

Pittsburgh Land Bank [PLB] Minutes
July 8th, 2016

Convene: Chair called meeting to order.

Public Comment:

- Zeba Ahmed, Northside Leadership Conference
- Ted Zellers, Resident, City of Pittsburgh
- Giana Rodgers, Resident, City of Pittsburgh

Roll Call:

Members Present: Reverend Ricky Burgess, Chair, Dr. Jamil Bey, Vice Chair, Director Leger, Treasurer, Karen Abrams, Secretary, Senator Fontana, Councilwoman Kail-Smith, Tara Sherry-Torres, Councilman Daniel Lavelle

Absent: Steve Mazza

Approval of June Minutes:

◇ Motion to approve June Board meeting minutes as submitted [**Fontana/Sherry-Torres**]. Passed unanimously.

Chairman's report:

Rev. Burgess provided an overview of the progress and activities of the last month.

Chair thanked fellow Director Karen Abrams for her service as this is her final Board meeting. Miss Abrams formally stepped down from the Board. She will be replaced by a Mayoral appointment, upon recommendation to and council approval.

Administrator's Report:

Bethany Davidson, representative of the Urban Redevelopment Authority, the PLB Administrator, provided an updated timeline to the Board regarding start-up operations and activities projected out over the next 18 months.

Irene McLaughlin, Special Legal Advisor, reviewed the revised outline of Policies and Procedures. The goal is to have a draft document by the September Board meeting. BDavidson provided the shared vision statement for the Unified Land Management System (ULMS). The Board engaged in a discussion as to the process and next steps for crafting the draft Policies and Procedures document.

Report from Treasurer:

Board Treasurer, Paul Leger, presented the 2016 year-end budget as well as a draft budget for 2017.

◇ Motion to approve the 2016 and 2017 PLB budgets [**Fontana/Lavelle**]. Passed unanimously.

BDavidson provided an update on the procurement activities as requested at the June board meeting, as well as an update on draft procurement policies. Currently, the board has been using the URA's procurement process as part of the Memorandum of Agreement. The URA process will be used as a baseline for further development.

Chair Burgess acknowledged that the passage of a budget allows the PLB to re-engage the philanthropic community to raise funds and will work with the Executive Committee and Administrator on pursuing foundation resources to ensure alignment with other related requests and activities.

Report from Communications Committee:

Communications Chair Sherry-Torres provided a report on the activities of the Communications Committee. At the request of the Administrator, she introduced a social media policy for use of twitter to additionally advertise PLB meetings, activities, and information.

◇ Motion to receive Communications Committee Report and approve social media policy [**Bey/Fontana**]. Passed unanimously.

The Board requested a deadline for determination of a community engagement and communications contract with PCRG prior to the September Board meeting.

◇ Motion to request an answer of September 1st from PCRG and authorize the Communication Committee to procure a vendor, if not PCRG [**Leger/Bey**]. Passed with one Nay (Abrams)

State Legislative Update:

Sen. Fontana introduced HB 1500 to the PLB Board regarding a clarification to Title 68, the State Land Bank Act, ensuring land banks are exempt from state realty transfer tax.

◇ Motion was made to empower the Chair to send an official letter on behalf of the PLB to the Commonwealth regarding the PLB's support of HB1500 [**Sherry-Torres/Leger**]. Passed unanimously.

Discussion:

BDavidson reminded the Board members of the upcoming PLB Board training session with Center for Community Progress, as well as the Federal Reserve's session on Land Banks and the upcoming September national vacant property conference.

TKail-Smith thanked Director Abrams once again for her service to the PLB and communities across the City.

Chair Burgess congratulated Councilman Lavelle on the introduction of the Housing Opportunity Fund and noted the potential role and impact the PLB may play in affordable housing in the City.

◇ Motion to recess in the month of August [**Bey/Leger**]. Passed unanimously.

Adjournment:

◇ Motion to adjourn [**Bey/Fontana**]. Passed unanimously.