

Executive Committee, Real Property Section
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 14, 2012

In attendance: Chair, Brad Begelman; Steven Rothberg, Secretary; Judy Berkman, Treasurer; Kevin Dunleavy; Al Fuscaldo; Rachel Gallegos; Ralph Pinkus; Paul Schmidt; and Jason Sieminski, Cheryl Gaston, Darwin Beauvais, Susan Healy, Stacey Graham, William Keffer, Kathy Keiser, Stefanie Seldin, Jill Jenkins.

Chairperson Begelman called the meeting to order.

Minutes from the January 11, 2012 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report. Report for January was not available. There was a discussion about having to adjust the donations in 2012 if the revenues don't improve. There was a budget shortfall in 2011.

Board of Governors Meeting Report. Brad attended the meeting. Many new initiatives were suggested.

Department of Records. Brad reported several members were concerned that if the Department's budget were cut, they not be able to timely record documents. Since there was not sufficient time to have a resolution passed before the budget process begins, we agreed to prepare a letter to the Mayor and request an authorization to send it. Steve volunteered to draft the letter.

Committee Reports:

Zoning Code: Cheryl reported that there is a Ballard Spahr educational meeting on the new code on 2/15/12. There have been meetings with stakeholders to discuss the new sign provisions in the code. There will be a public forum on 2/17/12 at noon at the 1515 Arch St. to discuss Signage. Many civic and sign industry groups will be present.

Website: Kathy will put Paul's article about the new lead paint bill on the site.

Legislative: Rick reported that he manned a table at a Young Lawyers Meeting in an effort to get new members to our committee. Cheryl spoke about discussions about the Governor's Budget cuts to University Funding and the weak proposal to tax Marcellus Shale.

CLE: Judy was not present. Wally/Marc are providing a CLE on Mechanic's Liens this week.

Land Use: Jason Sieminski reported that a Seminar is being planned for the spring.

Social: Brad asked the Committee for ideas for this year's annual Spring Social. Brad suggested getting a person of note to attend to increase attendance. Steve suggested the roof of the Continental Midtown as a venue. Steve also suggested an attempt to combine the event with BIA to create better attendance. Stacey Graham volunteered to contact BIA to see if they have interest. She will coordinate with Rachel G. and Rachel F. on that effort.

Affordable Housing: No Report

Vacant Property Working Group: Rick reported that L&I is working on a policy for vacant

properties. There is a Vacant Land Bank Bill in Council.

Conservatorship Working Group: Rick reported that there is a meeting scheduled with L&I next Friday, Feb. 24, 2012. Judy Berkman and Stefanie Seldin will be attending.

Pro Bono: Bill reported that he will be asking members to draft deeds for VIP. Roxanne at VIP will record the deeds once they get signed and notarized. The City will not charge VIP for recordings.

Old Business:

Habitat For Humanity: Steve reported that he is hoping to have an April date.

Civil Gideon: Stefanie Seldin reported that there are some measures taking place in landlord tenant court to make the process more equitable. There will be a Helpdesk, and a Helpline to help litigants.

New Business:

Paul discussed the changes to the Lead Paint Ordinance. There will be requirements for Student Housing, PHA Housing, and HUD housing.

Linked in has 70 members for our Section.

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2012 at noon.