

ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORP
Form 10-Q
May 02, 2014

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-Q
 QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended March 31, 2014

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15 (d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number 1-12486
Associated Estates Realty Corporation
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

OHIO
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

34-1747603
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

1 AEC Parkway, Richmond Hts., Ohio 44143-1550
(Address of principal executive offices)
(216) 261-5000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)
Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes No

The number of shares outstanding as of April 25, 2014 was 57,566,216 shares.

ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION

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PART 1. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(UNAUDITED)

| (In thousands, except share and per share amounts) | March 31, 2014 | December 31, 2013 |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Real estate assets | | |
| Land | \$243,462 | \$298,441 |
| Buildings and improvements | 1,314,095 | 1,370,560 |
| Furniture and fixtures | 38,503 | 39,725 |
| Construction in progress | 53,753 | 42,793 |
| Gross real estate | 1,649,813 | 1,751,519 |
| Less: accumulated depreciation | (383,808 |) (386,841 |
| Real estate held for sale, net of accumulated depreciation of \$2,879 | 33,772 | — |
| Net real estate owned | 1,299,777 | 1,364,678 |
| Investment in unconsolidated entities | 35,007 | 9,321 |
| Total net real estate | 1,334,784 | 1,373,999 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 11,619 | 4,586 |
| Restricted cash | 3,789 | 3,465 |
| Accounts receivable, net | | |
| Rents | 979 | 1,230 |
| Other | 5,211 | 1,258 |
| Other assets, net | 37,768 | 37,959 |
| Total assets | \$1,394,150 | \$1,422,497 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | | |
| Mortgage notes payable | \$269,084 | \$279,474 |
| Unsecured notes | 250,000 | 250,000 |
| Unsecured revolving credit facility | 89,000 | 133,500 |
| Unsecured term loan | 150,000 | 150,000 |
| Total debt | 758,084 | 812,974 |
| Accounts payable and other liabilities | 38,346 | 42,882 |
| Dividends payable | 11,377 | 12,178 |
| Resident security deposits | 4,029 | 4,112 |
| Accrued interest | 4,969 | 5,551 |
| Total liabilities | 816,805 | 877,697 |
| Equity | | |
| Common shares, without par value, \$.10 stated value; 91,000,000 authorized; 57,627,745 issued and 57,566,529 outstanding at March 31, 2014 and 57,595,479 issued and 57,476,192 outstanding at December 31, 2013, respectively | 5,763 | 5,760 |
| Paid-in capital | 755,021 | 754,582 |
| Accumulated distributions in excess of accumulated net income | (182,050 |) (213,275 |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (765 |) (702 |
| Less: Treasury shares, at cost, 61,216 and 119,287 shares at March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, respectively | (974 |) (1,915 |
| Total shareholders' equity attributable to AERC | 576,995 | 544,450 |
| Noncontrolling interest | 350 | 350 |

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| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total equity | 577,345 | 544,800 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$1,394,150 | \$1,422,497 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS AND COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
(UNAUDITED)

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| REVENUE | | |
| Property revenue | \$49,150 | \$42,544 |
| Office revenue | 478 | 312 |
| Property management and construction services revenue | 87 | — |
| Total revenue | 49,715 | 42,856 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Property operating and maintenance | 19,368 | 16,196 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 16,295 | 13,890 |
| General and administrative | 5,319 | 4,958 |
| Development costs | 330 | 262 |
| Construction services | 57 | — |
| Costs associated with acquisitions | 86 | — |
| Total expenses | 41,455 | 35,306 |
| Operating income | 8,260 | 7,550 |
| Interest expense | (6,953) | (7,421) |
| Income from continuing operations | 1,307 | 129 |
| Income from discontinued operations: | | |
| Operating income, net of interest expense | — | 1,438 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | — | 8,796 |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 10,234 |
| Income before gain on disposition of properties | 1,307 | 10,363 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | 40,966 | — |
| Net income | 42,273 | 10,363 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | — | (17) |
| Net income attributable to AERC | \$42,273 | \$10,346 |
| Allocation to participating securities | (157) | (48) |
| Net income applicable to common shares | \$42,116 | \$10,298 |
| Earnings per common share - basic: | | |
| Income from continuing operations applicable to common shares | \$0.73 | \$— |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.21 |
| Net income applicable to common shares - basic | \$0.73 | \$0.21 |
| Earnings per common share - diluted: | | |
| Income from continuing operations applicable to common shares | \$0.73 | \$— |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.20 |
| Net income applicable to common shares - diluted | \$0.73 | \$0.20 |
| Comprehensive income: | | |
| Net income | \$42,273 | \$10,363 |
| Other comprehensive income: | | |
| Change in fair value and reclassification of hedge instruments | (63) | (112) |
| Total comprehensive income | 42,210 | 10,251 |
| Comprehensive income attributable to noncontrolling interests | — | (17) |

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| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Total comprehensive income attributable to AERC | \$42,210 | \$10,234 |
| Dividends declared per common share | \$0.19 | \$0.19 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - basic | 57,362 | 49,634 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted | 57,833 | 50,280 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
(UNAUDITED)

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Cash flow from operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$42,273 | \$10,363 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 16,295 | 14,561 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | (40,966 |) (8,796 |
| Amortization of deferred financing costs and other | 277 | 299 |
| Share-based compensation expense | 1,333 | 1,419 |
| Net change in assets and liabilities: | | |
| Accounts receivable | 575 | (736 |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | (5,709 |) (2,384 |
| Other operating assets and liabilities | (1,510 |) 844 |
| Total adjustments | (29,705 |) 5,207 |
| Net cash flow provided by operating activities | 12,568 | 15,570 |
| Cash flow from investing activities: | | |
| Recurring fixed asset additions | (1,914 |) (2,140 |
| Revenue enhancing/non-recurring fixed asset additions | (325 |) (25 |
| Acquisition fixed asset additions | (654 |) (395 |
| Development fixed asset additions | (13,617 |) (4,017 |
| Net proceeds from disposition of operating properties | 58,086 | 61,970 |
| Contributions to joint ventures | (588 |) — |
| Cash proceeds from sale of equity interest in development property | 24,075 | — |
| Costs paid on behalf of joint venture | (2,734 |) — |
| Other investing activity | (378 |) (798 |
| Net cash flow provided by investing activities | 61,951 | 54,595 |
| Cash flow from financing activities: | | |
| Principal amortization payments on mortgage notes payable | (511 |) (826 |
| Principal repayments of mortgage notes payable | (20,038 |) — |
| Payment of debt procurement costs | (130 |) (1,055 |
| Proceeds from secured construction loans | 10,351 | — |
| Proceeds from issuance of unsecured notes | — | 150,000 |
| Revolving credit facility borrowings | 110,500 | 67,200 |
| Revolving credit facility repayments | (155,000 |) (257,700 |
| Common share dividends paid | (11,747 |) (9,346 |
| Operating partnership distributions paid | — | (16 |
| Exercise of stock options | — | 1,550 |
| Purchase of treasury shares | (994 |) (697 |
| Purchase of noncontrolling interest in partnership | — | (4,544 |
| Other financing activities, net | 83 | 78 |
| Net cash flow used for financing activities | (67,486 |) (55,356 |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents | 7,033 | 14,809 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period | 4,586 | 4,740 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, end of period | \$11,619 | \$19,549 |
| Supplemental disclosure of non-cash transactions: | | |
| Dividends declared but not paid | \$11,377 | \$10,283 |

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| | | | |
|--|--------|--------|---|
| Net change in accounts payable related to fixed asset additions | 2,537 | (141 |) |
| Net change in accounts payable and security deposits related to disposition of operating properties | (145 |) (322 |) |
| Deconsolidation of net assets | 26,238 | — | |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

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ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
UNAUDITED

1. BUSINESS

Except as the context otherwise requires, all references to "we," "our," "us," "AERC" and the "Company" in this report collectively refer to Associated Estates Realty Corporation and its consolidated subsidiaries.

We are a fully-integrated, self-administered and self-managed equity real estate investment trust ("REIT") specializing in multifamily ownership, operation, acquisition, development, construction, disposition and property management activities. Our primary source of income is rental revenue. Additional income is derived from property management and construction services revenue. We own a taxable REIT subsidiary that performs construction services for our own account in connection with the development of multifamily properties that we own and operate, including consolidated and unconsolidated joint ventures. As of March 31, 2014, our operating portfolio consisted of 52 apartment communities containing 13,324 units in ten states that are owned, either directly or indirectly, through subsidiaries. In conjunction with our acquisition of land for development of an apartment community, we acquired a commercial building in Los Angeles, California, containing approximately 78,800 total square feet of office and commercial space. Additionally, we provide property management services for a fee for Phase I and Phase II of an apartment community that we expect to acquire, subject to construction completion of Phase II, pursuant to an existing contract.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying unaudited consolidated financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") for interim financial information and applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Accordingly, they do not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP for complete financial statements. In the opinion of management, all adjustments consisting only of normal and recurring adjustments considered necessary for a fair statement have been included. The reported results of operations are not necessarily indicative of the results that may be expected for the full year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the audited financial statements and accompanying notes in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

Segment Reporting

Substantially all of our properties are multifamily communities and, while the economic climate of the markets in which they are located may vary from time to time, the communities offer similar products and services and have similar economic characteristics. Management evaluates the performance of our properties and makes acquisition/disposition decisions on an individual basis. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, substantially all of our consolidated revenue was provided by our multifamily properties. We have determined that as of March 31, 2014, we have one reportable segment which is multifamily properties.

Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities

We utilize interest rate swaps to add stability to interest expense and to manage our exposure to interest rate movements. Interest rate swaps designated as cash flow hedges involve the receipt of variable-rate amounts in exchange for fixed-rate payments over the life of the agreements without exchange of the underlying principal amount.

For properties under development, we capitalize interest costs on funds used in construction, real estate taxes and insurance from the commencement of development activity through the time the property is substantially complete and ready for leasing. For properties under development accounted for under the equity method, we capitalize interest costs on our investment through the time the venture commences planned principal operations. We also capitalize internal costs related to our consolidated and equity method ventures, which are primarily payroll, but may also include costs such as travel, lodging and temporary construction facilities that are directly attributable to the construction of a property or asset. Certain costs associated with the lease-up of development projects, such as signs and "grand openings" are capitalized and amortized over the estimated life of average tenant relationships, which are approximately 12 months. All other internal costs associated with the lease up of development properties are expensed as incurred. Revenue from incidental operations for properties under development are recognized as reductions of capitalized project costs. Capitalized payroll costs are allocated to projects based upon time incurred by the applicable personnel. Capitalized costs related to development and construction are transferred to buildings and improvements and/or furniture and fixtures, as applicable, upon substantial completion of the project. Total capitalized interest during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$1.0 million and \$480,000, respectively. Total capitalized payroll costs during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 were \$770,000 and \$590,000, respectively.

We discontinue the depreciation of assets we have specifically identified as held for sale. There was one property classified as held for sale at March 31, 2014, and no properties were classified as held for sale at December 31, 2013.

Classification of Fixed Asset Additions

We define recurring fixed asset additions to a property as capital expenditures made to replace worn out assets to maintain the property's value. Revenue enhancing/non-recurring fixed asset additions are defined as capital expenditures that increase the value of the property and enable us to increase rents. Acquisition/development fixed asset additions are defined as capital expenditures for the purchase or construction of new properties to be added to our portfolio, or fixed asset additions identified at the time of purchase that are not made until subsequent periods.

Discontinued Operations

In April 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU No. 2014-08, Presentation of Financial Statements (Topic 205) and Property, Plant and Equipment (Topic 360): Reporting of Discontinued Operations and Disclosures of Components of an Entity. This ASU states that only those disposals of components of an entity that represent a strategic shift that has (or will have) a major effect on an entity's operations and financial results will be reported as discontinued operations in the financial statements. Prior accounting guidance held that a component of an entity that is a reportable segment, an operating segment, a reporting unit, a subsidiary or an asset group was eligible for discontinued operations presentation. This led to many disposals, many of which were routine in nature and did not change an entity's strategy, to be reported as discontinued operations. The amendments in this ASU require expanded disclosure for discontinued operations, which should provide financial statement users with more information about the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of discontinued operations. As such, our disposition of individual properties will generally no longer meet the guidance to be classified as discontinued operations. See Note 3 for additional information related to how this ASU affects our current reporting. This updated guidance requires prospective application for all disposals of components of an entity that occur within annual periods beginning on or after December 15, 2014 and interim periods within those years, with early adoption permitted. We adopted this guidance effective January 1, 2014.

3. ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, AND DISPOSITION ACTIVITY

Acquisition Activity

On September 20, 2013, we entered into an agreement to acquire a portfolio of seven properties for a total purchase price of \$323.9 million, including the assumption of \$28.0 million of existing mortgage financing. During the year ended December 31, 2013, we closed on three of the seven properties: The Apartments at Blakeney, St. Mary's Square and Lofts at Weston Lakeside. We expect to acquire each of the remaining properties based on the closing periods set forth in the following table. The closing of each of Alpha Mill Apartments Phase II, 1160 Hammond and Varela is contingent upon the completed construction of such property. Our obligation to purchase this portfolio is subject to certain closing conditions specified in the agreement. If we choose not to purchase one or more of the properties, despite the closing conditions having been satisfied within the time period contemplated by the purchase agreement, we would forfeit the then-remaining balance of our earnest money deposits, which, as of March 31, 2014, aggregate \$13.2 million. This remaining balance of earnest money deposits represents our maximum exposure to loss until the closing of the remaining portfolio properties. We consider our deposits allocated to the entities developing the properties under construction to be variable interests and the development entities to be variable interest entities for which we are not the primary beneficiary as of this reporting date. Although we intend to acquire the entire portfolio and regard our acquisition of each property in the portfolio as probable, there can be no assurance that we will acquire such properties.

The table below provides details for each remaining property we plan to acquire:

(Dollar amounts in thousands, except for unit data)

| Property | Location | Units | Estimated Closing Period | Purchase Price Allocation |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alpha Mill Apartments Phase I | Charlotte, NC | 167 | Q2 2014 | \$27,220 |
| Alpha Mill Apartments Phase II | Charlotte, NC | 100 | Q2 2014 | 18,050 |
| 1160 Hammond | Atlanta, GA | 345 | Q4 2014 | 80,350 |
| Varela | Tampa, FL | 350 | Q1 2015 | 79,450 |
| | | 962 | | \$205,070 |

During the year ended December 31, 2012, we entered into an agreement to acquire for a purchase price of \$80.2 million an apartment project that is being developed in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Our purchase obligation is conditioned upon the successful completion of the property in accordance with agreed upon plans and specifications and up to an 18-month period to allow for lease up of the property. Closing will not occur unless the conditions are satisfied, which is currently expected to occur in 2016. The developer may elect to terminate our agreement to purchase by agreeing to the release of our \$4.0 million earnest money deposit from escrow and paying us an \$8.0 million termination fee. If we choose not to purchase the property, despite the closing conditions having been satisfied within the time period contemplated by the purchase agreement, we would forfeit our \$4.0 million earnest money deposit. This earnest money deposit represents our maximum exposure to loss until the closing of the property. We consider our deposit to be a variable interest and the development entity to be a variable interest entity for which we are not the primary beneficiary as of this reporting date.

Development Activity

On May 28, 2013, we acquired a 3.36 acre parcel of land in the South of Market neighborhood of San Francisco, California for \$46.6 million. On February 3, 2014, we entered into a 50/50 partnership with AIG Global Real Estate to develop and own this site known as 350 Eighth. The partnership intends to develop a 410-unit apartment community with commercial space and underground parking. See Note 6 for additional information related to this development.

The following table identifies our consolidated development activity on which construction has commenced:

| (Dollar amounts in thousands) | | Total | Total | Cost to | Total | Actual | Estimated |
|---|-----------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| Under | Ownership | Units | Capital | Date ⁽³⁾ | Debt | Construction | Construction |
| Construction | % | | Cost ⁽¹⁾ | | | Start | Completion |
| 7001 Bethesda Bethesda, MD | 97.0% | ⁽²⁾ 140 | \$53,400 | \$28,592 | \$5,837 | Q4 2012 | Q2 2015 |
| Cantabria Dallas, TX | 100.0% | 249 | \$56,800 | \$32,379 | \$12,614 | Q2 2013 | Q1 2015 |
| The Desmond on Wilshire Los Angeles, CA | 100.0% | 175 | \$76,300 | \$30,579 | \$— | Q2 2013 | Q4 2015 |
| Total | | 564 | \$186,500 | \$91,550 | \$18,451 | | |

(1) Total capital cost represents estimated costs for projects under development inclusive of all capitalized costs in accordance with GAAP.

(2) Ownership percentage based on current equity of the joint venture and is subject to change based on changes in total equity. Costs are shown at 100%. Joint venture partner contribution is \$350.

(3) Cost to date includes the cost of land.

The following table identifies our unconsolidated development activity that is in early stages of construction or in the planning phase:

| (Dollar amounts in thousands) | | | Estimated | Cost | Company |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Name | Location | Ownership % | Total Units ⁽¹⁾ | to Date ⁽²⁾ | Investment to Date |
| 350 Eighth | San Francisco, CA | 50.0% | 410 | \$53,903 | \$25,074 |
| 950 Third | Los Angeles, CA | 50.0% | 472 | \$32,924 | \$2,527 |
| Monrovia | Monrovia, CA | 50.0% | 154 | \$14,636 | \$7,406 |
| Total | | | 1,036 | \$101,463 | \$35,007 |

(1) Based on current projections as of April 29, 2014.

(2) Cost to date includes the cost of land.

Disposition Activity

The results of operations and gains related to the sale of operating properties for the current period presented are reported in income from continuing operations in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income. Prior to adoption of ASU 2014-08, and in all prior periods presented, these results were reported in "Income from discontinued operations" in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income. Furthermore, the results of properties classified as held for sale are now reported in income from continuing operations. See Note 2 for additional information related to how this ASU affects our current reporting.

During the three months ended March 31, 2014, we completed the sale of one property in Silver Spring, Maryland for a sales price of \$60.0 million and recognized a gain of \$41.0 million.

