VACANT PROPERTY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Room 401, Caucus Room Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Tuesday, March 11, 2014 10:11 a.m.

PRESENT:

SUSIE JARMON, OHCD - CHAIR JEANETTE LUNA JO ANN JONES, OHCD LOWELL THOMAS, PHDC MELVIS DUNBAR, RDA LINDA MEDLEY, LAW DEPARTMENT LYNSIE SOLOMON, PUBLIC PROPERTY ANDREW FRISHKOFF, LISC GARRETT O'DWYER, PACDC PAUL DANELLA, REVENUE DEPARTMENT AMANDA DAVIS, PIDC JAMETTA JOHNSON, PLANNING COMMISSION JEREMY THOMAS, COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

ALSO PRESENT:

PAULA ADAMS, COUNCILWOMAN BLACKWELL'S OFFICE

1 2 MS. JARMON: Good morning. My name is Susie Jarmon. The Vacant Property Review 3 Committee's session is ready to start. 4 5 We had a meeting scheduled last month which we didn't have a quorum, so we had to reschedule 6 the meeting for today or speak about the items 7 that were approved last month at the Vacant 8 Property Review Hearing. We are going to do the 9 February's Agenda after we do the March since 10 everyone is here for the March meeting. 11 The first item on the agenda is 432 Budd 12 13 Street, Alexi. 14 Can you give the stenographer your name? 15 MR. PAPADOULOS: Alexi Papadoulos. 16 MS. JARMON: Good morning. Want to give us 17 a little briefing on what your proposal is for the 18 the 432 Budd Street? 19 MR. PAPADOULOS: My proposal is to renovate it and rent it out. It's that simple. 20 I own 430 Budd Street, and I renovated that about a year and 21 a half ago. I bought it from a friend of mine. 22 23 And she bought it from another friend. 432's been vacant since I've, you know, 24

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known Mandy who is the previous owner. I don't 1 know how long it's been vacant. I've known her 2 about five years. I just thought it would be nice 3 if it wasn't vacant anymore, so I inquired about 4 5 it. That's pretty much my take on it. 6 7 MS. JARMON: Any questions from the 8 committee? 9 MS. DUNBAR: Do you propose to pay fair 10 market value? 11 MR. PAPADOULOS: Yes. 12 MS. DUNBAR: Motion to approve at fair 13 market value. 14 MR. O'DWYER: Second. 15 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 16 17 (Chorus of Ayes) 18 MS. JARMON: We'll be in touch. Thank you. 19 20 I skipped one item, which is a donation to 21 the City. It's a lot at 1338 South Corlies 22 Street. 23 MS. DUNBAR: Motion to accept this property 24 as a donation to the City.

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1 MR. DANELLA: Second. 2 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 3 4 (Chorus of Ayes) 5 6 MS. SOLOMON: Actually, I'm sorry. One 7 question. There is \$2,000 owed in taxes. 8 MS. JARMON: Right. Under the Donor Taker Program, those taxes, anything that is there is 9 10 wiped out. 11 MS. SOLOMON: Is there a taker? 12 MS. JARMON: It's a vacant lot and No. both of the adjacent properties are occupied. 13 We are going to contact the adjacent owners to see if 14 they're interested in receiving the lot. 15 16 MS. SOLOMON: We are taking it in and wiping the taxes without anyone coming in to start 17 18 paying taxes? 19 MS. JARMON: Say that again. 20 MS. SOLOMON: We are taking it in and wiping out the taxes, but there is nobody that's 21 going to acquire it to start paying taxes? 22 We are 23 just going to --24 MS. JARMON: Well, I am going to get in

1 touch with the two adjacent owners before we take 2 title. 3 MS. SOLOMON: Is there a reason that we are taking it in besides the person doesn't want to --4 5 MS. JARMON: Because the owner is a senior citizen, and he can't afford to pay the taxes any 6 7 longer. 8 MS. SOLOMON: Okay. MS. JARMON: 5152 Reno Street, Vincent 9 10 Smith. Going to table this. 11 5416 Whitby, Reginald Simms. 12 Good morning. 13 MR. SIMMS: Good morning. 14 MS. JARMON: Can you speak your name 15 into --16 MR. SIMMS: Reginald Simms. 17 MS. JARMON: Your proposal for the property? 18 19 MR. SIMMS: My proposal for the property is 20 to renovate it for single family home. 21 MS. JARMON: To occupy? 22 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 23 MS. JARMON: Any questions from the 24 committee?

1 MS. DUNBAR: Have you seen the property? 2 MR. SIMMS: Yes. 3 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. 4 MS. JARMON: Recommendation? 5 Motion to sell at fair market MS. DUNBAR: 6 value. 7 MR. DANELLA: Second. 8 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 9 10 (Chorus of Ayes) 11 12 MS. JARMON: Thank you. We will be in 13 touch. 14 3061 North Orianna, Joanna Garcia. 15 MS. GARCIA: Joanna Garcia. Hi. 16 MS. JARMON: You want to receive this as a side yard to the property that you already own at 17 18 3059 North Orianna? 19 MS. GARCIA: Yes, ma'am. 20 MS. JARMON: Are you willing to pay fair 21 market value? 22 MS. GARCIA: Yes. 23 MS. DUNBAR: Motion to sell at fair market 24 value.

1 MS. JONES: Second. 2 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 3 4 (Chorus of Ayes) 5 6 We will be in touch. MS. JARMON: 7 MS. GARCIA: Thank you very much. MS. JARMON: 8 1316, 1318 South Cleveland, 9 Ori Feibush. 10 MR. FEIBUSH: How are you? 11 MS. JARMON: Good morning. Mr. Feibush was 12 the successful bidder with the Redevelopment 13 Authority for these two lots. Since they were 14owned by the City, we have to take them through 15 the Vacant Property Review Committee. 16 What is your proposal for those. 17 MR. FEIBUSH: To build two single family 18 homes. 19 MS. DUNBAR: For sale, right? 20 MR. FEIBUSH: Yes. For sale. MS. DUNBAR: I guess the only question I 21 22 would have is, are you willing to go forward at 23 this point --24 MR. FEIBUSH: Yes.

