

City of Valdosta-Lowndes County Land Bank Authority
Monthly Meeting & Retreat – Minutes
Wednesday, May 17, 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, Burke Sherwood, Councilwoman Sandra Tooley and Karla Walker

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

Guests Present: Sally Turner Querin and Jerome Tucker

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. followed by a moment of silence requested by Mr. Morman.

Meeting Minutes from the March Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Sherwood made a motion to approve the minutes as written. A second was given by Commissioner Evans. All approved. March Minutes have been ratified.

Guests were acknowledged and welcomed.

Ms. Flucas reminded the members and guests this meeting was the last meeting before summer. We will reconvene in August. An overview was provided on the Land Bank Training and Outreach initiatives.

Land Bank Authority budget and sustainability was discussed. The current balance as of April 25th is \$95,129.60.

Mr. Sherwood shared concerns and suggestions towards moving on properties over the summer. Mr. Sherwood included information, resources we can utilize. By taking action the citizens will see and better understand what the Land Bank can do for our community. Suggestions included reaching out to Don Sirmans who has a lot of information, knowledge and resources. It was also suggested for the Authority to speak with Stuart Mullins from Habitat over the summer. It was agreed that Neighborhood Development staff would coordinate a meeting to be held with Tax Commissioner Cain over the next month (in June), to include Land Bank Authority Chair Mr. Frank Morman along with City Representative Ms. Flucas and County Representative Ms. Braswell. There will be a follow up meeting with Mr. Sirmans and Mr. Sherwood one the Tax breakdown has been decided.

Mr. Oliver suggested we have a news article to report on what it is the Land Bank does to the citizens. Mr. Oliver continued to suggest he and Mr. Dove could present information to the Board of Realtors. Realtors are out in the field and can be one more resource to utilize.

The Inter Local Agreement reviewed and portions clarified. More will be discussed further when the draft is completed. Mr. Steinberg is planning to have a final draft available by next meeting time in August.

Ms. Flucas spoke with Mr. Barber about insurance for Land Bank Authority Directors and Officers and conveyed to the Authority she would further confirm the details and if insurance is needed she would have quotes available at the August meeting.

Guest Mr. Tucker shared information with the Authority on the USDA-Rural Development and how it could be a resource for the Land Bank. Mr. Tucker provided an overview of the USDA and some of the many services provided. He informed the Authority of an event on June 15, 2017 and the Authority

agreed to have representatives available to provide Land Bank information and resources during the event.

Guest Ms. Querin suggested we also speak with John Stephens from the newspaper to run a “Spotlight” article.

Next Steps for the Land Bank Authority were reviewed.

1. Talk with Tax Commissioner
2. Build Inventory

Open Discussion

Mr. Sherwood suggested we look at the current parcels in our inventory. Some of these parcels are not considered buildable. We need to reach out to the landowners adjacent to these parcels to see if there is an interested. It was agreed to have Neighborhood Development staff reach out to the adjacent landowners and have answers by end of summer so when we meet in August we can move forward with decisions by the Authority.

Mr. Morman took the opportunity to go around the room and allow member and guest the floor to share suggestions.

Guest, Ms. Querin suggested the Land Bank should also look to the Master Plans created by both the City and the County to help us determine the best interest regarding any future plans for a potential parcel.

Ms. Flucas acknowledged and applauded the movement and actions taking place in the Land Bank Authority.

Closing remarks and thanks were given by Mr. Morman. There were no further items for discussion. The meeting adjourned by 11:35 a.m.