"Income from discontinued operations" in the accompanying Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income for the three months ended March 31, 2013, includes the operating results for four properties sold in 2013 as well as the recognized gain related to the one property sold during the three months ended March 31, 2013. The following table summarizes "Income from discontinued operations:"

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended March 31, 2013 |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Revenue | |
| Property revenue | \$4,060 |
| Expenses | |
| Property operating and maintenance | 1,951 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 671 |
| Total expenses | 2,622 |
| Operating income | 1,438 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | 8,796 |
| Income from discontinued operations | \$10,234 |

We have, on occasion, engaged Hancock Real Estate Strategies ("HRES"), a full service investment real estate brokerage and advisory firm, to provide certain real estate brokerage services. HRES is owned by Matthew E. Friedman, a son of our CEO. While no commissions were paid to HRES for the three months ended March 31, 2014, a commission totaling \$244,000 was paid in conjunction with the sale of one property in Nashville, Tennessee for \$53.3 million on April 2, 2014. See Note 14 for further details on this property sale. For the three months ended March 31, 2013, in conjunction with the sale of one property, HRES received a commission totaling \$274,000. The value of this transaction was \$63.2 million. These transactions were approved by the Company's independent directors in compliance with Company policy.

4. DEBT

The following table identifies our total debt outstanding and weighted average interest rates:

| (Dollar amounts in thousands) | March 31, 2014 | | December 31, 2013 | | |
|---|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | Balance Outstanding | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Balance Outstanding | Weighted Average Interest Rate | |
| Fixed Rate Debt: | | | | | |
| Secured | \$250,633 | 4.9 | % \$271,374 | 4.9 | % |
| Unsecured - notes | 250,000 | 4.4 | % 250,000 | 4.4 | % |
| Total Fixed Rate Debt | 500,633 | 4.7 | % 521,374 | 4.7 | % |
| Variable Rate Debt Swapped to Fixed: | | | | | |
| Unsecured - term loan | 125,000 | 3.0 | % 125,000 | 3.0 | % |
| Total Variable Rate Debt Swapped to Fixed | 125,000 | 3.0 | % 125,000 | 3.0 | % |
| Variable Rate Debt Unhedged: | | | | | |
| Secured | 18,451 | 1.5 | % 8,100 | 1.5 | % |
| Unsecured - revolver | 89,000 | 1.5 | % 133,500 | 1.5 | % |
| Unsecured - term loan | 25,000 | 1.9 | % 25,000 | 1.9 | % |
| Total Variable Rate Debt Unhedged | 132,451 | 1.5 | % 166,600 | 1.5 | % |
| Total Debt | \$758,084 | 3.8 | % \$812,974 | 3.8 | % |

Mortgage Notes Payable

The following table provides information on mortgage loans repaid during the three months ended March 31, 2014:

| Property | Loans Repaid | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| | Amount | Interest Rate |
| Residence at White River | \$9,221 | 5.4% |
| Spring Valley | 10,817 | 5.4% |
| Total/weighted average rate | \$20,038 | 5.4% |

(1)

(1) Represents weighted average interest rate for the loans listed.

Additionally, we have drawn \$12.6 million on the construction loan on Cantabria and \$5.8 million on the construction loan on 7001 Bethesda as of March 31, 2014. Cash paid for interest net of capitalized interest was \$7.1 million and \$5.8 million for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively.

5. GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Goodwill

Our goodwill was allocated to our properties on a relative fair value basis. Upon disposition of properties, the goodwill allocated is included in the calculation of the gain or loss on disposal and subsequently written-off. During the three months ended March 31, 2014, we wrote-off \$54,000 of our goodwill as a result of property dispositions. The carrying value of our goodwill as of March 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013 was \$1.5 million and \$1.5 million, respectively. Our annual review of goodwill impairment is completed during the first quarter of each year (and more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable). The review that was completed during the three months ended March 31, 2014 determined that goodwill was not impaired and no other events have occurred that would require goodwill to be reevaluated. In performing this analysis, we compare the net assets of each property on which goodwill has been allocated, including the amount of allocated goodwill, to its estimated fair market value. Should the estimates used to determine the fair value of the properties change, impairment may result which could materially impact our results of operations for the period in which it is recorded.

Intangible Assets

We allocate a portion of the total purchase price of a property acquisition to any intangible assets identified, such as existing leases and tenant relationships. The intangible assets are amortized over the remaining lease terms or estimated life of the tenant relationship, which is approximately 12 months. Due to the short-term nature of residential leases, we believe that existing lease rates approximate market rates. Therefore no allocation is made for above/below market leases. The intangible assets associated with one commercial lease are being amortized over the life of the lease, which is 60 months. See Note 13 for additional information related to this lease.

6. INVESTMENT IN UNCONSOLIDATED ENTITIES

350 Eighth

On February 3, 2014, we entered into a partnership agreement with AIG Global Real Estate ("AIG"), an unrelated third-party, for the development and operation of 350 Eighth, a 410-unit apartment community with commercial space and underground parking located in San Francisco, California. We are a 50.01% partner with AIG, who has contributed \$24.1 million to the partnership. The land upon which the partnership is developing was purchased by us for \$46.6 million on May 28, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, this land was included in our consolidated financial statements. Upon the formation of our partnership with AIG, the land and improvements to date, with a carrying value of \$50.3 million, were deconsolidated. Any future equity capital needs will be funded according to the partners' percentage interests in the partnership. Both partners have equal voting rights with respect to all major decisions, and all such decisions must be unanimous, including, among other things, development planning, budgeting and operational budgets. We will perform construction management and property management services in accordance with the approved budgets for which we will receive fees. As of March 31, 2014, we have recognized \$66,000 of the construction management fee. As the partnership is not sufficiently funded to finance the activities of the entity, and not all of the capital will be funded up front, the partnership is not deemed to have sufficient equity, and has therefore been determined to be a variable interest entity. It has also been determined that we do not control the decisions that most significantly affect the economics of the entity, and that we do not hold a controlling financial interest in the entity. As such, our investment in the entity is included in our consolidated financial statements using the equity method. At March 31, 2014, we have a cumulative basis difference in the partnership of \$250,000 due to capitalization of internal payroll and overhead costs directly related to the development of this property. This excess of our investment over our equity in the underlying net assets of the joint venture is included in "Investment in unconsolidated entities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets, and will be amortized as a reduction to earnings on a straight-line basis over the lives of the related assets. Our maximum exposure to loss, as a result of our involvement in this entity, is the carrying value of our investment, which was \$25.1 million as of March 31, 2014. See Note 3 for more information related to this development. On April 25, 2014, the partnership entered into a construction loan agreement for \$143.6 million with a five-year term. We have guaranteed the payment of all future borrowings from this loan in connection with the partnership's development. See Note 14 for more information related to this subsequent event.

950 Third

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we entered into a partnership agreement with Legendary Investors Group No. 1 LLC ("Legendary"), an unrelated third-party, for the development and operation of 950 Third, a 472-unit apartment community located in Los Angeles, California. We are a 50.0% partner with Legendary, who contributed the land at a value of \$30.0 million to the partnership. As of March 31, 2014, we have contributed \$2.1 million to the partnership. We expect to fund the remaining portion of our capital contribution during the development and construction process. Both partners have equal voting rights with respect to all major decisions, and all such decisions must be unanimous, including, among other things, development planning, budgeting and operational budgets. We will perform construction management and property management services in accordance with the approved budgets for which we will receive fees. As of March 31, 2014, we have not yet begun to receive or recognize these fees. As the partnership is not sufficiently funded to finance the activities of the entity, and not all of the capital will be funded up front, the partnership is not deemed to have sufficient equity, and has therefore been determined to be a variable interest entity. It has also been determined that we do not control the decisions that most significantly affect the economics of the entity, and that we do not hold a controlling financial interest in the entity. As such, our investment in the entity is included in our consolidated financial statements using the equity method. At March 31, 2014, we have a cumulative basis difference in the partnership of \$470,000 due to the capitalization of internal payroll and overhead costs directly related to the development of this property. This excess of our investment over our equity in the underlying net assets of the partnership is included in "Investment in unconsolidated entities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets, and will be amortized as a reduction to earnings on a straight-line basis over the lives of the related assets. Our maximum exposure to loss, as a result of our involvement in this entity, is the carrying value of our investment, which was \$2.5 million as of March 31, 2014. See Note 3 for more information related to this development.