1 MS. DUNBAR: -- since you were the 2 succesful bidder. Okay. Make a motion to sell at the agreed upon 3 4 price. 5 MR. O'DWYER: Second. 6 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 7 8 (Chorus of Ayes) 9 10 MS. JARMON: Thank you. 1234 North 5th Street, Chris Somers. 11 12 Good morning. 13 MR. UPIN: I am actually Mr. Somers' 14 attorney. He wasn't able to make it this morning. 15 Joshua Upin. I have authority to speak on his 16 behalf. 17 MS. DUNBAR: Say your last name again? 18 MR. UPIN: Upin, U-p-i-n. The site is 1234 North 5th Street. It's currently a vacant lot. 19 It's bounded by a multi-family dwelling to the 20 south and two additional vacant lots to the north. 21 Mr. Somers is proposing to construct a single 22 23 family home. 24 We have spoken to the community. And this

is consistent with their expressed preference. 1 2 MS. DUNBAR: Will the single family home be used for -- are you planning to -- is he planning 3 to sell it or is he planning to build and rent? 4 5 MR. UPIN: I believe he's planning to sell 6 it or actually move into it himself. 7 MS. DUNBAR: Oh, okay. So, which one? 8 MR. UPIN: Well, I suppose the ultimate 9 disposition would be contingent on whether we were able to actually acquire the property. 10 The 11 preference is to sell. But if for some reason it 12 sits on the market too long, I think Mr. Somers 13 would be prepared to move in it himself. 14 MS. JOHNSON: Are you aware it's a 15 commercial zone? 16 MR. UPIN: Yes. We are going to, provided the acquisition is approved by the committee, we 17 will begin a process of seeking variance from the 18 19 Zoning Board. 20 Mr. Upin, will Stephanie Somers MS. JONES: be taking title to this property, as well? 21 22 MR. UPIN: They are husband and wife. Yes. 23 MS. DUNBAR: Real estate brokers, right? 24 They are. They operate in this MR. UPIN:

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They live in the area. They have close 1 area. ties to the community. And I think they would be 2 the ideal candidate to help develop the 3 4 neighborhood. 5 MS. JARMON: Recommendation of the 6 committee? 7 MS. DUNBAR: Recommend that we sell at fair 8 market value. 9 MS. JONES: Second. 10 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 11 12 (Chorus of Ayes) 13 14 MS. JARMON: We will be in touch with 15 Ms. Somers. MR. UPIN: Thank you very much. 16 17 MS. JARMON: I want to take the agenda out of order. I meant to call up the attorney for New 18 Kensington, Ms. Berkman. 2130 East Susquehanna on 19 20 page 6 for a release. 21 MS. BERKMAN: Thank you, Ms. Jarmon and 22 members of the Vacant Property Review Committee. 23 My name is Judy Berkman. I'm an attorney at Regional Housing Legal Services. Here with me 24

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today is Sandy Salzman, Executive Director of New
 Kensington Community Development Corporation.

3 This property at 2130 East Susquehanna is at the corner of Trenton and Susquehanna. 4 It goes 5 along Trenton, so it provides some green space along Trenton. I have pictures if you want me to 6 7 pass them around. The Kensington acquired this property in October of 2010, and had to do an 8 extensive clean up of the property, which was a 9 10 Since then, they have kept it green and mess. 11 maintained it.

12 They keep it mowed every couple weeks in the summer and shovel to remove the snow in the 13 14 winter. They have provided the insurance. The cost since they acquired it has been about \$5,000. 15 They would be willing to continue to maintain it 16 as green property in the neighborhood. 17 They have been approached by a private developer who wishes 18 to buy it and develop it for his own personal use. 19 20 So, the market value that New Kensington thinks is from 25 to 40,000 dollars for this 21 22 The adjacent lot sold two years ago for parcel. 23 It's within the six years since they \$40,000. acquired it. According to the VPRC restrictions 24

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and the deed, they would need permission by this 1 committee to sell it. So, they are willing to 2 3 sell it to this private developer. 4 They can't make a profit, so they are 5 willing to sell it for their costs, which is 5,000. Or they are willing to continue to hold it 6 7 and just need VPRC permission to remove the restrictions since they were approached by a 8 9 private developer to acquire it. I think he's 10 going to build his own house on it. 11 MS. JONES: Didn't Kensington incur any 12 acquisition costs for this parcel? And if so, how 13 much? 14 MS. SALZMAN: No. We received it from 15 Vacant Property Review for a nominal fee. 16 MS. JONES: Thank you. 17 MS. DUNBAR: I'm not really clear as to why -- if you couldn't develop it at this point, 18 why wouldn't you just give it back to the City and 19 20 allow the City to sell it. And maybe if you can 21 recoup your cost, then recoup your costs if market 22 value is certainly in excess of \$5,000. 23 Well, because the developer MS. SALZMAN: came to us and asked us if could -- would be 24

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willing to sell it to him. We weren't ready to develop it at this period of time. Since there has been a lot of development in the area, we -the Board agreed that, you know, we would be willing to sell it to the developer since he was going to live in the property.

MS. BERKMAN: If the VPRC committee decides
some other disposition, that is your prerogative.

9 MS. DUNBAR: It would be my recommendation that the property go back to the City and the City 10 would put it up for sale. And if you would be 11 requesting additional funds in terms of whatever 12 13 costs you incurred, then you would make that 14 request as a part of it. But I would recommend that it come back to the City's ownership and we 15 16 make it available for sale.

MR. O'DWYER: Is New Kensington looking to dispose the property no matter what? You guys don't want it anymore?

20 MS. SALZMAN: Yes.

21 MR. FRISHKOFF: Just a question. If it 22 comes back to the City, what would the disposition 23 process be? Would it be under the Land Bank or as 24 a typical VPRC process?

MS. JARMON: I'm not really sure how the Land Bank is working. If we have expression of interest before that program goes into place, then we would sell it.

5 MR. FRISHKOFF: The only question I have for the City, and this is probably a Revenue 6 7 Department/Public Property question, is it 8 advantageous for the City to go through the 9 process of taking it back and selling it? Or 10 would it be better to, in a sense, place a lien on 11 the property and recoup the gains from New 12 Kensington selling it to the seller?

