the City of Little Rock Board of Directors. Attorney Overton suggested that we expound upon the language on the checklist as well as the application. There was much discussion regarding the fair housing language and potential violations.

Commissioner Hill indicated that is it the Commissioner's responsibility to ensure that the applicant has met all the criteria for approval at the Commission level, however, the City Board of Directors has authority to deny any application.

The Commissioners denied donation of parcel by United Way due to the fact that property was not suitable for development. **9 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain)**

Land Bank staff indicated that Land Bank transfer application submitted for 9712 Eva Lane by WL Housing Solutions, LLC was denied at staff level because the application was incomplete.

Kevin Howard suggested that staff have Eva Lane rezoned as residential prior to transferring to a potential applicant.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION - None

ADJOURN: Commissioners James made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lee. **9 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain)**

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.