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## **Pittsburgh Land Bank [PLB] Minutes**

**September 10, 2021**

### **Convene:**

The Chair called meeting to order.

### **Roll Call:**

Greg Miller called the Roll assisted by Dr. Diamonte Walker after technical difficulties. Members Present: Rev. Ricky Burgess; Dr. Jamil Bey; R. Daniel Lavelle; Doug Anderson; Senator Fontana; Councilman Bobby Wilson; Wanda Wilson

### **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

◇ Motion to approve the July 2021 Board meeting minutes [**Wilson/Bey**] Passed unanimously

### **Chairman's Report:**

Rev. Ricky Burgess reported on the authorization to enter into a Cooperation Agreement with URA to accept the 2021-2024 American Rescue Act Plan (ARP) funding. Rev. Ricky Burgess also welcomed councilman Bobby Wilson to the PLB Board.

◇ Motion to accept the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding [**Bey/Lavelle**] Passed unanimously

### **Executive Director's Report:**

- Welcome PULSE Fellow Emily Kauchak!
  - Dr. Walker welcomed Emily who will be supporting the 'Public Properties Front Door' to work with CDC coordination and collaboration and assist Greg Miller in performing analysis of vacant and abandoned properties for the PLB
- LandCare Cooperation Agreement with the URA and City funded by (ARPA)
  - Greg Miller explained that staff is seeking authorization from PLB Board to enter into an agreement with City and URA for a LandCare program that will allow PLB staff to identify city-owned properties in and around the 'Avenues of Hope' that can be maintained under the PLB's LandCare contract and paid for by the PLB via the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

- Councilman Bobby Wilson and Wanda Wilson expressed concern over the PLB managing City-owned properties and questioned how this program fits into the mission of the PLB
- Wanda Wilson stated there was not enough information provided to the board in the board packet. The board packet will make it clear that properties maintained by PLB will become PLB-owned properties. Dr. Walker and Greg Miller assured the board that more information will be provided at the next meeting

#### Property Updates – A goal to pilot a PLB Disposition Process

- 6 Boggs Avenue
  - Greg Miller reported there are 11 interested buyers, each received Property Transfer Applications that ask for general project proposal, funding source, and a history of properties owned by the applicant
  - Property Transfer Applications are due Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - PLB/URA will vet applications and nominate an applicant to the PLB board at the next meeting
- 243 Meadow Street
  - The PLB has contracted counsel (Dickie McCamey) who has filed action to Quiet Petition with courts. Counsel is working with two appearances to the filing to resolve outstanding issues to execute Quiet Title
- Notification of Acquisition of 6 URA-owned properties to the PLB
  - Properties will support PLB's mission of creating affordable homeownership opportunities, supporting neighborhood vitality, and contributing to the city's tax base
  - This will pave the way for future partnerships with multiple organizations
  - Councilman Bobby Wilson raised questions about the acquisition process for the PLB. These were answered by Dr. Walker who stated that the PLB can only acquire properties that it maintains. Further questions posed by Wanda Wilson who commented on the properties stuck in the PPR; she believes that we should prioritize those properties
  - Councilman Lavelle reassured the PLB Board that policies and procedures for acquisition and disposition are already in place and that the board must take on small project to prepare itself for large projects
  - Wanda Wilson requested more information about these projects/proposals in the board packet, which will be written by the PULSE Fellow Emily Kauchak

#### Outstanding PLB Agreements Update

- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Memorandum of Understanding
  - Greg Miller explained that this would establish a process where PWSA and PLB work on a property-by-property basis to forgive outstanding liens with the knowledge that the PLB will return property to an active use or resolve outstanding liens through a settlement

#### Finance Report:

- Greg Miller reviewed the July 2021 Expenditures

◇ Motion to approve the July 2021 Expenditures **[Fontana/Bey]** Passed unanimously

## **Legislative Updates:**

Senator Fontana discussed the following:

- Municipal Claims Tax Lien Law (MCTTL)
  - Senator Fontana reported on September 22, the Bipartisan and Bicameral Blight Task Force will be meeting to discuss several bills, one of them being SB 811 and HB 1750: Changes to MCTLL for Cities of the Second Class
  - In advance of the task force meeting, Senator Fontana will be distributing a letter to members of the House and Senate Urban Affairs Committee, asking them to consider this bill in the Fall 2021 Session

## **Public Comment:**

There was no public comment.

## **New Business**

- **[Dr. Bey]** Inquired again about reaching out to the School Board for representation on the Pittsburgh Land Bank Board
- **[Rev. Burgess]** Agreed and suggested PLB should have a formal negotiation and/or MOU with the School Board
- **[Dr. Walker]** Reiterated that PLB staff have reached out to the School Board, which is currently in transition. This conversation will have to be brought to the City Council level for a discussion about changes in legislation. Dr. Walker recommended performing a formal briefing to consider how we engage with the School Board moving forward and build trust between governmental organizations.

## **Adjournment:**

The Chair called for adjournment.

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