

MEETING MINUTES OF THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY
LAND TRANSACTIONS COMMITTEE

April 16, 2014

Land Transactions Committee of the Cook County Land Bank Authority met pursuant to notice on April 16, 2014 at 8:30 AM in the offices of the Metropolitan Planning Council, 140 South Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Committee Chair Friedman called the meeting of the Land Transactions Committee to order.

Present: Directors Friedman, Gainer, Helmer, Ostenburg, Planey, Porras, Ware (7)

Absent: Directors Brawley, Dworkin, Jenkins (3)

Also Present: **Brian White** (*CCLBA Executive Director*), **Director Grisham** (*via conference call*)

Others Present: **Jaquie Algee** (*SEIU Healthcare*), **Anthony Allen** (*Concerned Citizen*), **Bob Benjamin** (*Cook County Treasurer's Office*), **Princess Benson** (*Lotus Design 44*), **George Blakemore** (*Concerned Citizen*), **Mickey Grayson** (*United States Receiver*), **Annette Jones** (*SEIU Healthcare*), **Aaron Lockhart** (*Global Real Estate*), **Sheikess D. Love EL** (*Moorish Science Temple of America*), **Stephanie Milito** (*Cook County Planning*), **Dolphn Norris** (*Life Builders United*), **James Simmons** (*CRO/REC*), **Geraldine Smith** (*Life Builders United*), **Vincent Walker** (*Cook County Environmental Control*)

Chairwoman Gainer, seconded by Director Helmer, moved to allow Director Grisham to participate in the meeting via conference call. **The motion carried unanimously.**

II. Public Speakers

Committee Chair Friedman noted there were four public speakers registered: **George Blakemore** (*Concerned Citizen*), **Dolphn Norris** (*Life Builders United*), **Geraldine Smith** (*Life Builders United*), **Anthony Allen** (*Concerned Citizen*)

III. Review of Land Transactions Policies & Procedures

Committee Chair Friedman opened the discussion to review the CCLBA Policies & Procedures for Property Acquisition and Disposition. Brian White noted that in general, the policies work well, but making changes to the policies could create more flexibility for the Board.

Brian White also commented that posting the types of properties CCLBA is acquiring and/or looking to acquire on the website would create more transparency for the acquisition process. Brian noted that he has been working on a preliminary application for donating property to or acquiring property from CCLBA. These were shared with the Committee for review and comment. Chairwoman Gainer suggested it might be helpful to set up the website so as to solicit public feedback. **No action taken.**

IV. Executive Director Report

Brian White, CCLBA Executive Director, delivered a presentation on the progress of the CCLBA land transactions strategy. The report summarized three key objectives: developing incoming and outgoing property flow, creating standard processes, and increasing capacity and staffing. To develop a flow for incoming and outgoing property, CCLBA has drafted pre-qualification forms for property acquisition and disposition, which were shared with the Committee for review. Director Porras noted that it is also important to consider environmental impact in the pre-qualification assessment.

Director Friedman inquired how CCLBA would ensure that parties receiving property from CCLBA execute their proposed plans for the property. Brian White responded that there are a few options, but he would prefer to transfer property as efficiently as possible. Brian noted that this is why CCLBA is spending time to develop a pre-qualification process. Director Porras commented that it is important that applicants show financial capacity to execute their plans for property received from CCLBA.

Director Helmer inquired about the length of time properties held by CCLBA would be property tax-exempt. Brian White responded CCLBA is not anticipating giving tax abatements going forward as standard procedure.

Brian White noted that there are three employment opportunities with CCLBA posted on the Cook County employment website. **No action taken.**

V. Report from Committee Chair

Committee Chair Friedman reminded meeting participants that all documents from the meeting are available on the CCLBA website – www.CookCountyLandBank.org. **No action taken.**

VII. Adjournment

Director Ware, seconded by Director Helmer, moved to adjourn. **THE MOTION CARRIED AND THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.**

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors of the Cook County Land Bank Authority

Peter Friedman, Committee Chair