MS. DUNBAR: They are asking that thoseneeds be removed, those restrictions be removed.

MR. FRISHKOFF: What I heard is that you have costs that you want to cover.

MS. SALZMAN: Yeah. We would just want the coverage of the costs that we already put in the land which is approximately \$5,000.

20 MR. FRISHKOFF: If you sold it for 21 40,000 --

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MS. SALZMAN: We would not sell it for 40. We were going to sell it for the \$5,000.

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MR. FRISHKOFF: But if you sold it for

40,000, the City could recoup part of its gain. 1 2 MS. SALZMAN: But we are not allowed to 3 sell it for 40 because we haven't held it long 4 enough to sell it for the \$40,000 that we would be able to sell it for if we owned it for a long 5 6 enough period of time, which is why we were 7 suggesting the \$5,000. MR. FRISHKOFF: Then I would agree with the 8 9 recommendation that it come back to the City then. 10 MS. DUNBAR: Just in response to your 11 question that we're raising, we would just allow 12 it to go through the disposition process, which 13 would make the property available on the website, it would go through a bid process if need be. 14 But 15 perhaps the market value would allow us to get 16 more than the \$5,000 or whatever for it since it's 17 a corner property. I don't know. 18 MS. SOLOMON: Also on the Revenue end, 19 Public Property is going to the VPRC and Land 20 Bank, we don't see any money any way in the 21 general fund. It really doesn't matter. The City 22 doesn't see a dime anyway. 23 MR. O'DWYER: Under that recommendation, is 24 New Kensington able to recoup any of their

1 expenses they put into it?

2	MS. DUNBAR: Maybe there can be some sort
3	of agreement. I don't know. I'm just saying
4	instead of selling it for what you put into it, I
5	would recommend that you sell it for the fair
6	market value which probably is really in excess of
7	the \$5,000. So, that would be my recommendation.
8	And if it would be acceptable, I would make
9	that as a motion.
10	MS. SALZMAN: Would it be possible for New
11	Kensington, I mean just to expediate things, to
12	sell it in excess of \$5,000? And then I think
13	that the Redevelopment Authority has the \$10,000
14	that they want to recoup. If we were able to sell
15	it for the \$40,000, I don't know whether we can,
16	then we would pay back you the \$10,000 I mean,
17	is that something that would be possible?
18	MS. DUNBAR: I think that that's a random
19	number. I believe we would have to find out
20	really what the market value is. If it's anything
21	in excess of the \$5,000 and you would be in a
22	position to sell it for that amount, then perhaps
23	that agreement can be reached. I just think that
24	we shouldn't just sell it for 5,000. We will

authorize you to sell it for \$5,000 when, in fact, 1 2 it could be more. 3 Whatever needs to happen, needs to happen. 4 If it needs to come back to us, however we can 5 make it work, we should make it work but certainly 6 for the fair market value. 7 MR. FRISHKOFF: Yeah. I would agree. Ιf 8 there was a way to allow it to be sold by New 9 Kensington for them to recoup their costs, the 10 City to capture any of the excess -- that may be a Law Department question -- but that would be 11 12 simplest for everybody. 13 MS. DUNBAR: Yes. 14 MS. JARMON: Okay. 15 MR. O'DWYER: Would the best option be to 16 table it for now and thn have it come back? 17 MS. JARMON: I think we can -- your No. recommendation was to take it back, but then you 18 19 changed your --20 MS. DUNBAR: If there is a way to allow New 21 Kensington to sell it at fair market value, which has to be determined, then we would allow that to 22 23 happen. If the City -- I can't authorize it. Ιf 24 the City says it's okay for New Kensington to

recoup its cost from that and we get the balance, 1 2 then that would work, as well. 3 MS. MEDLEY: I am thinking maybe table it 4 and bring it back next month. You can find out 5 what the fair market value, whether it makes sense 6 to do it that way. It all depends on how much the 7 property is worth to determine the best option 8 from that. 9 MS. JARMON: Did they have an agreement of 10 sale? MS. SALZMAN: We do not have an agreement 11 12 of sale. Should we have it appraised or would the

13 VPRC or RDA have it appraised?

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14 MS. JARMON: No. You would have to do that 15 since you own it.

16 MR. LOWELL: Couldn't we make the condition 17 for release subject to an appraisal and a fair 18 market value that the City approves with them 19 getting the \$5,000 and any excess coming to the 20 City? I mean, couldn't we just make that motion? 21 And that way if you get a fair market that 22 everybody is happy with, we've moved the process, 23 if not we start from scratch.

MS. DUNBAR: I would agree with that.

Except that we would modify it. Because she's 1 saying \$5,000 was the cost that they incurred, but 2 3 we need to know what the costs were that they 4 incurred. 5 MR. LOWELL: Verified. Subject to verification. 6 7 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. So, new motion. I would like to make a motion that we allow 8 9 New Kensington to sell the property at a fair market value which will be established by an 10 11 appraisal obtained by New Kensington. And it 12 would be subject to the costs incurred by New

13 Kensington, as well, which they have to provide 14 evidence of cost incurred.

MS. JONES: The release is subject to all of that.

MR. LOWELL: Question, can we make that only subject -- the release being subject to and also the fair market value being subject to approved by the City?

21 MS. DUNBAR: Yes. Yes. Subject to that, 22 as well.

23 MS. SALZMAN: I can tell you that the lot 24 next door sold for \$40,000 two years ago.

20 1 MS. DUNBAR: That was my concern. 2 MS. JARMON: Melvis' recommendation. 3 MR. O'DWYER: Would second that. 4 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 5 6 (Chorus of Ayes) 7 8 MS. JARMON: I have to read the minutes 9 after this. 10 MS. JONES: The release is subject to a sale at fair market value established by appraisal 11 obtained by New Kensington with New Kensington 12 reimbursed for the cost of maintenance and 13 14 insurance subject to verification. 15 MR. LOWELL: And the fair market value 16 being approved by the City. 17 MS. JONES: And the fair market value 18 approved by the City. 19 MS. DUNBAR: I'm okay with that. 20 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 21 22 (Chorus of Ayes) 23 24 MS. JARMON: Thank you.

