

Minutes of the first Meeting of the Board of Directors,  
City Roots Community Land Trust, Inc.  
(formerly Ujamaa Community Land Holdings, Inc.)

Directors Present: Cynthia Simmons (L), Ryan Acuff (L), Joe Di Fiore (L), Liz McGriff (L), Wallace Smith (G), Burton Betchart (G), Muhhamed Gazali (G), Marie Meza (P), Ryan Van Alstyne (P), James Pergolizzi (P)

Directors Absent: Melissa Marquez (P, excused), Doreen Young (G)

Others Present: Teresa Owen, Shane Wiegand

**18:02** Meeting commences. Ryan Acuff reviews agenda:

- Minutes
- Officers
- Committees
- Regional/Local Relations
- Legal Docs
- Staff & Volunteer
- Cynthia's Questions

**18:06** Joe motions to adopt the minutes of the Annual Meeting. Liz seconds the motion. Wallace objects, in the sense of the “entire process” and in reference to a lengthy discussion before the commencement of the meeting, and abstains from voting. No other objections, so the minutes are adopted.

**18:12** Election of officers. Wallace proposes to table the election of officers, and have a discussion. Wallace would like written background biographical paragraph from every nominee for office who is willing to serve. Unanimous assent to nominees submitting a biographical information paragraph to the de facto Board-of-Directors email distribution list ([crcltboard@lists.rocus.org](mailto:crcltboard@lists.rocus.org)) before the next meeting of the Board of Directors, as well as to postpone the election of officers.

– Directors who might not be on the e-mailing list: Muhhamed, Liz, Cynthia

**18:20** Discussion and Formation of Committees:

**Technology** - website, email, membership data, document organization. Burt will begin as coordinator. Others interested: Joe

**Finance** - bookkeeping, disbursements, reimbursements, presentation of finances at Board meetings. Joe reports Melissa is willing to be Treasurer, or to support someone else as Treasurer. Others interested: Liz, Marie

**Community Outreach** - engagement of (prospective) members and community, youth outreach, government Interested: Joe, Teresa, Muhhamed, Marie

**Vision & Mission** - values, priorities, business plan. Craft formal statements. Interested: Liz, Cynthia, Teresa, RyanA, Joe, Wallace.  
Jim suggests to devote a portion of a Board meeting to discuss.

**Acquisitions** - plan for different ways of acquiring land for CLT: land bank, money through grants/loans, donations of land. Interested: RyanVA, Jim, Cynthia, Teresa, Liz, Muhhamed, Joe

**Regional/Local Relations** : Iron out the organizational roles and details of Subsidiaries for neighborhood CLTs. Interested: Burt, Liz, Jim, RyanVA

**18:49** Terms for Directors. All prefer a 2-year term. Drawing of lots from a hat for terms, within each group. Results:

Lessee Reps: 2 years for Joe & Cynthia, 1 year for Ryan Acuff & Liz

General Reps: 2 years for Wallace & Doreen, 1 year for Burt & Muhhamed

Public Reps: 2 years for Marie & Jim, 1 year for Ryan Van Alstyne & Melissa

– Ryan Van Alstyne has to leave.

**18:55** Process Check: over allotted time for meeting.

- Agreement to Table the discussion of Regional/Local relationships
- Agreement to Table the discussion of Staffing & Volunteers

– Legal Name Change. Questions by Cynthia/Wallace about process for name change. Jim offers that it involves the submission of a form and a fee of perhaps \$30.

Motion by Burt to allow the disbursement of up to \$50 to pay for the name change, seconded by Jim. Discussion. Wallace: what is the hurry? Ryan: it is a question of following the process. The name change was elected at the annual meeting, so the next step is to file for name change. Wallace objects to disbursement for name change. Six of eight present directors vote to carry the motion, with Cynthia abstaining. Motion passes to disburse up to \$50 to file the documents to formalize the name change.

– Cynthia has no further concerns which need to be addressed at this time, and is content with the breakout into committees to resolve many of the loose ends about which she raised concerns.

– Jim suggests to set the agenda for next meeting, but notes it may not be possible at the moment. No further support.

– Jim also suggests that each committee set its own agenda, and bring a list of goals back to the Board, rather than the Board dictate beforehand the specific goals of each committee. General agreement.

– Next Board meeting: Ryan notes that we have agreed to meet at least every two months but not more frequently than once per month, and additionally that he recalls general agreement of trying to meet monthly at this early stage of our organization. Ryan proposes the date of the next meeting of the Board of Directors be Monday 6 March 5:30pm, at the NEAD office. Unanimous agreement. Joe will ask to reserve the space.

**19:08** Meeting Adjourned