

Opening Streets to lay out, open, extend, widen, straighten or close up, in whole or in part, any street, square, lane or alley, within the bounds of this City, the said Commissioners, having given the notice required by law of their first meeting to execute the same, shall meet at the time and place mentioned in said notice, and from time to time thereafter, as may be necessary, to exercise the powers and perform the duties required of them by said ordinance, and shall ascertain whether any and what amount of value in damage will thereby be caused to the owner of any right or interest in any ground or improvements within or adjacent to the City of Baltimore, for which, taking into consideration all advantages and disadvantages, such owner ought to be compensated ; and the said Commissioners having ascertained the whole amount of damages for which compensation ought to be awarded, as aforesaid, and having added thereto an estimate of the probable amount of expenses which will be incurred by them in the performance of the duties required of them, as aforesaid ; and also of the expenses incurred by the City Register by reason of said proceedings, shall proceed to assess all the ground and improvements within and adjacent to the City, the owners of which, as such, the said Commissioners shall decide and deem to be directly benefited by accomplishing the object authorized in the ordinance aforesaid ; and should the direct benefits, assessed as aforesaid, not be equal to the damages and expenses incurred, the balance of said expenses and damages shall be paid by the City Register, and provided for in the general levy.

176. In every case where it shall be necessary, in order to effect the object proposed under any ordinances aforesaid, that a part only of a lot, or of a lot and improvements, shall be taken and used or destroyed, and the owner or owners thereof shall claim to be compensated for the whole, the said Commissioners, in such cases, may if they deem it best, and not otherwise, accept a surrender in writing of the whole of said lot, or the whole of said lot and improvements, or the whole of said improvements, from said owner or owners, in which event the said Commissioners shall ascertain the full value thereof, as if the whole lot, or lots and improvements, or improvements, as the case may be, were necessary to be taken and used for such