2039 West Susquehanna, Judith Robinson. 1 2 MS. ROBINSON: Judith Robinson. 3 MS. JARMON: Good morning. Can you let the committee know what your 4 5 proposal is for this lot at 2039 West Susquehanna. 6 MS. ROBINSON: Excuse me. I'm sorrv? 7 MS. JARMON: What your proposal is for the lot at 2039 West Susquehanna. 8 9 MS. ROBINSON: Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity. We are with a group called 10 Susquehanna Clean Up Pick Up. We have a 11 management contract. We have maintained and clean 12 13 this lot for the past three years. We pulled it into our contract with the Pennsylvania 14 15 Horticultural Society to clean it. And we would like to reduce the number of lots that we are 16 17 cleaning in our neighborhood. 18 And I would like to develop this lot into a mix use development commercial on the lower level 19 20 for this mix use corner of 21st and Susquehanna 21 and to apartments on the upper level, second and 22 third level. 23 MS. JARMON: You are going to build on this 24 lot?

1 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. I would like to. 2 MS. DUNBAR: This says Gardening. 3 MS. JARMON: That's not what I was 4 originally told. I was told it was going to be a 5 garden along with the Horticultural Societ. 6 MS. ROBINSON: It is under a gardening 7 agreement at this point, yes. 8 MS. DUNBAR: If I may, the question I have 9 is the authorization or support that you received from the Councilman's office, was that for a 10 garden or was that for development? 11 12 MS. ROBINSON: No. It was for development. 13 Is presently a garden or a sitting area. 14 MS. JARMON: It just says that they are 15 asking to acquire. Your proposal is to build a 16 commercial property on this lot? 17 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. A multi-unit property 18 mixed use. 19 MR. LOWELL: Ms. Robinson, you said you are 20 part of an organization. The organization is going to take title to the property or are you 21 22 going to take title? 23 We will -- I will probably MS. ROBINSON: 24 do it personally.

1 MR. LOWELL: Do you have the finances to make this mixed use? 2 3 MS. ROBINSON: Yes, I will. MS. DUNBAR: I do have a concern primarily 4 5 because the letter from the Councilman's office is 6 very brief. It just speaks about the maintenance 7 of the lot and the fact that they would be willing 8 to support the disposition of it. But I just want 9 to make sure that the Councilman's office is very 10 clear on your intention for your use. 11 What I am looking at is a garden. And what 12 you just said is totally different. 13 MS. ROBINSON: It's presently a garden 14 or -- not a garden, but a sitting lot. 15 MS. DUNBAR: Yes. 16 MS. ROBINSON: It has been for many years. 17 As I said, we have quite a few lots. We maintain 18 100 lots. At this point, we would like to reduce the number of vacancies in our community. 19 It is on a commercial corridor at Susquehanna Avenue. 20 21 We would like to start to rebuild our community. 22 Are there other vacant lots in MS. DUNBAR: 23 the 2000 block of Susquehanna? 24 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. There is one very

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1 large one. We are also maintaining that. That is 2 open space now at 2012 through 22 West 3 Susquehanna. Also, there is vacant lots at 2035 4 and 37. 5 MS. DUNBAR: Does your organization own 6 that? 7 MS. ROBINSON: None of them. We are just maintaining them through that Land Care Project 8 9 contract. And it's quite a bit to maintain. And 10 we are right off of Diamond Street where there is a substantial number of lots. 11 12 We are now trying to invite developers to 13 build on lots. We would like to have commercial to be the way it used to be, but we would like to 14 try to bring our community back with some kind of 15 16 commercial development. 17 MS. DUNBAR: Do you know whether 2035 and 18 37 are publicly owned? 19 MS. ROBINSON: They are privately owned. 20 All of the lots I mentioned are privately owned 21 except for 2012 through 22 West Susquehanna, which are people from the neighborhoods where the old 22 Lambert bar used to be. That is one vacant parcel 23 that is 14,000 square feet of open space. 24

Eventually, we will probably work with the
 Councilman's office to try to develop that large
 parcel.

MS. DUNBAR: I would recommend it be tabled at this time until we get further clarification, first of all, to make sure that the City doesn't have anything proposed for the site. Secondly, just to make sure that the Councilman's office has agreed to what's being proposed.

I would recommend that it come back next month and we go from there. Perhaps you wouldn't have to be present at the meeting, but I just think that we need further clearance.

MS. ROBINSON: This lot has been vacant for over 30 years.

16 MS. DUNBAR: I understand that. I'm not 17 disagreeing with the vacancy of the lot. I am 18 concerned about the proposed use because it's different from what we have on our paper. 19 So 20 again, because of that discrepancy, I just want to make certain that the Council President and his 21 22 office is in agreement with the proposed use. 23 MS. JONES: I second the motion to table 24 it.

26 MR. LOWELL: Ms. Robinson, are you stating 1 2 to this committee that the Councilman's office is aware of the project that you are describing and 3 is in support of it? 4 5 MS. ROBINSON: Well, I will let you do the due diligence that you all need to do. And I will 6 do the due diligence that I need to do. 7 Donna Bullock from his office wrote the letter and 8 requested that if you had any concerns, that you 9 10 contact her or his office. 11 MS. JARMON: Okav. 12 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. 13 MS. ROBINSON: I have no problem with you 14 doing that. 15 My question was, are they MR. LOWELL: 16 aware of the project that you described? And does 17 the Council President's office support that 18 project? 19 MS. ROBINSON: That's what I'm saying. Ι 20 would prefer if you all would go to him. I have 21 not given them detail of that. 22 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. 23 MS. JARMON: Not to cut you off, we are going to table this until next month. And you 24

