

**MINUTES
AMSTERDAM URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 2014
CITY HALL
URA OFFICES**

Board Members

Chairman Robert Martin
Michael La Coppola
Irene Collins

Excused

Anthony Pallotta
Arthur Cotugno

Absent

Mayor Thane
Liaison V Beekman

Staff

Nick Zabawsky
Anne DeGroff

Press

Jay Towne, Mohawk Valley Compass

1. **Meeting** called to order at 6: 40 PM by Chairman Bob Martin.
2. **New Board Member** Irene Collins was introduced by Chairman Martin and welcomed by all.
3. Approval of the **minutes** of the Dec 2013 meeting was accomplished on a motion made by Mr. LaCoppola, seconded by Mr. Martin and approved by all.
4. **Financial Report** was presented by Mr. Zabawsky. The cash report and list of outstanding loans were reviewed. The status of each loan was discussed, and a recommended course of action for all delinquent loans was established. Irene Collins suggested using borrower's social security numbers to trace addresses of borrowers who have left the area.
5. **Chairman's Report** Mr. Martin stated that his report centered around the Land Bank, which will be discussed later in the meeting.
6. **Report of Grants** Mr. Zabawsky presented an overview of all the current grants, with special attention given to 2012 Sewer grants and housing grants.
7. **Old Business**
 - A. **PAAA Compliance** Mr. Zabawsky reported that AURA is now in full compliance with the Public Authorities Accountability Act and our audit has been posted on the website. Our PAAA compliance manual has been updated and posted on the Agency's website. Ms. Collins had questions in regard to audit reporting separately. Mr. Zabawsky explained that our audits have to be completed within 90 days of the close of the fiscal year, whereas the City has 9 months to complete its audit. Thus, we will continue to have to have a separate audit done each year to meet PAAA deadlines.
 - B. **Arbitration** Mr. Zabawsky explained the current status of a pending arbitration suit. Mr. LaCoppola made the motion to have Mr. Zabawsky withdraw his name from arbitration and this was seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor.

8. **New Business:**

A. Mr. Zabawsky and Chairman Martin discussed the recent \$600 million settlement between the New York State Attorney General and JP Morgan and that much of this funding will go to **Land Bank** efforts. Discussion was held on how Amsterdam could benefit from this program and the current Land Bank administrative structure.

B. Consultant at 7:22 PM. On a motion by Mr. La Coppola and seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board went into executive Session to discuss two RFPs received for the AURA Consultant position. Mr. Zabawsky and Mr. Towne then left the room. Following an open discussion about the two RFP's received, a motion was made by Mr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Collins to hire Mr. Zabawsky to continue. All in favor.

C, Deed Authorization Although a small plot of land approximately 20' x 30' feet had been deeded to KCS abstract many years ago, a mistake in the filing required us to again, deed the land to KCS Mr. LaCoppola made the motion to again deed the plot to KCS and this was seconded by Mr. Martin. All in favor.

9. **Adjournment** Motion made to adjourn at 7:37 PM by Mr. Martin and seconded by Ms. Collins at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted

Anne DeGroff