

MEETING MINUTES OF THE COOK COUNTY LAND BANK AUTHORITY
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

March 25, 2014

Sustainability Committee of the Cook County Land Bank Authority met pursuant to notice on March 25, 2014 at 11:00 AM in the offices of the Metropolitan Planning Council, 140 South Dearborn, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairwoman Brawley called the meeting of the Sustainability Committee to order.

Present: Directors Brawley, Dworkin, Ostenburg, Planey, Saffo (5)

Absent: Director Gainer (1)

Also Present: Brian White (CCLBA Executive Director)

Other Present: **Bob Benjamin** (*Cook County Treasurer's Office*), **Derek Bender** (*Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore's Office*), **Charles Brown** (*Action Now*), **Adam Gross** (*BPI Institute*), **Amy Ellingson** (*Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer's Office*), **Abin Kuriakose** (*Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer's Office*), **Phyllis Logan** (*Universal Housing Solutions CDC*), **Grady Norwood Jr** (*Chicagoland Black Chamber of Commerce*), **Andrea Paxton** (*Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce*), **Courtney Poyer** (*Cook County Bureau of Economic Development*), **Vincent Walle** (*Cook County Government, IL*), **Bryant Williams** (*Cook County Department of Environmental Control*)

II. Public Speakers

Chairwoman Brawley noted there was one public speaker registered:

Andrea Paxton (*Illinois Black Chamber of Commerce*)

III. Review of Sustainability Committee Priorities

Chairwoman Brawley opened the discussion to reaffirm the goals, role and priorities of the CCLBA Sustainability Committee. She invited all committee members and Brian White, CCLBA Executive Director, to share their views and recommendations.

Brian White, CCLBA Executive Director noted that the Cook County Land Bank Policies & Procedures identifies opportunities and priorities for the Sustainability Committee to operationalize.

Director Ostenburg commented the committee should take on a broad view of sustainability with a holistic approach. Opportunities include water conservation and stormwater management, transit-oriented and infill development with residential or commercial properties and economic

development of a given community. Director Ostenburg offered a recommendation for the committee to create a sustainability checklist for future CCLBA acquisition and disposition.

Director Planey commented on the distinction between sustainability activities for parcels held in the short-term by CCLBA versus a long-term strategy when implementing sustainable practices. Director Planey also noted the committee should be proactive in collaborating with local governments and community groups. Director Planey inquired about a detailed study on costs of demolition versus deconstruction.

Director Dworkin commented on the opportunity for job creation through future CCLBA demolition activities.

Chairwoman Brawley commented that sustainability in regards to property use requires community engagement the goal of addressing community needs, which is a role the Sustainability Committee can help play. Director Dworkin added that CCLBA community engagement is a full board responsibility that may go beyond just the Sustainability Committee.

Brian commented that the Sustainability Committee should create a list of key priorities it would like to see from community and partner organizations of the CCLBA when it comes to acquisition and disposition of real property.

Director Saffo commented that identifying community needs for the Sustainability Committee requires direct interaction with the community, which would require CCLBA to have “boots on the ground” to engage communities in a meaningful way. Brian also added that the CCLBA should communicate that the agency is open to ideas and wants to work with communities/organizations that bring forward specific plans for how CCLBA can be impactful.

Director Saffo commented that CCLBA must make a conscious effort to communicate that CCLBA would like to be a partner to communities.

Director Ostenburg commented that the Sustainability Committee has a role to play in educating the general public, including elected officials, on CCLBA’s mission.

Brian noted that CCLBA at this current time must be mindful of a limited budget and funding capacity. He also commented that he sees CCLBA playing a useful role as a connection point between municipalities and project leaders like Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and community-based project proponents. Brian noted that CookCountyLandBank.org can be a useful portal for information and reports for organizations/municipalities considering development projects and for the community to learn about the role that CCLBA can play.

Director Brawley reviewed a list of Sustainability Committee priorities generated by the discussion: awareness of CCLBA’s mission and services, community engagement & outreach, job creation, environmental conservation, productive use of vacant lots, water management, transit development and energy conservation.

Director Ostenburg, seconded by Director Planey, moved to approve a motion to instruct Brian White, CCLBA Executive Director and Commissioner Bridget Gainer's Office to draft a Sustainability Committee mission statement and priorities document. **The motion carried unanimously.**

IV. Consideration of "Best Practices in Sustainability"

Chairwoman Brawley introduced a project coordinated by her, Brian and Commissioner Bridget Gainer's Office to review and collect information on the best practices in sustainability for land bank organizations.

Director Ostenburg commented that the review of best practices in sustainability should not just be limited to land bank organization but also municipalities and other comparable community organizations which may coordinate sustainability activities relevant to CCLBA.

Brian requested for the members of the Sustainability Committee to send him names of organizations or relevant reports that would be helpful for the review.

Director Planey noted that the Chicago Botanic Garden and Openlands may be two local organizations to consider in the review for best practices. **No action taken.**

V. Reports from Committee Members

Chairwoman Brawley invited committee members to offer updates to the committee since the last meeting.

Director Saffo reported that Commissioner Bridget Gainer (CCLBA Board Chairwoman) delivered a presentation on CCLBA to his faith-based organization which was followed by a meeting with Roseland Hospital. Potential projects for CCLBA may include Roseland Hospital and Maywood, Illinois' beautification project to improve streetscape, greenspace, street lighting and storefronts.

Chairwoman Brawley noted that there is an official CCLBA presentation from Commissioner Bridget Gainer that is available for Directors to use.

Director Planey commented on the need for CCLBA to have communication channels – such as e-mail – available for community engagement. Brian noted that the Committee should consider a separate Sustainability@CookCountyLandBank.org account. **No action taken.**

VI. Report from Committee Chair

After discussion with the committee, Chairwoman Brawley announced Sustainability Committee meetings to be scheduled for the third Tuesday of every month, to begin by 11:00 AM.

Chairwoman Brawley announced the next Sustainability Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 11:00 AM. **No action taken.**

VII. Adjournment

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

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

Emy Brawley

Emy Brawley, Committee Chair