1 will get a letter to attend. 2 MS. ROBINSON: We are trying to get rid of 3 these lots. I just want you all to be clear on that when we come down here to try to rebuild our 4 community. We are trying to move these lots per 5 6 Land Bank, et cetera. 7 MS. JARMON: Okay. 8 MS. ROBINSON: I appreciate you all. 9 MS. JARMON: Thank you. 10 4700 to 04 Westminster Avenue, Charles 11 Nygard. 12 Good morning. 13 MR. NYGARD: Good morning. Hi. I'm 14 Charles Nygard with Central City Toyata. And we 15 recently went under agreement of slae for the property known as 4706 to 14. This property 16 almost takes up a full city block here. 17 18 On the corner of 4700-4702 is a vacant lot. 19 We have over -- unanimous approval from the 20 community and Jannie Blackwell's office to move forward with this agreement of sale on this 21 property as well as taking this lot here. 22 23 We are unsure what we are going to do with 24 it. At a minimum what we are going to do is clean

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1 this thing up. There's been a lot of -- it's 2 actually a dumping ground right now for a lot of 3 trash which extends through the back. We have a lot of contractors right now dumping in this area. 4 5 We expect to go for, I think, an April 20 6 settlement on the warehouse property which is 7 going to be used just to store vehicles. 8 MS. JOHNSON: Are you aware it's 9 residentially zoned? 10 MR. NYGARD: Yes. 11 MS. JARMON: Any other questions? 12 MS. DUNBAR: You're willing to pay fair 13 market value, right? 14 MR. NYGARD: Yes, we are. 15 MS. DUNBAR: Well, I recommend that we sell 16 it to you at fair market value. 17 MS. JONES: Second. 18 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 19 20 (Chorus of Ayes) 21 22 MR. NYGARD: Thank you. 23 MS. JARMON: We will be in touch. 24 2653 North Orianna, I am going to table

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I received a letter from the Councilwoman's 1 this. office wanting us to contact the adjacent owner at 2 2651 Orianna. I sent a letter out the other day. 3 I am going to table this until next month. 4 5 The next is PHDC, Michael Koonce. 6 Properties listed are to be transferred to PHDC 7 for development package along with some other properties owned by PHDC. I don't have anyone 8 here to speak on this called the Seybert Street 9 10 Project. 11 MS. JOHNSON: Do we know what it is? What 12 type of development? 13 MS. JARMON: No. But I know it's called 14 the Seybert Street -- they are going to build 15 houses there. 16 MS. DUNBAR: Make a motion that we 17 authorize the transfer of these properties to 18 PHDC. 19 MR. FRISHKOFF: Second. 20 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 21 22 (Chorus of Ayes) 23 24 MR. LOWELL: Recuse myself.

1 MS. JARMON: Next is Urban Garden 2 Agreements, which can be accepted. 3 We are going to go into Certificates of 4 Completion. The first address is 5015 Beaumont and 5019 Beaumont, Beaumont Initiative. 5 6 Good morning. MR. STUCKER: Good morning. 7 Thank you, Ms. Jarmon and members of the VPRC. My name is 8 Jack Stucker. I'm an attorney with Regional 9 Housing Legal Services representing the Beaumont 10 Initiative in the Beaumont Accessible Homes 11 Project. That's Fred Kaufman, President of the 12 13 Beaumont Initiative. 14 The Accessible Homes Project involved the PRE Financed development of two fully physically 15 accessible home ownership properties. 16 The Beaumont Initiative acquired 5015 and 5019 17 18 Beaumont Avenue through the VPRC. Construction on these properties is now complete. 19 We are requesting release and removal of the VPRC 20 restrictions on these properties. 21 22 MS. JARMON: Recommendation of the committee or any questions? 23 24 MS. DUNBAR: Motion to remove.

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1 MR. O'DWYER: Second. 2 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 3 MR. LOWELL: Question. What were the 4 restrictions? 5 MR. STUCKER: The restrictions were that they would be developed according to the City 6 7 They have been. And that they would be plans. sold to homeowners within a period of time. 8 9 MS. DUNBAR: They've been completed. 10 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 11 12 (Chorus of Ayes) 13 14 MS. JARMON: Next addresses are 1810, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 24, and 28 West Susquehanna, Gratz 15 16 Commons Limited Partnership. MS. DUNBAR: Should one of these be 1818 17 18 or -- says 14 twice. 19 MS. JARMON: Yeah. The only one that 20 shouldn't be there is 26. 21 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. One is 16 and one is 22 18. MS. JARMON: Yeah. Gratz Commons Limited 23 24 Partnership?

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We will table that until next month. 1 911 West Seltzer Street. The applicant 2 3 sent me a letter. She just wants the restrictions 4 lifted off the deed just in case she won't -- her kids won't have a problem if, God forbid, anything 5 happens to her. She is just asking for a 6 restriction to be lifted off the deed. She's had 7 8 the property since 1991. 9 It's a residential structure? MS. DUNBAR: 10 MS. JARMON: It's a single family dwelling, 11 yes. 12 MS. DUNBAR: The pictures indicate whatever 13 should have been done was done. It's liveable. 14 MS. JARMON: Recommendation of the 15 committee? 16 MR. FRISHKOFF: So moved. 17 MS. DUNBAR: Second. 18 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 19 20 (Chorus of Ayes) 21 22 MS. JARMON: Next addresses are 1840 and 23 1842 Poplar Street. The owner is Ned McGuire. 24 Good morning.

1 MR. TAYLOR: Good morning. 2 MS. JARMON: Can you state your name. 3 MR. TAYLOR: My name is Carl Taylor. I'm the beneficiary to Mr. McGuire's estate. It is my 4 intent to sell these properties and pay the back 5 6 taxes. 7 MS. JARMON: Questions from the committee? 8 MS. DUNBAR: In the package of information 9 it said that these properties were used as side 10 yards. They appear to be in excellent condition, 11 maintained probably since its ownership. But at 12 least the pictures show that they were well maintained. 13 14 So if they did what they were supposed to do when they acquired them in 1986 and 1989, I 15 would recommend that we release the restrictions. 16 17 MR. DANELLA: Second. 18 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 19 20 (Chorus of Ayes) 21 22 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. 23 MS. JARMON: Thank you. We'll be in touch. 24 303 North 41st Street, Thomas Brawner.

