

LAND BANK AUTHORITY MINUTES

Special Call Meeting

Time: Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 12:00PM-1:00PM

Place: Annex 1st Floor Conference Room, 420 10th St.

Call to Order: Robert Scott, 12:02 p.m.

Attendance (in person): Sherrie Aaron, Carson Cummins, Michelle Williams, Tomeika Farley, and Steve Anthony

Staff: Robert Scott, Aysia Merritt, Mary B. Garcia

Visitors: None

1. **Director's Report:**

Director Scott discussed his recent trip to D.C, where he met with Senator Jon Ossoff and Congressman Sanford Bishop where he talked about the Land Bank's contribution to Columbus. Director Scott shared that the board needed additional supplies (more blue notebooks). He also shared that during the meeting, the board needed to re-appoint several board members whose terms were ending.

2. **Motion to re-appoint Sherrie Aaron, Steve Anthony, and Michelle Williams to the Land Bank Authority Board.**

1st: Tomeika Farley

2nd: Carson Cummings

All in favor. No objections. Motion passes.

3. **Curtis St Reno Update**

Real estate specialist Aysia Merritt provided the applicant's timeline of vandalism at the property, proof of insurance and police report. Ms. Merritt shared that the applicant (Mr. Josh Nicholson) had not submitted an insurance claim due to the claim "not being worth it."

Ms. Williams asked about the amount of the applicant's deductible. Board members discussed the property and the contractors on the property. Board members stated that they need a policy for property buyers regarding deductibles and all other financial concerns. Director Scott shared that the applicant was attempting to get a loan to finish the renovation. He added that the applicant was unable to get the loan until the deed was released. Ms. Williams pointed out that the board would not want to set precedents that could lead to abandonment. Ms. Aaron concurred, stating that she did not want to set precedents to release deeds.

Director Scott discussed other examples of deeds that had been released prematurely and issues that occurred. However, he stated that the applicant at Curtis Street was trying to do something unlike at previously released properties. Ms. Farley asked if the

applicant needed more time. Ms. Aaron asked if the board released the deed and if the applicant remained non-compliant, whether the board could review the project at a later time and decide whether or not to work with him again in the future.

The board discussed a timeframe to check back in with the applicant if the deed were released. Ms. Aaron inquired if, once the deed is released, the board could still claw back the property. Director Scott stated no. Ms. Farley inquired about what would happen if the applicant does not keep his word since he does not live in this area. Ms. Aaron pointed out her research that showed that other Land Banks did not allow private citizens to invest - only contractors or other professionals.

The board members discussed whether to release the deed or request additional information from the applicant on his insurance policy type and other questions. Ms. Farley inquired about what would happen if the board did not release the deed. Mr. Anthony suggested releasing the property and asked what the best option would be to accomplish that. Mr. Cummings pointed out that the applicant was putting the work in and trying.

4. **Motion to allow for a conditional release with a 3-month update after securing financial backing and notification to Land Bank immediately upon obtaining funding.**

1st: Steve Anthony

2nd: Michelle Williams

All in favor. No objections. Motion passes.

5. **Call to Adjourn** Sherrie makes motion to adjourn 12: 27 pm.