

**The Redevelopment Authority of the City of York**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 19, 2020**

A duly advertised meeting of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of York was held on February 19, 2020 at 101 S. George Street, City Council Chambers, York, PA 17401.

**I. Call to Order/Welcome**

Michael Black called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. Present were Aaron Anderson, Teen Vebares, Frank Countess and Joyce Santiago.

**II. Public Comment**

- a. Mr. John Ilyes stated he was representing the Farmers Market. He stated that the Redevelopment Authority is failing the community and the market. He read from a letter of a year ago, it was titled “Reflecting on the Past Year 2018” and was signed by the Redevelopment Authority Board. He advised that it was after the food trust study, he stated that three weeks ago Brian Kreeger said vendors will be removed. Mr. Ilyes advised that 7 new vendors were brought into the market due to Christian Wagman who he said is doing a good job.
- b. Mayor Helfrich stated Mr. Kreeger had told him that is not what the plan was. The plan was to integrate all vendors into a grocery store model for the market. The RDA took over to hold the property until a better use could be found. The market was not a successful business. The Authority is trying to get grants and more vendors.
- c. Ms. Joan Bergasser has been a customer of the market since 1972. Mr. Kreeger was there last week, he said vendors would have to move by the end of the year. This should not be a fight between farmers and vendors. She read from her menu of meals for the day.
- d. Ms. Annabella Bonilla she advised that two stands are closing at market. She is changing the name of her stand. She has been talking to staff and states that Mr. Kreeger’s statements are not good.

Michael Black stated that the Food Trust Studies recommendations are important to the Authority. The Authority has been trying to comply with those recommendations especially in the food verses non-food vendor issues. Aaron Anderson stated that the Authority did not pursue the market. His personal opinion is that he felt the Authority should not be the owner. Government ownership should not interfere with the market’s private enterprise. He has not heard anything about throwing out vendors. Frank Countess stated he has not

heard anything about vendors leaving. He has spoken to Brian Kreeger and has not heard anything like that. Members of the audience spoke. The audience was advised that Christian Wagman has a contract until the end of March. Michael Black stated that there is an overlap period but Brian Kreeger should be able to step in by April 1, 2020. Joyce Santiago stated that she does not want inconsistent statements of issues with the market.

Ms. Bergasser advised there are 14 city neighborhood associations Brian Kreeger has asked to speak at the March meeting of the umbrella organization.

**III. Minutes**

Teen Vebares moved to approve the Minutes of January 15, 2020 as distributed. Frank Countess seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 5370

**IV. Financial Report**

Details have been provided to the Board in the packet.

***General Balance Fund***

\$153,217.90

***CDBG 2019 Balances***

Demolition	\$ 57,574.04
Acquisition	\$ 60,000.00
Stabilization	<u>\$ 64,680.50</u>
	<b><u>\$182,254.54</u></b>

**V. Project Updates**

- a. Settlement on 218 Liberty Court to Community Progress Council occurred on January 17, 2020.

**VI. New Business/Action Items**

- a. **York County Land Bank Authority.**

The county set this entity up in 2018 for the demolition and eradication of blight. Staff is presenting a contract for 254 S. Queen Street and 282 Cottage Hill Road. Staff will be obtaining prices for the demolitions. But the Land Bank Authority has agreed to pay for the demolitions if reasonable. Frank Countess moved to execute the agreements. Joyce Sanitago seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 5371

**b. Penn Market Vision 2020/2021 Resolution.**

Staff advised that the Vision Statement can evolve with a resolution with information about the recent history and 5 guiding principles. Phil Givens the Acting Director of Economic Development spoke and he recommended tabling this or just executing the vision without the Kreeger resolution. Michael Black and Aaron Anderson both agreed to table this. Mr. Ilyes advised that he has an agreement whereby it says that after 3 years the market people can buy back the market for \$1.00. The document was examined, it is titled “Memorandum of Understanding”. It is a draft form and it is not signed. Solicitor advised the he will investigate. The Mayor asked what the RDA is paying to keep the doors open. Staff advised that the cost is approximately \$35,000.00 a year. Michael Black advised vendors in the audience to please be patient, staff will be working on this and grants are on the horizon. They were unable to be accessed last year due to new staff coming on board after the grant period. Aaron Anderson stated that the RDA has been holding this market only, if the Authority can be helpful at getting funding that would be the best use of the Authority’s ownership. Staff advises that there are 4-5 legacy vendors. Staff is working hard to make everything better for everyone at market and staff will pick up the communications.

**c. Buchart Horn Schematic Design.**

Buchart Horn did a previous needs study and some revision of that are needed, but the cost would be \$15,000.00. Staff advised that \$99,000.00 is in an account for HUD matters. HUD has since allowed the Authority to use it as it sees fit, so the money is available.

The Board agreed to table the Penn Market actions.

**VI. Staff Report**

- a. Staff is going through proposals for Duke Street, Pine Street and Rathton Road.
- b. *Northwest Triangle* – There is a meeting next week with the developer’s design team and the city engineer regarding roads.
- c. *120 N. Richland* – Habitat will be moving out by February 29, 2020.
- d. *Market matters* – Christian Wagman’s report was received yesterday. There is a new restaurant. A glass contractor matter is pending. New events will be February 22 (Open Mic Night) and March 7 (Community Day).

**VIII. Chairman’s Report - Nothing was reported.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.