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1 MR. WISE: Thank you. Good morning. 2 MS. JARMON: Good morning. 3 MR. WISE: I am just getting over a cold, so sorry about that. 4 I represent the Estate of 5 Thomas Brawner. 6 MS. DUNBAR: What's your name? 7 MR. WISE: Coren Wise, W-i-s-e. We are 8 seeking the release of restrictions on the deed from the RDA from 1990 when Mr. Brawner originally 9 received the property. Mr. Brawner passed away in 10 11 And there's a little bit of history on this 1991. 12 property. 13 He passed away in 1991. And over the past couple of years, a couple deeds that were found to 14 be fraudulent were executed against the property. 15 16 The matter was taken up with the Court of Common 17 Pleas. Judge Fox entered an order January 30 of 18 this year striking fraudulent deeds. And then a 19 deed was recorded by the Recorder of Deeds bringing the property back into the estate dated 20 21 February 4 of this year. 22 At this point, we are seeking to list the 23 properties for sale to cover back taxes, cost of 24 fees incurred by the Estate. The property has not

been listed yet, but conference with the title 1 company is expressed that the restrictions present 2 the title issue. So, we are seeking the release 3 of the restrictions in the 1990 deed. 4 5 MS. JARMON: Any questions? 6 MS. DUNBAR: I recommend the release of the 7 restrictions. 8 MS. JONES: Second. 9 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 10 11 (Chorus of Ayes) 12 13 MR. WISE: Thank you very much. 14 MS. JARMON: Next addresses are 1541, 43, 45, 47 and 49 Adams Avenue, Carl Forcillo. 15 16 Good morning. 17 MR. FORCILLO: Carl Forcillo. 18 MS. JARMON: Let the committee know what 19 your --20 MR. FORCILLO: Looking to sell the properties. I have tried to develop to no 21 22 success. And I one piece of parcel that brought something in. 23 It's an old warehouse in the building. A new buyer just bought the warehouse. 24

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There is only two parcels on the whole block, my lot and the new -- and the one building. And the building owner just bought the building, wishes to purchase my lot to expand and improve upon.

5 MS. DUNBAR: So when you purchased the 6 property in 2007, you proposed to develop 7 something?

8 MR. FORCILLO: Correct.

9 MS. DUNBAR: Over this time you have not 10 been able to develop something?

MR. FORCILLO: Correct. The housing prices were just not conducive to the market at the time to building houses. More commercial. Abutts up against commercial building. A little too small for a restaurant. Has two sides, three street sides. Was too small for any kind of restaurant or stores.

18 The only offers really had was a used car 19 lot we feel was the best use of the property. Now 20 the owner of the big warehouse is putting a lot of 21 money into the warehouse and wants to expand in 22 either parking or expand upon the current 23 building.

24

MS. DUNBAR: When you obtained these
properties, did you purchase them at fair market 1 2 value? 3 MR. FORCILLO: I did. I bought other properties from the Redevelopment Authority and 4 developed them successfully and sold them. I just 5 happen to get this property. The buyer on that 6 property backed out the day I was buying my other 7 property. And just bought that as well at fair 8 9 market value. 10 MS. JARMON: Recommendation of the 11 committee? MS. DUNBAR: I recommend that we release 12 13 the restrictions --14 MR. DANELLA: Second. 15 MS. DUNBAR: -- and allow for sale. 16 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 17 18 (Chorus of Ayes) 19 20 MR. WISE: Thank you. 21 MS. JARMON: Thank you. 22 2336 Moore Street, A.B. Investment. 23 MR. BERGER: Name is Arnold Berger for A.B. Investments. I'd just like to have the 24

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38 restrictions lifted on 2336 Moore so we can sell 1 2 the property. 3 MS. JARMON: Any questions from the 4 committee? 5 MS. DUNBAR: When you purchased the property originally in 1990, what were you 6 7 proposed to use it for? 8 MR. BERGER: Low income housing. We rented 9 to Section 8 for about ten years. 10 MS. DUNBAR: Say that part again? 11 MR. BERGER: We rented to Section 8 for ten 12 years. 13 MS. DUNBAR: The \$1,500, was that the fair 14 market value at that time? 15 MR. BERGER: That's correct. 16 MS. DUNBAR: I would recommend that we 17 release the restrictions. 18 MR. FRISHKOFF: Second. 19 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 20 21 (Chorus of Ayes) 22 23 MR. BERGER: Thank you very much. 24 MS. JARMON: You're welcome.

1737 Diamond and 1741 Diamond Street? 1 2 MS. DUNBAR: That's the same people as 3 Gratz Commons, I think. MS. JARMON: Advocate? Well, where are 4 5 they? MS. DUNBAR: I don't know that one. We are 6 going to table this until next month. 7 8 152 Ritner Street, Joseph. He called the office today. I don't know what happened. We are 9 going to table this until next month. 10 1442, 44, 46 and 48 North Orkney Street, 11 12 Stephen Bykow and Julia. 13 MR. ORYL: Anna Rodriguez bought it from 14 them. 15 MS. JARMON: Right. Good morning. Can you 16 state your name. 17 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Anna T. Rodriguez. 18 MS. JARMON: Let the committee know what 19 your proposal is. 20 MS. RODRIGUEZ: What was that? 21 MS. JARMON: Let the committee know what 22 your proposal is. 23 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. I want permission to sell my property 1442 through 48 Orkney Street and 24

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1 any restrictions lifted. MS. JARMON: She doesn't want the 2 restriction lifted off the 42 because that's a 3 4 property that you are occupying. 5 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yeah. You can lift it, too, because in the near future, anything --. 6 7 MS. JARMON: Exactly. She wants it lifted, but she's not selling the 1442. 8 9 MS. RODRIGUEZ: No. That would be my --10 MR. O'DWYER: She wasn't the original 11 purchaser? MS. JARMON: She wasn't. She purchased 12 from these individuals here. 13 MS. DUNBAR: When did you purchase? 14 15 MS. RODRIGUEZ: 2003. 16 MR. O'DWYER: These all vacant properties? 17 Are they --18 MS. RODRIGUEZ: No. It's by garden ever since. It's been taken care of. 19 20 MR. O'DWYER: One home and then --21 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Yes. One open space. 22 MS. DUNBAR: Are we lifting the restrictions from 42 through 48? 23 24 MS. JARMON: From all, yes.

