

Jonesboro Land Bank Commission Minutes
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
City Council Chambers, 300 South Church Street, Jonesboro, AR

1. Roll Call

Present: 7 – Derek Bowman, Daisy Freeman, Jay McLeod, Corey Mills, Dennis Zolper, Amanda Eaton, & Bob Warner

Absent: 2 – Gabe Roberts & Harold Perrin

2. Finding of a quorum

Affirmed there was a quorum.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. July 23, 2024

A motion was made by Derek Bowman to approve the minutes. Amanda Eaton seconded. The motion PASSED unanimously.

4. Old Business

A. 212 Pine

Monica Pearcy, Staff, gave the Land Bank Commissioners an update on the status of the property. Pearcy stated that the tenant has relocated and the house on the property has been secured. Staff did a walk-through of the property and changed out the locks. The next order of business is to clean and repair the property so that it can potentially be utilized as a community meeting space or office space for local nonprofit organizations.

Tony Thomas, Staff, stated the long-term goal for this property is for it to be used as park space but for now, the City could use the structure on site for several things.

Dr. Bob. Warner, Chair, asked who would be responsible for the upkeep of the property.

Tony Thomas, Staff, stated it would most likely be up to the Parks Department to maintain the site.

No action was needed.

5. New Business

A. 210 Pine

Monica Pearcy, Staff, stated the owners of 210 Pine have agreed to the purchase price of \$80,000. They reached this number after much discussion – this site was appraised at \$66,000. The goal for this vacant lot is to secure it for park expansion in the future. This lot combined

with the adjacent property (212 Pine) would provide an additional 1.85 acres of green space. In the future we hope to secure the entire block for Parker Park, she stated.

Dennis Zolper, Commissioner, asked if purchasing this lot is reasonable if there is not a current plan in place.

Dr. Bob Warner, Chair, stated securing these properties ensures the park has room for growth. The park is blocked from growing to the north due to a medical clinic being constructed.

A motion was made by Denis Zolper to approve the amount and send this request to the City Council. Corey Mills seconded. The motion PASSED unanimously.

B. 1100 S. Culberhouse

Dr. Bob Warner, Chair, provided an update for the 1100 S. Culberhouse property. He stated he has spoken with the owner of the property, and they are open to an evaluation of the property value. Dr. Warner mentioned it is not certain that the owner would sell the property due to his past plans of using the site as a location for a multifamily structure.

Amanda Eaton, Commissioner, stated it would be best to obtain an informal appraisal of the property to see if the owner would be willing to sell. She stated the informal appraisal would give us a starting point before spending a lot of funds on a professional appraisal.

A motion was made by Denis Zolper to conduct an informal appraisal for the property. Daisy Freeman seconded. The motion PASSED unanimously.

C. Little Rock Land Bank

Monica Percy, Staff, stated she is in the process of planning a visit to the Little Rock Land Bank. She wanted to extend an invitation to all commissioners as she sees it as a great learning opportunity for everyone. Percy stated the date has not been set but it would only be a day trip.

Commissioners asked that the video of the Little Rock Land Bank's previous Zoom presentation be distributed via email or viewed during the next meeting.

No action was needed.

6. Public Comments (3 minutes per person)

Shalinda Woolbright, Executive Director of NEA Divine Intervention Inc., asked if the Land Bank has assisted nonprofit organizations in the past or is interested in doing so in the future.

The Commission stated that they haven't done much in the past but would be open to it.

Woolbright stated they are looking for a new location for the NEA Divine Intervention headquarters. They would prefer a site with around 5,000 sq. ft of space that is centrally located. They are currently leasing a space but would like to purchase the new location.

7. Staff Comments

8. Adjournment