Monrovia

During the year ended December 31, 2013, we entered into a partnership agreement with LPC MM Monrovia, LLC ("Lincoln"), an unrelated third-party, for the limited purpose of acquiring a property in Monrovia, California, and to produce construction drawings for improvements to the property. The land, upon which the partnership is developing a 154-unit multifamily apartment community, was purchased by the partnership on August 9, 2013 for \$13.1 million. We are a 50.0% partner with Lincoln, who has contributed \$7.3 million to the partnership. As of March 31, 2014, we have contributed \$7.2 million to the partnership. Any future equity capital needs will be funded on a 50/50 basis by the partners. Both partners have equal voting rights with respect to all major decisions and all such decisions must be unanimous, including, among other things, development planning, budgeting and operational budgets. Lincoln will perform the day-to-day activities on behalf of the partnership. As the partnership is not sufficiently funded to finance the activities of the entity, and not all of the capital will be funded up front, the partnership is not deemed to have sufficient equity, and has therefore been determined to be a variable interest entity. It has also been determined that we do not control the decisions that most significantly affect the economics of the entity, and that we do not hold a controlling financial interest in the entity. As such, our investment in the entity is included in our consolidated financial statements using the equity method. At March 31, 2014, we have a cumulative basis difference in the partnership of \$170,000 due to the capitalization of internal payroll and overhead costs directly related to the development of this property. This excess of our investment over our equity in the underlying net assets of the partnership is included in "Investment in unconsolidated entities" in our Consolidated Balance Sheets, and will be amortized as a reduction to earnings on a straight-line basis over the lives of the related assets. Our maximum exposure to loss, as a result of our involvement in this entity, is the carrying value of our investment, which was \$7.4 million as of March 31, 2014. See Note 3 for more information related to this development.

7. NONCONTROLLING INTERESTS

Noncontrolling Redeemable Interest

In 1998, in conjunction with the acquisition of an operating partnership that owned two apartment communities, one of which was sold in October 2005, we issued a total of 522,032 operating partnership units ("OP units"). Holders of OP units were entitled to receive cumulative distributions per OP unit equal to the per share distributions on our common shares. When the OP units were presented for redemption, we were obligated to redeem those OP units for either common shares exchangeable on a one-for-one basis, or the cash equivalent amount, determined as the average closing price for our common shares over the 20-day period preceding the redemption, at our option. On October 23, 2013, we consummated a subsidiary merger transaction that had the effect of converting the remaining 74,083 OP units into a right to receive cash merger consideration, pursuant to which we paid \$1.4 million on November 6, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, there were no remaining OP units as all remaining units had been redeemed for cash or canceled in the merger. No OP units were redeemed during the three months ended March 31, 2013.

Activity related to the noncontrolling redeemable interest is as follows:

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| (In thousands) | 2013 | |
| Balance as of January 1, 2013 | \$1,734 | |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling redeemable interest | 14 | |
| Distribution to noncontrolling redeemable interest | (14 |) |
| Balance as of March 31, 2013 | \$1,734 | |

Noncontrolling Interests

On July 14, 2011, we entered into a partnership agreement with Keating Project Development, Inc., an unrelated third-party, pursuant to which we hold a 97.0% equity interest in the partnership. In March 2012, the partnership acquired a 2.5 acre parcel of land in Bethesda, Maryland for \$12.2 million on which it is developing 140 apartment units and 7,000 square feet of commercial space. We have determined that this entity is not a variable interest entity and that we hold a controlling interest in the entity. As such, this entity is included in our consolidated financial statements. We have also determined that the noncontrolling interest in this entity meets the criteria to be classified as a component of permanent equity.

On September 24, 2010, we entered into a partnership agreement with Bristol Development Group, an unrelated third-party, for the development of Vista Germantown, a 242-unit apartment community located in downtown Nashville, Tennessee. We contributed \$9.4 million to the partnership and held a 90.0% equity interest in the partnership. In February 2013, we funded the redemption of the interest of the minority 10.0% partner of this partnership for \$4.5 million, as a result of which we owned a 100% interest in Vista Germantown as of March 31, 2014. On April 2, 2014, we disposed of Vista Germantown for a sales price of \$53.3 million. See Note 14 for further detail related to this subsequent event.

The following table provides details of the activity related to the noncontrolling interests:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Balance at beginning of period | \$350 | \$1,344 |
| Net income | — | 3 |
| Purchase of noncontrolling interest | — | (997 |
| Balance at end of period | \$350 | \$350 |

The following table provides details of the activity related to changes in ownership of noncontrolling interests:

| | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| | March 31, 2014 | 2013 |
| Net income attributable to AERC | \$42,273 | \$10,346 |
| Decrease in equity for purchase of noncontrolling interest | — | (3,547) |
| Change from net income attributable to AERC and net transfers to noncontrolling interest | \$42,273 | \$6,799 |

8. EQUITY

The following table provides a reconciliation of significant activity in equity accounts:

| | Three Months Ended March 31, 2014 | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Common Shares (at \$.10 stated value) | Paid-In Capital | Accumulated Distributions in Excess of Accumulated Net Income | Other Comprehensive Loss | Treasury Shares (at Cost) | Noncontrolling Interest |
| (In thousands) | | | | | | |
| Balance, December 31, 2013 | \$5,760 | \$754,582 | \$(213,275) | \$(702) | \$(1,915) | \$ 350 |
| Net income attributable to AERC | — | — | 42,273 | — | — | — |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | | | | |
| Changes in fair value of hedge instruments | — | — | — | (63) | — | — |
| Share-based compensation | — | 439 | — | — | 1,935 | — |
| Purchase of common shares | — | — | — | — | (994) | — |
| Issuance of common shares | 3 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Common share dividends declared | — | — | (11,048) | — | — | — |
| Balance, March 31, 2014 | \$5,763 | \$755,021 | \$(182,050) | \$(765) | \$(974) | \$ 350 |

9. EARNINGS PER SHARE

The following table presents a reconciliation of basic and diluted earnings per common share:

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended March 31, | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Numerator - basic and diluted: | | |
| Income from continuing operations | \$1,307 | \$129 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | 40,966 | — |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling interests | — | (17) |
| Allocation to participating securities | (157) | (4) |
| Income from continuing operations applicable to common shares | \$42,116 | \$108 |
| Income from discontinued operations | \$— | \$10,234 |
| Allocation to participating securities | — | (44) |
| Income from discontinued operations applicable to common shares | \$— | \$10,190 |
| Denominator - basic: | 57,362 | 49,634 |
| Effect of dilutive securities ⁽¹⁾ | 471 | 646 |
| Denominator - diluted: | 57,833 | 50,280 |
| Net income applicable to common shares - basic: | | |
| Income from continuing operations applicable to common shares | \$0.73 | \$— |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.21 |
| Net income attributable to common shares - basic | \$0.73 | \$0.21 |
| Net income applicable to common shares - diluted: | | |
| Income from continuing operations applicable to common shares | \$0.73 | \$— |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 0.20 |
| Net income attributable to common shares - diluted | \$0.73 | \$0.20 |

⁽¹⁾ The Company has excluded 42 and 83 stock options for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, respectively as their inclusion would be anti-dilutive.

10. EQUITY BASED AWARD PLANS

During the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, we recognized share-based compensation cost of \$1.3 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, in "General and administrative expense" in the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income. Additionally, during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, we capitalized \$100,000 and \$110,000, respectively, of share-based compensation related to time incurred on development projects. See Note 2 for additional information related to capitalized payroll.

Restricted Shares. Restricted shares generally have the same rights as our common shares, except for transfer restrictions and forfeiture provisions. We have two compensation plans under which our officers and directors may elect to defer the receipt of restricted shares. Restricted share awards deferred under these plans are reflected as deferred restricted share equivalent units ("DRSUs") in an individual bookkeeping account maintained for each participant. The vesting of DRSUs occurs on the same schedule as the restricted shares made subject to the deferral election, and the valuation and attribution of cost in our consolidated financial statements are also the same as the restricted shares subject to the deferral election. DRSUs are not included in the number of issued and outstanding common shares reflected in the "Equity" section of our Consolidated Balance Sheets. DRSUs with non-forfeitable dividend rights are included in the allocation to participating securities using the two-class method. DRSUs with forfeitable dividend rights do not qualify as participating securities, and are included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share to the extent they are not anti-dilutive for the period presented.

The following table represents restricted share and DRSU activity for the three months ended March 31, 2014:

| | Number of Restricted Shares | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value | Number of DRSUs | Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Nonvested at beginning of period | 735,184 | \$ 10.52 | 34,797 | \$ 17.15 |
| Granted | 149,241 | \$ 16.00 | 16,618 | \$ 14.33 |
| Vested | 155,162 | \$ 16.29 | — | \$ — |
| Forfeited | 1,199 | \$ 10.94 | 8,194 | \$ 16.38 |
| Nonvested at end of period | 728,064 | \$ 10.41 | 43,221 | \$ 16.21 |

The weighted average grant-date fair value of restricted shares granted during the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$10.27. The total fair value of restricted shares vested during the three months ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$2.5 million and \$2.3 million, respectively. The total fair value of DRSUs vested during the three months ended March 31, 2013 was \$90,000, recognized as "Paid-in-capital." At March 31, 2014, there was a total of \$6.8 million of unrecognized compensation cost related to non-vested restricted share awards and DRSUs that we expect to recognize over a weighted average period of 2.6 years.