41 MS. DUNBAR: I make a motion to remove the 1 2 restrictions. 3 MR. O'DWYER: Second. 4 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 5 6 (Chorus of Ayes) 7 8 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you so much and God 9 bless. 10 MS. JARMON: You too. 11 MR. ORYL: Is there a way to get it in 12 recordable form like a printou? MS. JARMON: Yeah. You will get hopefully 13 14 in a couple weeks. 15 MR. ORYL: Couple weeks? 16 MS. JARMON: Is it a rush, a priority? MR. ORYL: Yeah. We are supposed to close 17 18 this. 19 MS. JARMON: Okay. I'll make sure we let 20 Public Property know that. 21 MS. DUNBAR: You had an agreement of sale 22 for \$56,000? 23 MR. ORYL: That's correct. 24 MS. DUNBAR: For the 44 through 48?

42 1 MS. JARMON: Right. 2 MR. ORYL: Yes. Yes. 3 MS. JARMON: Okay. We will try to rush it. 4 I will let them know it's priority. 5 MS. DUNBAR: May want to just advise the 6 buyers we have to get approval and go through the 7 process. 8 MR. ORYL: I just want to give them a time 9 period. They want to do it within the next two 10 weeks. I don't know if that --11 MS. DUNBAR: You should -- I think you 12 would be safe if you say you need a 30-day 13 extension. 14 MR. ORYL: All right. Thank you. 15 MS. JARMON: That concludes the Agenda for 16 March 11. Is there anyone else here that -- are 17 you here --18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm here for 1800 19 Ingersoll. 20 MS. JARMON: Those are the properties that 21 are to go to PHDC. And then do you have something 22 to do with Seybert Street? 23 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ingersoll Street not 24 Seybert.

43 1 2 (At this time, a discussion was held off 3 the record.) 4 5 MS. JARMON: Is anyone else here for the 6 March? 7 MS. GARDNER: I am here for last month. Ι 8 have no information to go on, so that's why I'm 9 here. MS. JARMON: You didn't have to be here. 10 You were already up and spoke last month, right? 11 Yeah, you didn't have to come back here for this. 12 13 Is this for a release? 14 15 (At this time, a discussion was held off 16 the record.) 17 MS. JARMON: We are going to go back to the 18 March agenda to the page 7, 152 Ritner Street. 19 20 The applicant wants to purchase -- he wants to sell the property. They purchased it back in 21 22 They are unable to attend the meeting 1995. today. I Xerox'd a copy of the agreement of sale 23 today and also the letter. They want to sell it 24

1 for \$3,000.

2	MS. DUNBAR: Don't you have to untable it?
3	MS. JARMON: I am going to untable 152
4	Ritner Street. This is for the March 11 Agenda.
5	MR. O'DWYER: Is it just a vacant lot?
6	MS. JARMON: Yeah. It's a lot.
7	MS. DUNBAR: Motion to release the
8	restrictions.
9	MR. FRISHKOFF: Second.
10	MS. JARMON: All in favor?
11	
12	(Chorus of Ayes)
13	
14	MS. MEDLEY: Just to clarify, the purchase
15	price is 50,000 and the deposit is 3.
16	MS. DUNBAR: Oh. That makes it a little
17	different. Do you know whether they paid fair
18	market value when they purchased it? I think that
19	makes a difference.
20	MS. JARMON: Let me look at the deed real
21	quick. They purchased it at fair market value.
22	Back then it was \$4,800.
23	MS. DUNBAR: Okay.
24	MS. JARMON: We are going to go back to

February 11 Agenda so that we can approve
everything out the committee.

The first address was the 1513 Indiana. The applicant wanted to purchase and occupy. She was here to let the committee know what her proposal was. And it was approved at fair market value.

B Do I just go through these, because this is 9 a first for me.

MS. DUNBAR: The people that are here, can you do them first since they are here? Maybe take them out of order and do them first since they are here.

14 MS. MEDLEY: I guess the question of the committee, do you want to go through each one? 15 Do you want to have the time to read the notes of 16 testimony and then ratify it? You want to have 17 18 the people in here testify and then go over the 19 ones that aren't here? Or if you just kind of 20 want to, you know. 21 MS. DUNBAR: I was at both. 22 MS. MEDLEY: I guess it's the people that

23 weren't here, do they feel comfortable ratifying24 based on, you know.

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46 1 MR. O'DWYER: Are there any people that are present in the audience that we asked to come back 2 and speak to the entire committee because there 3 4 were some matters? 5 MS. JARMON: There was only one that we had asked to come back. I think we kind of forgot 6 7 Ridge Avenue, which was with Council him. President's office, Mr. McCoy. Remember the lot 8 9 that he wanted to purchase at fair market value? 10 MS. DUNBAR: It was a lot of lots. 11 MS. HARRIS: He owns them. 12 MS. JARMON: Right. The Council President 13 was in approval of him purchasing it. 14 MS. JONES: 2301 to 07 Ridge Avenue. 15 MS. JARMON: Yeah. MR. O'DWYER: Judy Berkman is here who was 16 17 at both meetings. 18 MS. BERKMAN: I just have a question about the 811 North Gratz, which is very similar to the 19 New Kensington one today. I wonder if we can make 20 21 the same arrangement for that one where they get it appraised and get -- sell it to the private 22 23 person who wants to develop it. 24 MS. JARMON: That was one of the agreement

1 of sales last month?

