

MINUTES OF THE STARK COUNTY LAND REUTILIZATION CORPORATION  
September 18, 2023

The Stark County Land Reutilization Corporation met for their regular meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in the Stark County Regional Planning Commission Conference Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER BY SCLRC CHAIRMAN, Alex Zumbar
2. ROLL CALL – Board Members Present

Roll call found the following board members in attendance: Bill Smith, Alex Zumbar, Janet Creighton and John Arnold. Chris Hardesty arrived at 9:03.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2023 MEETING

Smith moved and Creighton seconded to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2023 meeting. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Voting Aye - Zumbar, Creighton, Arnold. Bill Smith abstained.

4. PUBLIC SPEAKS
5. TREASURER/FISCAL REPORT

Heather Cunningham reviewed the Treasurer's Report for the month of August. Creighton moved and Smith seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report for August as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Voting Aye - Hardesty, Smith, Zumbar, Creighton and Arnold.

Ohio Auditor of State Award for 2022

Zumbar stated that SCLRC has received the Ohio Auditor of State Award. This award is recognizing SCLRC's excellence in financial reporting in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and compliance with applicable laws for the fiscal year ended in 2022. Zumbar congratulated Heather Cunningham on her excellent job in handling of the Land Bank's financial reporting.

6. SIDE LOT/VACANT LOT PROGRAM REPORT  
**Sarah Peters provided the Side Lot Program Update:**

**Total Applications Submitted: 2,541**  
*(15 applications were received since August '23 update)*

Cities – 2,098  
Canton: 1,646, Massillon: 182, Alliance: 270

Other Communities – 443

Beach City – 1, Bethlehem Twp – 67, Brewster – 9, Canal Fulton – 1, Canton Twp – 84, East Canton – 7, East Sparta – 2, Hartville – 3, Jackson Twp – 6, Lake Twp – 8, Lawrence Twp – 12, Lexington Twp – 67, Limaville – 2, Louisville – 2, Marlboro – 1, Meyer's Lake – 1, Minerva – 5, Nimishillen – 6,

North Canton – 2; Osnaburg Twp – 15, Paris Twp – 3, Perry Twp – 18, Pike Twp – 21, Plain Twp – 38, Sandy Twp – 41, Sugarcreek Twp – 6, Tuscarawas Twp – 2, Washington Twp – 6, Waynesburg – 6, Wilmot-1

- 
- Total Number of Applications under Preliminary Review: 2
  - Total Number of Applications Denied: 955
  - Number of Canceled Applications/Fee Refunded: 184
  - Total Number Pending Approval by Community: 26
  - **Total Number of Approved Applications: 1,374**
- 
- Total Number of Approved Applications Pending Deposit Receipt / NIP Early Lien Release Approval / Request for Foreclosure / Completed Foreclosure Proceeding: 116
  - Total Number Being Prepared for Transfer: 60
  - **Total Number Transferred to Date: 1,198**

#### **Vacant Lot Program Update:**

##### **Total Applications Submitted: 366**

*(1 Application received since August '23 update)*

Cities – 258: Canton: 211, Alliance: 33, Massillon: 14

Other Communities – 108

Bethlehem Twp – 61, Canton Twp – 11, Hartville – 1, Jackson Twp – 3, Lake – 7, Lexington Twp – 9, Nimishillen – 3, Paris – 1, Perry – 1, Pike – 2, Sandy Twp – 7; Sugarcreek Twp – 1, Washington Twp – 4,

- 
- Total Number of Applications under Preliminary Review: 0
  - Total Number of Applications Denied: 257
  - Number of Canceled Applications/Fee Refunded: 14
  - Total Number Pending Approval by Community: 1
  - **Total Number of Approved Applications: 94**
- 
- Total Number of Approved Applications Pending Executed MOU/ Completion of Foreclosure Proceeding: 26
  - Total Number Being Prepared for Transfer: 14
  - Total Number Transferred to Date: 54

Arnold moved and Hardesty seconded to approve the Side Lot/Vacant Lot Report as submitted. Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows: Voting Aye - Hardesty, Smith, Zumbar, Creighton and Arnold.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Targeted Acquisition Assistance Requests:

- City of Alliance – Parcel #110324

Peters stated that the city of Alliance submitted a TAAP application requesting assistance in acquiring a property located on 145 West Main Street. This property is tax delinquent and unoccupied. It is the city's intent, if the Land Bank is able to acquire the property, to rehab the structure, but if it's too far gone by that time, the city would just demolish the structure. The structure looks to be in good condition from the exterior right now, so it's probably a rehab candidate for them. Creighton moved and Arnold seconded to approve the TAAP request from the city of Alliance for parcel #110324. Voting Aye - Hardesty, Smith, Zumber, Creighton and Arnold.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Bishop's Gate Update

Nau stated he had talked with John Arnold a couple of weeks ago about the Bishop's Gate property in Lake Township. Staff has moved forward and issued an RFP to auction the property. This RFP was sent to KIKO, Dimmerling, Dutton and Whipple Auctioneers. Those proposals are due Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Arnold stated that they had previously discussed selling this property through a sealed bid process, but for simplicity and to provide more transparency, it was decided that having an auction was a better idea.

Brownfield Grant Program Update

Nau stated the ODOD has announced some of the rules for the Brownfield Remediation grant program, so there is going to be funding available after the first of the year for brownfield remediation. Peters added there is \$1 million set-aside per county for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and additional funds can be applied for projects in excess of \$1 million, but it will be competitive statewide. Nau stated that Peters sent out a survey to the political subdivisions to see if they have potential properties that would qualify for that grant. ODOD has also announced additional funds for demolition and are going to allocate \$500,000 set-aside per county to the land banks; so there will also be some additional resources for demolition coming in for 2024.

Starfire Gas Station - Columbus Road Update

Nau stated the plan is to tap into the brownfield money and leverage that with the BUSTR money available. We are just waiting for the final rules to come out, so we can see what's eligible.

Stark Ceramics Update

Smith stated that he has been getting some questions from the residents on all the moving of dirt that's been going on at the Stark Ceramics property. He has gone out there and can confirm that the work has actually started.

9. NEXT MEETING - Monday, October 16, 2023 - 9:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNED