

City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority
Monthly Meeting – Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2017 9:00 a.m.

City of Valdosta – City Hall Annex, Multi-Purpose Room

Members Present: Jason Dove, Commissioner Joyce E. Evans, Frank Morman, Jack Oliver, and Karla Walker

Others Present: Vanassa Flucas, Carmella Braswell, Sarah Lowe and William (Billy) Steinberg

Guests Present: Kate Hogan, Becky Tydings, Kristi Minor, Randall Walker, Sheryl Frazier, Brooke Newby, Kimberly Lowe, Africa Porter and Robert Smith

The meeting was called to order by 9:12 a.m. with a moment of silence requested by Mr. Morman.

Meeting Minutes from the November meeting were reviewed. Mr. Dove called for a motion to approve the November minutes as written. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion. All approved the November minutes.

Mr. Morman welcomed and acknowledged the guests then turned the meeting over to Ms. Flucas.

Ms. Flucas provided a brief introduction of the City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority to the guests. Opportunity was given for all present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Morman provided additional history of the City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority. There was a questions from a guest regarding our members. Ms. Flucas clarified for our guests the adoption of the 2012 Legislation and the expansion of the members. In addition Ms. Flucas detailed our meeting times and schedule along with some of the other implementations made within the past year. More information regarding the nature of operations for the City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority will be shared with the visiting guests after the regular agenda items have been covered.

Changes / Updates for the City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority Bylaws was discussed. A question was presented at the November meeting as to whether or not legal representation was required at each meeting. The concern was due to the cost associated with having such representation. During the research, the review showed the need to update the existing documents. We were unable to locate an official bylaw but we have the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Handout of the Agreement along with a hard copy of the 2012 Legislation adopted last year was distributed to the members. Ms. Flucas walked through some of the areas needing immediate attention. Mr. Steinberg also mentioned the need to update the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement. Mr. Steinberg clarified, now that we have all members selected we are officially able to operate under the new Resolution adopted with the inclusion of the 2012 Legislation. Mr. Steinberg further instructed the need to bring this agreement current as it is dated 1999. Mr. Morman agreed and clarified some of the reason behind going into these discussions for the guests and newer members. Mr. Steinberg suggested we draft a newer agreement and have it circulated through the Land Bank Members prior to submitting to the governing bodies. Ms. Flucas reminded all to go through the existing agreement and materials distributed and notate any other corrections needing to be addressed. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

Ms. Flucas provided information on funding sources through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Land Bank could utilize this source of funding but there are restrictions as CDBG funds can only be used within the City. Ms. Flucas will be submitting a FY17 (Fiscal Year 2017) CDBG Budget to the City for approval. Ms. Flucas asked the members to consider a realistic amount to be

considered and therefore used in the budget to allocate towards the Land Bank from the CDBG funds. It is important to look for additional sources of funding as we continue to have expenses.

Tax Commissioner / School Board meetings discussed.

Commissioner Evans suggested we hold off on approaching the Tax Commissioner for a meeting at this time. We need to give him time to become better acclimated to his newly appointed office.

Commissioner Evans suggested to Ms. Flucas to submit a formal letter to meet with the new Tax Commissioner to get on his calendar, and to provide him more information about the Land Bank Authority. Ms. Flucas informed the School Board is open to meeting with the Land Bank Authority at the next retreat, scheduled for March 30th. However if it would be better to push this back, there will be another opportunity at the fall retreat. The consensus from the Land Bank Authority was to hold off on the School Board Meeting until after we have had opportunity to meet with the Tax Commissioner. Ms. Flucas will compose a letter for the Tax Commissioner and will present to Mr. Morman for review since this will be written on behalf of the Land Bank Authority Chairman.

Parcel Tour. As discussed in the previous meeting, we currently have five parcels maintained by the Land Bank Authority. Parcels included:

- 822 E Brookwood Drive
- 830 E Brookwood Drive
- 808 First Avenue
- 106 W MLK Drive
- 303 Wisenbaker Lane

The Neighborhood Development staff will facilitate the tour during our next meeting in February. We will have a van reserved and ready to provide transportation.

At this time the meeting moved to open discussions.

Mr. Oliver asked about parcels owned by Land Bank but not showing up on the inventory.

Ms. Flucas explained at one time there may have been properties owned by the City but never changed from the Land Bank. Mr. Steinberg further clarified some of this history and the Land Bank being used as a conduit. Further research will be done to confirm these details so the Land Bank can decide on a resolution.

There were no other additional items for discussion. Mr. Morman thanked all for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.