During 2014 and 2013, we issued restricted share awards in which the number of shares that will ultimately vest is subject to market conditions over a three-year period and service conditions over a four-year period. The total estimated grant-date fair value of these awards, including the awards that were deferred, were \$90,000 during 2014 and \$4.3 million during 2013. We used the Monte Carlo method to estimate the fair value of these awards. The Monte Carlo method, which is similar to the binomial analysis, evaluates the award for changing stock prices over the term of vesting, and uses random situations that are averaged based on past stock characteristics. There were one million simulation paths used to estimate the fair value of these awards. The expected volatility for the awards granted in 2014 and 2013 was based upon a 50/50 blend of historical and implied volatility. The historical volatility was based upon changes in the weekly closing prices of our shares over a period equal to the expected life of the restricted shares granted. The implied volatility was the trailing month average of daily implied volatilities calculated by interpolating between the volatilities implied by stock call option contracts that were both closest to the expected life and the exercise price of the restricted shares. The risk-free interest rate used was based on a yield curve derived from U.S. Treasury zero-coupon bonds on the date of grant with a maturity equal to the market condition performance periods. The expected life used was the market condition performance period.

The following table represents the assumption ranges used in the Monte Carlo method for the multi-year restricted share awards:

| | 2014 | 2013 |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Expected volatility - AERC | 22.3% to 24.2% | 18.1% to 22.5% |
| Expected volatility - peer group | 16.9% to 24.7% | 14.7% to 29.5% |
| Risk-free interest rate | 0.02% to 0.8% | 0.08% to 0.5% |
| Expected life (performance period) | 3 years | 3 years |

Stock Options. We use the Black-Scholes option pricing model to estimate the fair value of stock options awarded. There were no options awarded, no options exercised and 5,000 options forfeited during the three months ended March 31, 2014. There were no options awarded, 169,164 options exercised and no options forfeited during the three months ended March 31, 2013.

The following table represents stock option activity for the three months ended March 31, 2014:

| | Number of Stock Options | Weighted-Average Exercise Price | Weighted-Average Remaining Contract Life |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Outstanding at beginning of period | 510,020 | \$ 11.47 | |
| Expired | 5,000 | \$ 14.00 | |
| Outstanding at end of period | 505,020 | \$ 11.44 | 3.3 |
| Exercisable at end of period | 453,354 | \$ 11.15 | 2.9 |

The aggregate intrinsic value of stock options outstanding and stock options exercisable at March 31, 2014 and 2013 was \$2.6 million and \$4.4 million, respectively.

11. DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS AND HEDGING ACTIVITIES

We utilize interest rate swaps, from time to time, to add stability to interest risk and to manage our exposure to interest rate movements. See Note 2 for additional information related to our derivative instruments and hedging policy.

As of March 31, 2014, the Company had the following outstanding interest rate derivatives that were designated as cash flow hedges:

| Interest Rate Derivative | Number of Instruments | Notional Amount |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Interest Rate Swaps | 2 | \$125.0 million |

On April 2, 2013, we entered into a forward starting interest rate swap on \$125.0 million of our \$150.0 million unsecured term loan, fixing the rate beginning June 2, 2016, at a rate of 1.55% per annum plus the credit spread, which was 1.70% per annum as of March 31, 2014, or an all-in rate of 3.25% per annum until the loan matures in January 2018. The credit spread is subject to change, from time to time, from a minimum of 1.25% per annum to a maximum of 2.20% per annum over LIBOR based upon our qualified ratings as defined in the agreement. See Note 12 for additional information related to this forward starting interest rate swap.

On December 19, 2011, we entered into a forward starting interest rate swap effective June 7, 2013. This swap hedges the future cash flows of interest payments on \$125.0 million of our unsecured term loan by fixing the rate until June 2016 at a rate of 1.26% per annum plus the credit spread, which was 1.70% per annum at March 31, 2014, or an all-in rate of 2.96% per annum. The credit spread is subject to change, from time to time, from a minimum of 1.25% per annum to a maximum of 2.20% per annum over LIBOR based upon our qualified ratings as defined in the agreement. See Note 12 for additional information related to this forward starting interest rate swap.

The following table presents the fair value of our derivative financial instruments as well as the classification on the Consolidated Balance Sheets (see Note 12 for additional information regarding the fair value of these derivative instruments):

Fair Value of Derivative Instruments

| (In thousands) | Asset Derivatives | | As of December 31, 2013 | |
|--|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | As of March 31, 2014 | Fair Value | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value |
| Derivatives designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| Interest rate swap | Other assets, net | \$1,331 | Other assets, net | \$1,573 |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|

Fair Value of Derivative Instruments

| (In thousands) | Liability Derivatives | | As of December 31, 2013 | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | As of March 31, 2014 | Fair Value | Balance Sheet Location | Fair Value |
| Derivatives designated as hedging instruments: | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|---------|--|---------|
| Interest rate swap | Accounts payable and other liabilities | \$2,096 | Accounts payable and other liabilities | \$2,275 |
|--------------------|--|---------|--|---------|

The following table presents the effect of our derivative financial instruments on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income:

The Effect of Derivative Instruments on the Consolidated Statements of Operations and Comprehensive Income

| (In thousands) | Location of Gain or (Loss) Recognized in Income on Derivative | Three Months Ended | |
|---|---|--------------------|---------|
| | | March 31, 2014 | 2013 |
| Derivatives in Cash Flow Hedging Relationships (Interest Rate Swaps) | | | |
| Amount of gain/(loss) recognized in OCI on derivative | | \$(407) | \$(112) |
| Amount of loss reclassified from accumulated OCI into interest expense | Interest expense | \$(344) | \$— |
| Amount of gain/(loss) recognized in income on derivative (ineffective portion and amount excluded from effectiveness testing) | Other expense | \$— | \$— |

The following table presents the effect of offsetting financial assets and liabilities on the Consolidated Balance Sheets:
Offsetting of Derivative Assets and Liabilities

| (In thousands) | Gross Amounts of Recognized Assets/(Liabilities) | Gross Amounts Offset in the Balance Sheets | Net Amounts of Assets/(Liabilities) Presented in the Balance Sheets | Gross Amounts Not Offset in the Balance Sheets | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--------------------------------|---------------|
| | | | | Financial Instruments | Cash Collateral Received | Net Amount |
| March 31, 2014 | | | | | | |
| Offsetting Derivative | | | | | | |
| Assets | \$ 1,331 | \$— | \$1,331 | \$— | \$— | \$1,331 |
| Liabilities | \$ 2,096 | \$— | \$2,096 | \$— | \$— | \$2,096 |
| December 31, 2013 | | | | | | |
| Offsetting Derivative | | | | | | |
| Assets | \$ 1,573 | \$— | \$1,573 | \$— | \$— | \$1,573 |
| Liabilities | \$ 2,275 | \$— | \$2,275 | \$— | \$— | \$2,275 |

As of March 31, 2014, the fair value of the derivative in a liability position, excluding any adjustment for nonperformance risk, was \$2.2 million. As of March 31, 2014, we have not posted any collateral related to this agreement. If we had breached any of the provisions in the agreement with our derivative counterparty at March 31, 2014, we could have been required to settle our obligations under the agreement at its termination value of \$2.2 million, which includes accrued interest of \$96,000. The expected amount of other comprehensive income to be reclassified as earnings within the next twelve months is \$1.4 million.

12. FAIR VALUE

Fair value, as defined by GAAP, represents the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants. The inputs used in the determination of fair value amounts and disclosures are based on the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing certain assets or liabilities. These inputs are classified in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

Level 1 inputs utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that we have the ability to access;

Level 2 inputs may include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, as well as interest rates and yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals; and

Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability that are typically based on an entity's own assumptions as there is little, if any, related market activity.

The inputs used in the fair value measurement should be from the highest level available. In instances where the measurement is based on inputs from different levels of the fair value hierarchy, the fair value measurement will fall within the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Cash, accounts and notes receivable, other assets, accounts payable, accrued expenses and other liabilities (except for the interest rate swap discussed below) are carried at amounts that reasonably approximate corresponding fair values because of their short term nature.

The interest rate swap derivatives, as discussed in detail in Note 11 under "Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities," are carried at fair value. The fair value of the derivative was determined by using a model that applies discount rates to the expected future cash flows associated with the swap. The significant inputs used in the valuation model to estimate the discount rates and expected cash flows are observable in active markets and, therefore, are Level 2 inputs.

We estimate the fair value of our mortgage notes payable by discounting the associated cash flows using the interest rates available to us as of the dates reported for issuance of debt with similar terms, remaining maturities and loan to value ratios, which ranged from 38% to 53% at March 31, 2014. We classify the fair value of our mortgage notes payable as Level 3.

We estimate the fair value of our unsecured debt by discounting the associated cash flows using the interest rates available to us as of the dates reported for issuance of debt with similar terms and remaining maturities. We classify the fair value of our unsecured debt as Level 2.

| (In thousands) | Carrying Value | Fair Value at March 31, 2014 Using Quoted Prices in | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|---|---|
| | | Active Markets for Identical Assets or Liabilities (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Mortgage notes payable | \$269,084 | \$— | \$— | \$280,652 |
| Unsecured debt | \$489,000 | \$— | \$490,500 | \$— |

| (In thousands) | Carrying Value | Fair Value at December 31, 2013 Using Quoted Prices in | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--|---|---|
| | | Active Markets for Identical Assets or Liabilities (Level 1) | Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2) | Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3) |
| Mortgage notes payable | \$279,474 | \$— | \$— | \$284,886 |
| Unsecured debt | \$533,500 | \$— | \$530,022 | \$— |

13. CONTINGENCIES

Legal Proceedings

In conjunction with our May 2012 acquisition of land for development of an apartment community, we acquired a commercial building in Los Angeles, California ("the Property"), and entered into a triple net master lease (the "Lease") of the Property as landlord with Art and Architecture Books of the 21st Century as tenant ("Tenant"). When Tenant failed to pay December 2012 rent when due under the Lease, we served Tenant with a notice to pay rent or vacate the premises pursuant to the California Code of Civil Procedure. On December 20, 2012, we filed an unlawful detainer action in the Superior Court for the State of California (the "Bankruptcy Court"). Tenant did not pay rent for January or February 2013.

