

Mahoning County Land Reutilization Corporation
Board Meeting Minutes (Meeting #113)
October 24, 2023

Board Members in Attendance:

Daniel R. Yemma, Chair
Richard Chase
Gwen Bush
Larry Moliterno
James Harp
David Ditzler
Artie Spellman

Board Members Absent:

Carol Rimedio-Righetti

Alternate Board Members in Attendance:

Anna DeAscentis (alternate for Carol Rimedio-Righetti)

MCLRC Staff in Attendance:

Debora Flora, Executive Director
Cathie Hicks, Fiscal Officer
Roger Smith, Director of Planning, Acquisition and Disposition
Attorney Chris Sammarone

Prosecutor's Staff in Attendance:

Attorney Thomas Michaels

- Meeting was called to order by Daniel R. Yemma, Chairman at 11:40 am.
- Meeting was held at Mahoning County Land Bank office, 100 E. Federal St., Suite 300, Youngstown, OH.

Daniel R. Yemma called for the approval of the August 22, 2023 meeting minutes.

- Richard Chase made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting.
- ✓ David Ditzler seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Communication Items None

Daniel R. Yemma called for the presentation of reports.

Debora Flora presented the Executive Director's report. Items highlighted included:

Land Bank partnership with YNDC and other local partners for \$5 million grant from USDA Forest Service
Application to Community Foundation of the Valley for admin support with land bank greening initiatives
Welcome Home Ohio update
ODOD recently presented a webinar regarding BDSR #2 – information was provided to all who attended the webinar. A brownfield webinar is expected in Nov.

Previously reported communication issues with the City of Youngstown have been discussed with city officials and progress is being made. Thank you to Atty. Sammarone and Gwen Bush for their assistance.

Royal Sebring China Brownfield project update

Recent attendance at the 2023 National Land Bank Summit

Recent attendance at the Mahoning River Corridors Mayors Assoc meeting

OLBA 2024 conference scheduled for April in Akron

Recent ORC change regarding CIC's and land bank's meeting requirements

Requested that a change in the December 26, 2023 BOD meeting date to be discussed

Debora would like to resurrect the tradition of an out of office holiday lunch after the December BOD meeting to support Youngstown restaurants.

Discussion followed regarding the \$5 million USDA Forest Service grant.

- David Ditzler made a motion to accept the Executive Director's report.
- ✓ Richard Chase seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Roger Smith presented the Renovation and Demolition report. Items highlighted included:

Demolition update – commercial & residential – commercial addresses provided

Demolition update – brownfield

Housing renovations update

Mahoning County demo's update

Discussion regarding the total number of demolitions the land bank has performed took place.

Attorney Thomas Michaels presented the Mahoning County Prosecutor's report. Statistics were shared.

Discussion followed regarding volume of activity

- David Ditzler made a motion to accept the Mahoning County Prosecutor's report.
- ✓ Richard Chase seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Richard Chase presented the Finance Committee's report. Items highlighted included:

Monthly financial reports recommended for board approval

2024 Budget – preliminary review

Next meeting Monday, November 13, 2023 @ 12:00 pm

- James Harp made a motion to accept the Finance Committee's report.
- ✓ David Ditzler seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Committee	none
Personnel Committee	none
Planning Committee	none

Board Action	none
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New Business

Richard Chase asked about the procedure for reporting vacant or abandoned real estate (structures). Atty. Michaels shared that the prosecutor's office will review the request. In most cases, there is a bank foreclosure. Atty. Michaels shared that due to the Atty. Marc Dann case, most houses have to go to sheriff sale. Discussion followed regarding the need for some controls at the county level to restrict sheriff sale transfers without full payment of tax delinquency and proof the house is not on the local authority's condemnation list. Daniel R. Yemma stated that there is proposed legislation in Columbus to address some of these problems.

Atty. Sammarone shared that the MCLRC had been named in a lawsuit to stop a demolition within Youngstown City. Discussion followed.

Debora Flora will be ordering land bank fleece pullovers for all board members who are interested.

Unfinished Business none

Members Comments

Artie Spellman and James Harp were in a meeting with Rep. Johnson regarding Ohio housing availability. In order to attract residents to Ohio, more housing is needed. Perhaps Welcome Home Ohio can be of assistance. This may develop into another program for the land bank to administer to ensure longevity.

James Harp will not be seeking reelection. Discussion followed.

Box lunches are provided for all today.

Daniel R. Yemma stated that the December meeting will be held on December 12th or 19th.

- ✓ Richard Chase made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 pm
- ✓ James Harp seconded the motion.
- ✓ **Meeting adjourned.**

Minutes submitted by Cathie Hicks, Fiscal Officer, MCLRC