

## **January 8, 2016 Land Bank Meeting #1**

### **In attendance**

1. Rev. Burgess
2. Councilwoman Kail-Smith
3. Councilman Lavelle
4. Senator Wayne Fontana
5. Karen Abrams
6. Tara Sherry-Torres
7. Dr. Jamil Bey

### **Registered speakers**

- 1) Laura Govelnick (sp?) – Vacant Property Working Group
- 2) Demi Kaulky (sp?) – Operation Better Block (Homewood)
- 3) Duncan – Fineview Citizens Council
- 4) Marissa M. – Grow Pittsburgh
- 5) Zeba Ahmed – Northside Leadership Conference (Vacant Structure Coordinator)

### **Meeting actions & discussions**

- **Rev. Burgess:**

- Motion to approve of the minutes from November meeting.
- Motion to retain the officers from 2015 for 2016.

- *Report from the Procurement Committee*

- Kyra Straussman (URA) gave a review of the draft MOU between the Land Bank and the URA

- **Senator Fontana:**

- Asked if the MOU can be amended after it is adopted by the Land Bank

- **Rev Burgess:**

- Discussed the URA being the agent for the Land Bank
- Motion to empower the Chair to enter into contract with the URA

- **Councilwoman Kail-Smith:**
  - Questioned if the Land Bank would be able to interview the staff that will be put in place.
- **Ms. Abrams:**
  - Inquired about the annual payment to the URA
- **Dan Barrett & Alex Paz:**
  - Overview on the Grant application from the Center for Community Progress Technical Assistance.
- **Councilman Lavelle:**
  - Inquired about who would actually be filling out and applying for the grant.
  - Motion to allow the URA to apply for the Grant on behalf of the :Land Bank.
- **Ms. Sherry-Torres:**
  - Gave the report from the Communication Committee
- **Rev. Burgess:**
  - Suggested there be 2 community meetings before the policies are written
  - 3 meetings after the policies are written
  - Suggested that maybe the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting can be on the North Side and the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Homewood.
- **Dr. Bey:**
  - Discussed some goals of the Community meetings

- **Councilwoman Kail-Smith:**

- Expressed concern about some groups who may have had some affiliation with land banks that has not shown much work proving it was an asset or benefit to the City of Pittsburgh as a whole.
- Would like to see groups w/ no affiliation to participate in the process without looking for something in return.

- **Councilman Lavelle:**

- Affordable Housing Task Force meetings will be coming up soon and suggested that the two entities maybe work together relative to community meetings and the purpose for the two

- **Rev. Burgess:**

- Communication committee & all interested parties will work together to come up with a strategy for the 5 community meetings.
- Motion to adjourn