On February 19, 2013 (the scheduled trial date for our unlawful detainer suit), Tenant filed its Chapter 11 petition with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Central District of California (the "California Bankruptcy Case").

On March 29, 2013, Tenant filed a motion to assume the Lease. We opposed Tenant's lease assumption motion. On September 12, 2013, the Bankruptcy Court granted Tenant's motion to assume the Lease. We appealed the Bankruptcy Court's order granting Tenant's motion to assume the Lease to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (the "District Court"). On December 2, 2013, the District Court ruled in our favor and held the Bankruptcy Court had erred when it concluded the Lease had not been terminated prior to the date Tenant filed its Chapter 11 petition. The District Court remanded the case back to the Bankruptcy Court for further proceedings consistent with the District Court's determination. Tenant has filed a notice of appeal of the District Court's decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

If we conclude, based on the outcome of this proceeding, that it is unlikely Tenant will remain the master lease tenant at the Property, we will write off the remaining intangible asset associated with the Lease at that time. The intangible asset is being amortized over the initial five-year term of the Lease, beginning May 2012, and had a balance of \$1.2 million at March 31, 2014. In addition, we may be required to refund to Tenant the \$630,000 cure payment Tenant paid to us in connection with its assumption of the lease.

In addition to the California Bankruptcy Case, we are subject to other legal proceedings, lawsuits and other claims in the ordinary course of our business (collectively, "Litigation"). Litigation is subject to uncertainties and outcomes are difficult to predict. Many of the claims in Litigation are covered by insurance, subject to deductible amounts. With respect to current Litigation, we have determined either that a loss is not reasonably possible or that the estimated loss or range of loss, if any, will not have a material adverse impact on our financial statements.

14. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Dispositions. On April 2, 2014, we completed the sale of a property located in Nashville, Tennessee. The sales price was \$53.3 million and we expect to record an estimated gain of approximately \$19 million during the second quarter of 2014.

On April 28, 2014, we completed the sale of a property located in Columbia, Maryland. The sales price was \$38.4 million and we expect to record an estimated gain of approximately \$28 million during the second quarter of 2014.

Debt. On April 25, 2014, the 350 Eighth partnership entered into a construction loan agreement for \$143.6 million with a five-year term and, based on our current credit ratings, has a per annum interest rate of LIBOR plus 160 basis points. We have guaranteed the payment of all future borrowings from this loan in connection with the partnership's development.

Dividends. On May 1, 2014, we paid a dividend of \$0.19 per common share to shareholders of record on April 15, 2014, which had been declared on March 24, 2014. The declaration and payment of future quarterly dividends remains subject to review by, and approval of, the Board of Directors.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL CONDITION AND RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following discussion should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements and notes thereto included in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q. This discussion may contain forward-looking statements based on current judgments and current knowledge of management, which are subject to certain risks, trends and uncertainties that could cause actual results to vary from those projected, including but not limited to, expectations regarding our 2014 performance that are based on certain assumptions. Accordingly, readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this report. These forward-looking statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The words "expects," "projects," "believes," "plans," "anticipates" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned that these forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainty that could cause actual results to differ from estimates or projections contained in these forward-looking statements, including without limitation the following:

- changes in the economic climate in the markets in which we own and manage properties, including interest rates, the overall level of economic activity, the availability of consumer credit and mortgage financing, unemployment rates and other factors;
- elimination of, or limitations on, federal government support for Fannie Mae and/or Freddie Mac that might result in significantly reduced availability of mortgage financing sources, as well as increases in interest rates for mortgage financing;
- our ability to refinance debt on favorable terms at maturity;
- risks of a lessening of demand for the multifamily units that we own;
- competition from other available multifamily units, single family units available for rental or purchase, and changes in market rental rates;
 - the failure of development projects or redevelopment activities to achieve expected results due to, among other causes, construction and contracting risks, unanticipated increases in materials and/or labor, delays in project completion and/or lease-up that result in increased costs and/or reduce the profitability of a completed project, and the absence of our right to control all activities and decisions of joint venture developments where the applicable agreement allocate decision making authority to, or require the consent of, our joint venture partner;
- the failure to enter into development joint venture arrangements on acceptable terms;
- increases in property and liability insurance costs;
- unanticipated increases in real estate taxes and other operating expenses;
- weather conditions that adversely affect operating expenses;
- expenditures that cannot be anticipated such as utility rate and usage increases and unanticipated repairs;
- our inability to control operating expenses or achieve increases in revenue;
- shareholder ownership limitations that may discourage a takeover otherwise considered favorable by shareholders;
- the results of litigation involving us;
- changes in tax legislation;
- risks of personal injury and property damage claims that are not covered by our insurance;
- catastrophic property damage losses that are not covered by our insurance;
- risks associated with property acquisitions, such as failure to achieve expected results or matters not discovered in due diligence; and
- risks related to the perception of residents and prospective residents as to the attractiveness, convenience and safety of our properties or the neighborhoods in which they are located.

Overview.

We are engaged primarily in the ownership and operation of multifamily apartment units. Our subsidiary, Merit, is a general contractor and construction manager that acts as our in-house construction division. Our primary source of cash and revenue from operations is rental payments from the leasing of apartment units, which represented substantially all of our consolidated revenue for the three months ended March 31, 2014 and March 31, 2013. The operating performance of our properties is affected by general economic trends including, but not limited to, household formation, job and wage growth, unemployment rates, population growth, immigration, the supply of new multifamily rental units and, in certain markets, the supply of other housing alternatives, such as condominiums, single family and multifamily rental homes and owner occupied single family and multifamily homes. Additionally, our performance may be affected by our ability to access the capital markets and the prices we can obtain for our debt and equity securities.

Rental revenue collections are impacted by rental rates and occupancy levels. We use LROTM, a rental revenue software product that provides comprehensive submarket-based statistical data to assist in maximizing rental revenue while remaining market competitive. We combine this data with our proprietary market knowledge and experience to maximize rental revenues and maintain high occupancy levels. With LROTM, we generate long-term rent growth by adjusting rents to address market forces in real-time. We adjust our rental rates in our continuing effort to adapt to changing market conditions, and we continuously monitor physical occupancy and revenue per occupied unit to track our success in maximizing property revenue. These indicators are more fully described in the Results of Operations comparison. Additionally, we consider property net operating income ("NOI"), Funds from Operations ("FFO") and FFO as adjusted to be important indicators of our overall performance. Property NOI (property revenue less property operating and maintenance expenses) is a measure of the profitability of our properties and has the largest impact on our financial condition and operating results. FFO is used by real estate investment trusts as a supplemental measure of the operating performance of real estate companies because it excludes charges such as real estate depreciation and amortization on intangible assets that are generally considered not to be reflective of the actual value of real estate assets over time. Additionally, gains and losses from the sale of most real estate assets and certain other items are also excluded from FFO. A reconciliation of property NOI to consolidated net income attributable to AERC and a reconciliation of net income attributable to AERC to FFO is included in the Results of Operations comparison.

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Cash Flows and Liquidity. Significant sources and uses of cash are summarized as follows:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | |
|---|--------------------|------------|---|
| | March 31, | | |
| | 2014 | 2013 | |
| Net cash provided by operations | \$12,568 | \$15,570 | |
| Fixed assets: | | | |
| Acquisitions and development expenditures | (14,271 |) (4,412 |) |
| Net property disposition proceeds | 58,086 | 61,970 | |
| Recurring, revenue enhancing and non-recurring capital expenditures | (2,239 |) (2,165 |) |
| Cash proceeds from sale of equity interest in development property | 24,075 | — | |
| Contributions to joint ventures | (588 |) — |) |
| Debt: | | | |
| Decrease in mortgage notes payable, net | (10,198 |) (826 |) |
| Decrease in revolving credit facility borrowings, net | (44,500 |) (190,500 |) |
| Unsecured note issuances | — | 150,000 | |
| Exercise of stock options | — | 1,550 | |
| Purchase of treasury shares | (994 |) (697 |) |
| Purchase of noncontrolling interest | — | (4,544 |) |
| Cash dividends and operating partnership distributions paid | (11,747 |) (9,362 |) |

Our primary sources of liquidity are cash flow provided by operations, short-term borrowings on our unsecured revolving credit facility, project-specific loans and the sale of debt or equity securities. Our scheduled debt maturities for 2014 consisted of three mortgage loans totaling approximately \$44.5 million. As of March 31, 2014, we have repaid two of these loans totaling approximately \$20.0 million with property sale proceeds. We intend to repay the remaining loan from one or more of the following sources: borrowings on our unsecured revolving credit facility, unsecured debt financings, or proceeds from property sales. The maximum amount of borrowings available to us under the unsecured revolving credit facility is \$350.0 million and, as of April 25, 2014, there were outstanding borrowings of \$83.5 million on this facility.

