



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS
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Land Bank Commission Minutes

MEETING DATE: July 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m., by Chairman Leta Anthony @ The Willie Hinton Center.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Leta Anthony

Mark Leggett

Tavonia Strickland (via Webex)

Tyrun Haynie

Natalie James

Katrina Smith (via Webex)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Jeremy Hill

Deniccia Bell

Kimberly Lee

BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF PRESENT:

Ruby E. Dean, Redevelopment Administrator

Kevin Howard, HNP Director

Brian Contino, Asst. HNP Director

Director Joan Adcock

Director Virgil Miller

Guests: Jarrod Woodley, Jeanette Shack, Lashawnda Adams, Ron Woods, Governor Foreman (CHAB), & Willie Patillo

DECLARATION OF QUORUM – Quorum

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE



APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Haynie seconded by Commissioner Leggett to approve the agenda. **5 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain, 3 absent, 2 vacant)**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Commissioner Leggett seconded by Commissioner Haynie to approve the minutes. **5 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain, 3 absent, 2 vacant)**

Staff Reports by Redevelopment Administrator

Ruby Dean introduced Brian Contino as the Assistant Director for HNP. The Community Development Division along with the Housing staff had a ground-breaking ceremony on July 12th for the Homeless Village. There were several guests in attendance including a Wanda Merritt from HUD, and a representative from Congressman French Hill's office.

Redevelopment Administrator had phone interviews along with zoom meetings with the City of Stuttgart and the City of Jonesboro regarding the COLR Land Bank. Redevelopment Administrator is preparing for a presentation with the Community Progress National Land Bank network on August 8, 2023.

Staff met with the Community Advisory Housing Board on July 17th. The Board discussed the Land Bank Redevelopment Plan, and several members volunteered to serve on the committee. The members include Dylan Ashcraft, Governor Foreman, Jr., Zachary Johnson, Sylvia Smith, and Rena Stevenson. Commissioner Tyrun Haynie is the chair of the committee.

Current balances are as follows: S35A946'18 - \$1,052.90; S35C273 - \$28,610.87; S35C501 - \$96,249.56
Total Land Bank Financial Report –**\$125,913.33**. There are currently 41 lots available in the Land Bank inventory, along with 10 Neighborhood Stabilization lots (NSPII).

Staff informed the Commissioners of the pending demolition for property located @ 2017 S. Maple. The Land Bank property was sold to Tonia Griffin in 2021, however, Ms. Griffin has not made any improvements to the structure. Ms. Griffin received an extension for development beginning October 20, 2022 and ending October 20, 2023, with periodic updates. To date, Ms. Griffin has not provided any updates on the property. Staff forwarded an email to the Commissioners sent by Ms. Griffin implying the COLR is trying to take her property. Brian Contino, stated that he responded to Ms. Griffin's email with requested items due by July 19, 2023. Ms. Griffin did not provide the requested items. Chairman Anthony asked staff that once a structure is demolished, does the owner still have possession of the land. All were in agreement, Ms. Griffin would still own the land. Staff provided the Commissioners with photos of the current condition of the property. Staff also indicated that the update on the property was for informational purposes only, hence, no action required.

Ms. Lashawnda Adams gave an update on the development at 7909 Mann Road. Ms. Adams stated that there has been numerous break-ins, and vandalism since taking possession of the property. Approximately five police reports are on record. Director Adcock suggested adding a fence to deter any other attempts. Mr. Woods, current architect stated that there is substantial rehab work needed to the property which will take time. Estimated commencement date is September 2023.

Mr. Jarrod Woodley presented Land Bank transfer application for property located on 1001 Dennison. Mr. Woodley plans to construct a 1300 sq., 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom single family dwelling. Mr. Woodley's offering price is \$3,000.00, however, the property was purchased with federal funds in the amount of \$5,028.78. A motion made by Commissioner Leggett to table the application until the next meeting pending an appraisal, seconded by Commissioner Haynie. **5 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain, 3 absent, 2 vacant)**

A motion made by Commissioner James to table Land Bank transfer applications submitted for properties on 5301 & 5509 Blueberry on behalf of BIIG, LLC, since applicant was unable to attend, seconded by Commissioner Leggett. **5 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain, 3 absent, 2 vacant)**

CITIZENS COMMUNICATION – Governor Foreman, Jr. (CHAB representative) was in attendance to learn more about the Land Bank. Ms. Jeanette Shack stated that she was looking to purchase a home. Director Adcock distributed surveys regarding the food desert issues. Director Miller presented an email from the Sustainability Office requesting volunteers to examine the heat.

ADJOURN: A motion made by Commissioner James to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Haynie. **5 ayes 0 nays (1 abstain, 3 absent, 2 Vacant)**

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.