

**City of Valdosta Land Bank Authority**  
**Monthly Meeting – Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2016 9:00 a.m.**

City of Valdosta – City Hall Annex, Engineering Conference Room

**Members Present:** Commissioner Joyce E. Evans, Burk Sherwood, Frank Morman

**Others Present:** William (Billy) Steinberg, Vanassa Flucas, Carmella Braswell

**Guest:** Councilwoman Sandra Tooley

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Frank Morman at 9:08 a.m.

Mr. Morman confirmed that all committee members present, had opportunity to review the February Meeting Minutes. Due to minor errors within the minutes, ratification will be withheld until corrections can be made and minutes re-evaluated at the next meeting.

The Authority Membership Renewals for County were acknowledged. Commissioner Joyce Evans has been reappointed. Mr. Morman did have a question regarding her Commissioner Appointment-if Ms. Evans were to no longer continue as a County Commissioner, does she stay on and fulfill her role within the Land Bank Authority, or does she have to be removed? Ms. Flucas will confirm what the rules are regarding the County selections. Mr. Morman was also acknowledged for his reappointment to the Land Bank for another four year term. Mr. Morman shared his thoughts and that he looks to get more involved.

Introduction of Ms. Carmella Braswell as a staff member to the Land Bank Authority was made. Ms. Braswell will act as the County's liaison between the Land Bank Authority and the Lowndes County citizens in a similar fashion to the way Ms. Flucas is the liaison for the City of Valdosta.

Ms. Flucas shared the inclusion of the Land Bank Authority's webpage on the County's website and how the addition of Ms. Braswell will help us better reach more of our county residents. This will make our Land Bank stronger, by working together.

Mr. Morman, wants to establish a procedure and process for making a decision on how we go about making the Authority's Appointment. Ms. Flucas suggested this topic be discuss at length during the retreat.

Retreat date and time was reconfirmed. The retreat will fall on the same date as the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, but it will be extended. The retreat will be on Wednesday May 18, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. We are scheduled to meet in the Engineering Conference room. We may not need the entire time, but this will all depend on the agenda topics. The topics need to be confirmed before end of meeting today.

Mr. Sherwood and Mr. Steinberg brought up a topic to discuss funding sources for the Land Bank.

Mr. Morman proposed we need to establish some type of training, or an annual training (whether it be local or through conferences) requirement for Land Bank Authority members.

Ms. Flucas reminded the Authority the group "Center for Community Progress" is the group holding the Land Bank Conference this coming fall. This group is a great resource for providing opportunities through conferences and webinars offered. We could establish in our Land Bank Authority, each member be required to attend (at least (1) one) webinar and/or conference to gain a certain number of hours yearly.

These hours can be completed in person at a conference, or by the web for continuing education on Land Banks and Land Banking. Mr. Morman agreed, but stated it was not necessarily about the need for credit hours but to be aware of programs and be current with what is going on with Land Banks.

Commissioner Evans said we need to also look to educate more of the community. There are many citizens that come to her with questions who do not understand what the Land Bank is and what it does. Public Awareness was added to the retreat topics.

Mr. Morman turned the meeting over to Ms. Flucas at this time.

Ms. Flucas provided new information on the (4) four parcels discussed at the previous meeting.

The (4) parcels are:

111 Second Avenue

113 Second Avenue

715 Hill Terrace Terrace

716 Hill Terrace Terrace

Ms. Hall, the current owner, had Habitat appraise the parcels. She now believes her parcels are valued at \$7000 each.

We believe this was a misunderstanding and perhaps the appraisal was for \$7000 for all combined.

Typically properties are purchased for the value assessed on the Lowndes County website.

For now the decision is to discuss and confirm the parcels with Mr. Stuart Mullis with Habitat and see if Habitat has any direct interest in these parcels. Motion was made to table any further discussion until more information can be obtained. Motion was seconded. This topic will be tabled.

Parcel 808 First. We acquired this parcel during the swap made to Mr. Rountree. We have a citizen Mr. Gibson interested in purchasing this parcel.

Parcel 806 adjacent to 808 was offered to the land bank for sale. The current owner, Ms. Chaney would like to sell for the property value at \$600.00. She claims to only owe \$29.65 on taxes. The suggestion was made to contact Mr. Gibson and ask if he would like to purchase both properties. (808 and 806).

Parcel 822 E Brookwood. There is interest in the purchase of this property. A motion was made to move on discussions for the sale of property. Sherwood and Evans seconded.

Ms. Flucas reminded the Authority members of the Savannah Tour. The date is Saturday, April 30. Note was made to contact and confirm Mr. Mark Stalvey of the Public Housing Authority will attend along with a VSU Representative.

Recap of Retreat Objectives:

The agenda for the upcoming retreat will be to discuss the following:

Land Bank Appointee/Policy

Funding Sources

Training Requirement for membership / yearly requirements

Increase Public Awareness of Land Banking

Goals (2-5 years)

Land Bank Appointment

\* Lake Park/Hahira Considerations

- \* City Staff to obtain the City applicants for Land Bank Appointee
- \* Evans/Braswell will forward the County applicants.

There were no additional items on the agenda. Mr. Morman moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.