We anticipate cash flow provided by operations for the remainder of the year will be sufficient to meet normal business operations and liquidity requirements. We believe that if net cash provided by operations is below projections, other sources, such as our unsecured revolver and/or secured and unsecured borrowings, are or can be made available and will be sufficient to meet our normal business operations and liquidity requirements. We anticipate that we will continue to pay our regular quarterly dividends in cash. Funds to be used for property acquisitions, development or other capital expenditures are expected to be provided primarily by our unsecured revolving credit facility, the sale of properties, the sale of additional common shares, the sale of additional debt securities and the admission of joint venture partners.

Cash flow provided by operations decreased (19.3)% during the three months ended March 31, 2014, compared to the three months ended March 31, 2013, as a result of changes in accounts payable due to the timing of payments.

During the remainder of 2014, we anticipate incurring approximately \$12.6 million in additional capital expenditures for replacements and improvements at our operating properties. This includes replacement of worn carpet and appliances, refurbishing parking lots and similar items in accordance with our current property expenditure plan, as well as commitments for investment/revenue enhancing and non-recurring expenditures. We expect to use cash provided by operating activities to pay for these expenditures.

The following table identifies our capital expenditures as of March 31:

| (In thousands) | 2014 | 2013 | Variance |
|---|----------|---------|----------|
| Recurring fixed asset additions | \$1,914 | \$2,140 | \$(226) |
| Revenue enhancing/non-recurring fixed asset additions | 325 | 25 | 300 |
| Acquisition fixed asset additions | 654 | 395 | 259 |
| Development fixed assets: | | | |
| Internal costs | 770 | 590 | 180 |
| Capitalized interest | 1,000 | 480 | 520 |
| Land and other development costs ⁽¹⁾ | 11,847 | 2,947 | 8,900 |
| Total development fixed asset additions | \$13,617 | \$4,017 | \$9,600 |
| Total fixed asset additions | \$16,510 | \$6,577 | \$9,933 |

(1) The increase in land and other development costs in 2014 compared to 2013 is due to increased construction and development costs, namely from the Cantabria and 7001 Bethesda projects.

See Note 2, "Real Estate Capitalization Policies and Depreciation" and "Classification of Fixed Asset Additions" for additional information.

Unconsolidated Development. On February 3, 2014, we entered into a partnership agreement with AIG for the development and operation of 350 Eighth, a 410-unit apartment community with commercial space and underground parking located in San Francisco, California. We are a 50.01% partner with AIG, which has contributed \$24.1 million to the partnership. The land upon which the partnership is developing was purchased by us for \$46.6 million on May 28, 2013. As of December 31, 2013, this land was included in our consolidated financial statements. Upon the formation of our partnership with AIG, the land and improvements to date, with a carrying value of \$50.3 million, were deconsolidated. As this partnership is not sufficiently funded to finance the activities of the entity, and not all of the capital will be funded up front, the partnership has been deemed to not have sufficient equity, and has therefore been determined to be variable interest entity. It has also been determined that we do not control the decisions that most significantly affect the economics of the entity, and that we do not hold a controlling financial interest in the entity. As such, our investment in the entity is included in our consolidated financial statements using the equity method. Our strategy with respect to this entity is to reduce the overall financial risk related to the development of the property. However, we do not believe that this investment has a materially different impact upon our liquidity, cash flows, capital resources, credit or market risk than the other consolidated development activities.

RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Comparison of the three months ended March 31, 2014 to the three months ended March 31, 2013:

Our Same Community portfolio represents operating properties that we owned for all of the comparison periods. Development properties are added to our Same Community portfolio after they have been stabilized for all of the comparison periods. We consider a property to be stabilized when it has reached 93% occupancy. For the three-month comparison periods ended March 31, 2014 and 2013, the Same Community portfolio consisted of 47 owned properties containing 12,041 units. In 2014, the four properties we acquired in 2012 (The Apartments at the Arboretum, Southpoint Village, 21 Forty Medical District and The Park at Crossroads) as well our development in Nashville, Tennessee (Vista Germantown), containing 1,398 units in total, moved into the Same Community portfolio from the acquired/development properties portfolio. Properties that are sold are removed from the Same Community portfolio at that time. The property we sold during the three months ended March 31, 2014 containing 352 units has been removed from the Same Community portfolio. Acquired and development properties for the three-month comparison periods ended March 31, 2014 and 2013 include five properties acquired in 2013 and a 99-unit expansion in Dallas, Texas, which stabilized during the first quarter of 2014.

Net income for the three months ended March 31, 2014, increased \$31.9 million to \$42.3 million when compared to the \$10.4 million of net income recognized for the three months ended March 31, 2013. This change was primarily due to the gain recognized on the disposition of a property in 2014 of \$41.0 million compared to a gain of \$8.8 million related to a property sale that occurred in 2013. Our positive performance was also due to an increase in property revenue, net of increases in property operating and maintenance expenses, depreciation and amortization expense and general and administrative expenses, resulting in an increase in income before gain on property disposition and discontinued operations of \$1.2 million in 2014 compared to 2013.

The following chart reflects the amount and percentage change in line items relevant to the changes in overall operating performance:

| (Dollar amounts in thousands) | Increase (Decrease) When Comparing the Three Months Ended March 31, 2014 to March 31, 2013 | | |
|---|---|----------|----|
| Property revenue | \$6,606 | 15.5 | % |
| Property operating and maintenance expenses | 3,172 | 19.6 | % |
| Depreciation and amortization | 2,405 | 17.3 | % |
| General and administrative expenses | 361 | 7.3 | % |
| Interest expense | (468 |) (6.3 |)% |
| Gain on disposition of properties | 40,966 | 100.0 | % |
| Income from discontinued operations | (10,234 |) (100.0 |)% |

We use property NOI as a measure of the results of our properties' activities. We believe the changes in property NOI can help explain how the properties' activities influenced our results of operations. Property NOI is determined by deducting property operating and maintenance expenses from property revenue (excluding revenue and expense amounts classified as discontinued operations for 2013 periods). We consider property NOI to be an appropriate supplemental measure of our performance because it reflects the operating performance of our real estate portfolio, and is used to assess regional property level performance. Property NOI should not be considered (i) as an alternative to net income (determined in accordance with GAAP), (ii) as an indicator of financial performance, (iii) as an alternative to cash flow from operating activities (determined in accordance with GAAP), or (iv) as a measure of liquidity; nor is it necessarily indicative of sufficient cash flow to fund all of our needs. Other real estate companies may define property NOI in a different manner.

A reconciliation of property NOI to total consolidated net income attributable to AERC is as follows:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | |
|---|--------------------|-----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Property NOI | \$29,782 | \$26,348 |
| Office NOI | 478 | 312 |
| Property management and construction services NOI | 30 | — |
| Depreciation and amortization | (16,295) | (13,890) |
| General and administrative expense | (5,319) | (4,958) |
| Development costs | (330) | (262) |
| Costs associated with acquisitions | (86) | — |
| Interest expense | (6,953) | (7,421) |
| Income from continuing operations | 1,307 | 129 |
| Income from discontinued operations: | | |
| Operating income, net of interest expense | — | 1,438 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | — | 8,796 |
| Income from discontinued operations | — | 10,234 |
| Income before gain on disposition of properties | 1,307 | 10,363 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | 40,966 | — |
| Net income | 42,273 | 10,363 |
| Net income attributable to noncontrolling redeemable interest | — | (17) |
| Consolidated net income attributable to AERC | \$42,273 | \$10,346 |

Property NOI increased as a result of revenue increases across the Same Community portfolio and the contributions of the Acquired and Development Properties partially offset by increased property operating expenses.

The following table presents property NOI results by region:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| | March 31, | | |
| | 2014 | 2013 | Increase/ |
| | Property NOI | Property NOI | (Decrease) |
| Same Community Properties: | | | |
| Midwest | \$10,539 | \$10,170 | \$369 |
| Mid-Atlantic | 9,622 | 9,717 | (95) |
| Southeast | 4,151 | 4,013 | 138 |
| Southwest | 1,488 | 1,444 | 44 |
| Total Same Community | 25,800 | 25,344 | 456 |
| Acquired Properties | 3,246 | — | 3,246 |
| Development Property | 187 | — | 187 |
| Dispositions | 549 | 1,004 | (455) |
| Total Property NOI | \$29,782 | \$26,348 | \$3,434 |

Property Revenue. Property revenue is impacted by a combination of rental rates, fees and occupancy levels, i.e., property revenue per occupied unit. Average occupancy for each period and property revenue per occupied unit are presented in the following tables:

| | Average Occupancy ⁽¹⁾ | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|
| | Three Months Ended | |
| | March 31, | |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Same Community Properties: | | |
| Midwest | 96.3% | 95.7% |
| Mid-Atlantic | 95.7% | 95.5% |
| Southeast | 96.7% | 96.1% |
| Southwest | 96.3% | 96.4% |
| Total Same Community | 96.2% | 95.7% |
| Acquired Properties | 94.7% | N/A |
| Development ⁽²⁾ | 83.5% | N/A |
| Total | 95.9% | 95.7% |

(1) Average occupancy is defined as the average number of units occupied during the period divided by total number of units.

