

Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank
Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 26,2023
Minutes

Present: Angela DeFelice (Vice-Chair), Brian Engles(Treasurer), Susan Fortunato (Chair), Brian Martinez, Jacob Reckess, Kari Rieser, Jordan Schinella, Heidi Seelbach, Eoin Wrafter (Secretary)

Excused /Absent: none

Staff: n/a

Others: Paul Hesse, member of the public

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by Chair Fortunato, with a quorum of Directors present.

1. **Roll Call/Introductions:** Chair Fortunato opened the meeting and asked the secretary to do a roll call.
2. **Public Comment (Agenda Items Only):** none
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the February 22, 2023 Board Meeting were approved as presented. The motion was passed unanimously. (Seelbach\Rieser)
4. **Centerstate CEO:** Paul Hesse provided the Board a review of the purpose of the Strategic and Administrative Services agreement and an update of the work done to date with Centerstate CEO. Paul then introduced Ben Sio (Chief of Staff, Senior VP), Jonathan Link Logan (Community Engagement Director and staff to the NYS Land Bank Assoc.), and Kiel Kinkaid (Research Analyst) who introduced themselves and provided an overview of the organization and the work they expect to do. They will be focusing on the board retreat and the development of the disposition policy, followed by work on the ED search.
5. **Financial Updates:**
 - a. **Statements:** The monthly financial statements as of February and March 2023 were reviewed and presented to the Board. Our current balance in our bank account at the end of March is \$228,297.68. As recommended by the auditors a revision was made to reduce our revenue from the Housing Trust Fund Corporation grant awarded in 2022 grant in the amount of \$100,000 which will be reflected when received not when awarded as initially reported. Total current assets are \$228,297.68. The Financial Statements were accepted as presented.
 - b. **2022 Audit: Brian reported to the** board that all of our PARIS reporting and the annual audit were completed and submitted on time with no issues or findings.
 - i. [Report to the Board](#)
 - ii. [Audited Financial Statement](#)
6. **Executive Director Search:** Paul Hesse updated the board on the Executive Director search and explained that a potential candidate has surfaced, an acquaintance of Jacob Reckess. Hesse

explained that this candidate has many of the skills and much of the experience sought by the board for this position. Hesse explained that both he and Eoin Wrafter had an informal conversation with the candidate to discuss the organization, the position and their interest in the position. Hesse explained that the candidate had a follow up conversation with Jacob, and they are scheduled to have another follow up with Hesse at the beginning of the week of May 1, after which it may be clear whether the board should move forward with a more formal interview process. The board agreed that the Executive Committee would handle the initial interview process should the candidate wish to move forward with the position.

7. **Logo\Branding:** Paul Hesse reviewed the various logos provided by Lauren Gill Design. There was discussion over the elements that the members liked and disliked. Paul will consolidate them and share them with Lauren for her review. She will then make revisions and provide revised logos for our review.
8. **Officer Elections:** Chair Fortunato reminded the board that at the January Meeting that the existing officers are all willing to serve another term, with the exception that Brian Engles needs to transition someone to serve as Treasurer in August since that is when his term will be expiring. Susan then asked the group if anyone was interested in the treasurer role or any other roles. No one expressed any interest. The Chair asked for a motion, it was moved by Reckess, and seconded by Seelbach, everyone in attendance voted in favor.
9. **Committee Appointments:** Chair Fortunato reminded the board that the bylaws require appointing members to the standing committees for one year terms. Susan then asked the group if anyone was interested in serving on a committee. The draft resolution was read by Eoin Wrafter, it was moved by Martinez, and seconded by DeFelice, everyone in attendance voted in favor.
10. **Updates/Member Comments/Announcements:** Paul Hesse updated the group about the status of the takings case that is in front of the Supreme Court. The Center for Community Progress expects that they may find in favor of the plaintiff and this will have implications on the property acquisition process for Land Banks. It was suggested that Land Banks should acquire any projects they can this year to build up its inventory. The State Association said that funding for the Land Banks is still being negotiated in the State budget.
11. **Public Comment:** None.
12. **Executive Session:** Not used.
13. **Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by DeFelice, seconded by Schinella. The board voted unanimously in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.