2 MS. DUNBAR: Yes.

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3	MS. BERKMAN: There were two again, I am
4	Judy Berkman from Regional Housing Legal Services.
5	And I represent Habitat For Humanity Philadelphia.
6	There were three properties we discussed,
7	the 1816 and 1820 North 18th Street. Those, I
8	think, there is no issue with. The question was
9	1811 North Gratz Street which was tabled. And
10	it's a very similar situation to the Kensington
11	one we just had. They had a private buyer and
12	they had an agreed price. But they can get an
13	appraisal and then sell it and get their costs
14	back.
15	I just wanted to know if that arrangement
16	would work for this one, too?
17	MS. DUNBAR: I had kind of tossed that
18	around last month when we spoke about it. I would
19	think that would be fine. It's very similar to
20	what happened in the New Kensington except that
21	they had also proposed to build or rehab that
22	property.
23	MS. BERKMAN: The difference is New
24	Kensington's VPRC restrictions to green it and

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maintain it which they did. And the Habitat one 1 they were supposed to build and they didn't. 2 3 MS. DUNBAR: Right. MS. JONES: You are beyond the five year 4 5 limit, too. 6 MS. JARMON: Right. 7 MS. JONES: For Habitat. MS. JARMON: What's the recommendation of 8 the committee on the 1811 North Gratz Street? 9 10 MS. DUNBAR: I would recommend that we handle it in much the same way. 11 12 There is no reason to. MS. JONES: They 13 are beyond the five-year restriction. 14 MS. JARMON: Restriction is not in this one 15 because it's 1999. The five-year restriction no 16 longer is in effect. 17 MS. DUNBAR: Isn't it if they did what they are supposed to do or no? It doesn't matter? 18 19 MS. MEDLEY: That part matters. Five years in terms of selling it for profit or making money. 20 If the committee so decided that they had not done 21 what they said they were going to do, it's 22 23 different. 24 MR. FRISHKOFF: Did they purchase at fair

1 market value or nominal?

2 MS. BERKMAN: It was nominal. 3 MR. FRISHKOFF: I think that the same -putting aside the five years, the same issue 4 applies which is that they didn't actually 5 6 complete the plan of action. Recouping their costs would be fair. But to make a profit if they 7 purchase at nominal, would not be. 8 9 MS. DUNBAR: That's correct. 10 MR. FRISHKOFF: I think what Judy is proposing would be consistent with our policy. 11 12 MS. JONES: I think it's different. It's the same outcome but for very different reasons. 13 14 MR. FRISHKOFF: Except if you purchase at 15 nominal --16 MS. JONES: You are also not in compliance, 17 which is not the case in New Kensington transfer. 18 They are not in compliance. 19 MS. DUNBAR: Nor are they. They didn't 20 build. 21 MS. JONES: No. No. No. Habitat's not in compliance. Kensington was. 22 That is 23 distinguishable. 24 MS. DUNBAR: Okay.

1 MS. BERKMAN: But it was impossible because 2 of the --3 Right mwrong or indifferent. MS. JONES: 4 MS. DUNBAR: Okay. I would make that same 5 motion. 6 MR. FRISHKOFF: If we can use the language from the New Kensington where, you know, we would 7 release subject to appraisal approved by the City 8 9 to a verification of costs. 10 MS. JONES: Appraisal by Habitat. 11 MR. FRISHKOFF: Appraisal by Habitat, yet 12 accepted by the City. MS. JONES: Reimbursement to Habitat for 13 14 verified expenses. 15 MS. DUNBAR: Then we will say second. MS. JOHNSON: Does the City get any profit 16 17 from the sale? 18 MR. FRISHKOFF: Yes. Sold at nominal. 19 MS. JARMON: I heard a second. 20 All in favor? 21 22 (Chorus of Ayes) 23 24 MS. BERKMAN: Thank you very much.

51 MS. JARMON: What address are you here for, 1 2 ma'am? 3 MS. GARDNER: 5855 Bell Mawr. 4 MS. JARMON: On page 7. 5 MS. GARDNER: My name is Theresa Gardner. And I am the owner of 5855 Bell Mawr Street. 6 I am trying to sell my house. I do have a buyer. 7 But by me going through the procedures, they found out 8 that my house has to be released. The deed has to 9 be lifted from the City of Philadelphia. 10 That's 11 why I'm here. 12 MS. JARMON: Any questions? 13 MS. DUNBAR: Nope. 14 This was previously approved MS. JARMON: 15 by the committee. 16 MS. DUNBAR: Yes. We just needed to be 17 finalized. 18 MS. JARMON: All in favor? 19 20 (Chorus of Ayes) 21 22 MS. GARDNER: Thank you. MS. JARMON: We will try to rush that for 23 24 you.

52 1 Is there anyone else here from the 2 February 11 meeting? 3 All right. I had already had the 1513 West 4 Indiana 5 MS. JONES: Madam Chair, I move that we ratify the decisions or recommendations made on 6 7 February the 11th with respect to the remaining 8 agenda items. MR. LOWELL: The problem is that many of 9 10 them don't have recommendations. In looking at 11 the transcript, there are a couple that do. But 12 many of them --13 MS. JARMON: Some that weren't were either 14 deleted or tabled. 15 MS. JONES: Ratify all those that are 16 applicable. 17 MS. DUNBAR: Second. 18 MS. MEDLEY: We need -- which ones don't 19 have recommendations. MS. JARMON: Page 2, Chester was deleted. 20 21 MS. JONES: Deleted or tabled? 22 MS. JARMON: We deleted it because the 23 applicant was no longer interested. We tabled on 24 page 4, 234 Southford. The applicant wasn't here.

		53
1	This has to go back to next month. We didn't	
2	speak about on page 5, which are the side yards	
3	861 North 48 and 2050 Estall Street.	
4	Recommendation from the committee?	
5	Recommendation from the committee for side yards	
6	on page 5?	
7	Melvis?	
8	MS. DUNBAR: I am just a little behind.	
9	MR. FRISHKOFF: So moved.	
10	MS. DUNBAR: Second.	
11	MS. JARMON: All in favor?	
12		
13	(Chorus of Ayes)	
14		
15	MS. JARMON: And everything else was done.	
16	MS. DUNBAR: 21st and Reed was the church	
17	expansion at number five on page 5, that was for	
18	fair market value. That is what I wrote. 1329	
19	South 21st Street.	
20	MS. JARMON: That was approved for sale.	
21	That ends the Vacant Property Review	
22	Committee's meeting for today. Everybody have a	
23	good day.	
24	MS. DUNBAR: You didn't make a motion to	
		1

MS. JARMON: Make a motion to adjourn. MR. O'DWYER: I will. MS. DUNBAR: Second. MS. JARMON: All right. (At this time, the VPRC Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.)

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Ingela m. Kin, RPR Court Reporter - Notary Public

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