(2) The three months ended March 31, 2014 reflects a 99-unit expansion in Dallas, Texas that was completed in 2013.

| | Monthly Property Revenue | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| | Per Occupied Unit | |
| | Three Months Ended | |
| | March 31, | |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| (In thousands) | | |
| Same Community Properties: | | |
| Midwest | \$ 1,031 | \$ 1,002 |
| Mid-Atlantic | \$ 1,471 | \$ 1,449 |
| Southeast | \$ 1,386 | \$ 1,339 |
| Southwest | \$ 1,169 | \$ 1,121 |
| Total Same Community | \$ 1,220 | \$ 1,189 |
| Acquired Properties | \$ 1,651 | N/A |
| Development ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,173 | N/A |
| Total | \$ 1,258 | \$ 1,189 |

(1) The three months ended March 31, 2014 reflects a 99-unit expansion in Dallas, Texas that was completed in 2013.

The following table presents property revenue results:

| (In thousands) | Three Months Ended | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| | March 31, 2014 | 2013 | Increase/ (Decrease) |
| | Property Revenue | Property Revenue | |
| Same Community Properties: | | | |
| Midwest | \$ 17,681 | \$ 17,067 | \$ 614 |
| Mid-Atlantic | 14,620 | 14,359 | 261 |
| Southeast | 7,247 | 6,955 | 292 |
| Southwest | 2,846 | 2,730 | 116 |
| Total Same Community | 42,394 | 41,111 | 1,283 |
| Acquired Properties | 5,553 | — | 5,553 |
| Development Property | 291 | — | 291 |
| Dispositions | 912 | 1,433 | (521) |
| Total Property Revenue | \$ 49,150 | \$ 42,544 | \$ 6,606 |

The increase in Same Community property revenue was due to increased rental revenue as a result of an increase in overall occupancy and monthly property revenue per occupied unit (net rent less vacancies) in 2014 compared to 2013. All regions produced improved property revenue with the largest improvement coming from the Midwest portfolio.

Property operating and maintenance expenses. The property operating and maintenance expenses increase was primarily due to the acquisition and development properties being owned and operated during the three months ended March 31, 2014, compared to 2013. In addition, there were increases in real estate taxes within the Same Community portfolio as well as additional expenses relating to the extremely harsh winter during the three months ended March 31, 2014.

Depreciation and amortization. The depreciation and amortization expense increase was primarily due to expense recognized in 2014 related to the acquisition and development properties.

General and administrative. General and administrative expenses increased primarily due to \$395,000 of legal costs associated with the bankruptcy of the master lease holder for our commercial building in Los Angeles, California. See Note 13 of this report on Form 10-Q for additional information related to this legal proceeding.

Interest expense. Interest expense decreased primarily due to a reduction of mortgage loan interest expense resulting from the payoff of five mortgages during 2013 and two mortgages in 2014, and an increase of capitalized interest during 2014. Partially offsetting these decreases was an increase in interest expense related to unsecured notes issued in October, 2013.

Gain on disposition of properties and Income from discontinued operations. Income from discontinued operations decreased during the three-month comparison period due to an accounting standard update that no longer requires the disposition of certain assets to be considered discontinued operations, therefore allowing the gain or loss on sale their disposition generates to be considered part of income or loss from continuing operations. The corresponding increase of \$41.0 million in gain on disposition of properties in the three months ended March 31, 2014, reflects the gain from the sale of one property, while the \$10.2 million of income from discontinued operations in the three months ended March 31, 2013, reflects the operating results for four properties sold in 2013, as well as the recognized gain related to the one property sold during the three months ended March 31, 2013. For further details on this accounting standard update see Note 2 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements presented in Part 1, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q.

We also use FFO, a non-GAAP financial measure, as a measure of our results of operations. We calculate FFO in accordance with the definition adopted by the Board of Governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts ("NAREIT"). This definition includes all operating results, both recurring and non-recurring, except those results defined as "extraordinary items" under GAAP, adjusted for depreciation on real estate assets and amortization of intangible assets, excludes impairment write-downs of depreciable real estate and gains and losses from the disposition of properties and land. We calculate FFO per share using the weighted average shares outstanding amounts used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share in accordance with GAAP. FFO does not represent cash generated from operating activities in accordance with GAAP and is not necessarily indicative of cash available to fund cash needs and should not be considered an alternative to net income as an indicator of our operating performance or as an alternative to cash flow as a measure of liquidity. FFO is used in the real estate industry as a supplemental measure of the operating performance of real estate companies because it excludes charges such as real estate depreciation that are generally considered not to be reflective of the actual value of real estate assets over time. Other real estate companies may define FFO in a different manner.

A reconciliation of net income attributable to AERC to FFO is as follows:

| (In thousands, except per share amounts) | Three Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|----------|
| | March 31, | |
| | 2014 | 2013 |
| Net income attributable to AERC | \$42,273 | \$10,346 |
| Depreciation - real estate assets | 14,795 | 12,834 |
| Amortization of intangible assets | 974 | 1,205 |
| Gain on disposition of properties | (40,966) | (8,796) |
| Funds from operations | \$17,076 | \$15,589 |
| Funds from operations per common share - basic | \$0.30 | \$0.31 |
| Funds from operations per common share - diluted | \$0.30 | \$0.31 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - basic | 57,362 | 49,634 |
| Weighted average shares outstanding - diluted | 57,833 | 50,280 |

CONTINGENCIES

For a discussion of contingencies, see Note 13 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements presented in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q.

ITEM 3. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

We are exposed to interest rate changes associated with variable rate debt and the refinancing risk on our fixed-rate debt. Based on our variable rate debt outstanding at March 31, 2014 and 2013, an interest rate change of 100 basis points would impact interest expense approximately \$1.3 million and \$1.5 million on an annual basis, respectively. We occasionally use derivative instruments to manage our exposure to interest rates. See Note 11 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements presented in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q for additional information regarding derivative instruments and "Item 7A, Qualitative and Quantitative Disclosures About Market Risk" of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013, for a more complete discussion of interest rate sensitive assets and liabilities.

ITEM 4. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

Disclosure Controls and Procedures. We evaluated the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures to determine whether they are effective in ensuring the disclosure of required information is made timely in accordance with the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act") and the rules and forms of the SEC using the criteria set forth by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO) in "Internal Control - Integrated Framework (1992)." This evaluation was made under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") and Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") as of the end of the period covered by this report on Form 10-Q. The CEO and CFO have concluded, based on their review, that our disclosure controls and procedures, as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e), were effective to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports that we file under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in SEC rules and forms, and (ii) accumulated and communicated to management, including the CEO and CFO, as appropriate, to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting. There were no changes in our internal control over financial reporting during the first quarter of 2014 that materially affected or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

We believe that because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

ITEM 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

For information related to legal proceedings, see Note 13 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements presented in Part I, Item 1 of this report on Form 10-Q.

ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

See "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2013.

ITEM 2. UNREGISTERED SALES OF EQUITY SECURITIES AND USE OF PROCEEDS

Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities for the Three Months Ended March 31, 2014

| Period | Total Number of Shares Purchased | Average Price Paid Per Share | Total Number of Shares Purchased As Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Approximate Dollar Value of Shares That May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (in thousands) ⁽¹⁾ |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|
| January 1 through January 31 | 1,549 | \$ 16.29 | — | \$ 26,288 |
| February 1 through February 28 | 60,894 | 15.91 | — | 26,288 |
| March 1 through March 31 | — | — | — | 26,288 |
| Total | 62,443 | ⁽²⁾ \$ 15.92 | — | |

There is a total of \$26.3 million remaining on our Board of Director authorizations to repurchase our common (1) shares. We did not repurchase any shares using this authority during the three months ended March 31, 2014, and we have no present intention to use this authority to repurchase shares.

We have a policy which allows employees to pay their portion of the income taxes related to restricted shares (2) vesting by surrendering a number of shares to us equal in value on the day of vesting to the amount of taxes due up to the statutory withholding amount. All shares repurchased during the three months ended March 31, 2014 were purchased in connection with that policy.

ITEM 6. EXHIBITS

| Number | Title | Filed herewith or incorporated herein by reference |
|--------|---|--|
| 31 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act. | Exhibit 31 to Form 10-Q filed herewith. |
| 31.1 | Certification of Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act. | Exhibit 31.1 to Form 10-Q filed herewith. |
| 32 | Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes Oxley Act. | Exhibit 32 to Form 10-Q filed herewith. |
| 101 | XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language). The following materials from Associated Estates Realty Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2014, tagged in XBRL: (i) consolidated balance sheets, (ii) consolidated statements of operations and other comprehensive income, (iii) consolidated statements of cash flows, (v) notes to consolidated financial statements. | |

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

ASSOCIATED ESTATES REALTY CORPORATION

May 2, 2014
(Date)

/s/ Lou Fatica
Lou Fatica, Senior Vice President,
Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer