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**Kalamazoo County Land Bank Fast Track Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—August 11th, 2022**

Members Present: Qianna Decker, Carl Roberts, Elizabeth Schlott, Holly Crump, Rebekah Kik, Shawntel Lindsey

Members Absent: Thomas Whitener,

County Liaison Present: N/A

Staff Present: Reality Rojas, Sidney Ellis, Theresa Coty O’Neil, Anna Roeder

Community Members Present: Theresa (Envirologic) Brian Krol (Seber Trans)

The August 11th, 2022 Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Carl Roberts at 8:36 am.

Approval of June Minutes:

Decker made the motion.

Schlott seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the June minutes were approved.

Additions: N/A

Crump made the motion Decker seconded

All in favor and the agenda was approved

Citizen’s Time: Therese Searles from Envirologic – Jeff recently attended the Michigan County Treasurer’s conference. There will be funding coming through for blight elimination- application forthcoming. Brownfield authority- Rachel Grover wanted to IPUSA Brownfield plan was approved by Pavillion Township. Public hearing August 16 7pm. Brownfield funding due diligence project for 21 parcels which will be purchased through the Land Bank.

Commission Liaison Comments: N/A

Chair’s Remarks: N/A

Executive Director Report: 20 Mills insurance progress- whitebox will be built to match the existing building, Pavilion Twp approved. Over 100 people attended the Show me the Money event. Maintaining 220 lots- this is a high cost undertaking. Property maintenance. We’re on the county budget.

-Eastside Square Update- moving forward with first residential building on Eastside Square

Regular Agenda

- Treasurer Position- Schlott cannot take on treasurer. Board members interested in taking on this role were advised to contact Thomas Whitener

- Waive 5/50 Waiver fee for Keash Robinson 627 Edwin Sale

Ellis shared background context about this property. Crump moved, Decker seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed to waive 5/50 waiver fee on sale of 627 Edwin.

- Certification of resolutions and ratification pertaining to IP/USA TIF Brownfield Agreement

Board vote is requested for new agreement. Finalized document.

Motion to approve this finalized document. Kik moved to approve to approve the document with the modification of specifying that board president and executive director to sign the document, Schlott seconded, all in favor and the motion was carried.

Real Estate Update: N/A

DEI Committee Update: (Diversity Equity and Inclusion)

Roberts shared background on IDI report. Based on report, we believe that everyone in the organization sees the value in diversity and inclusion. Determined to reach out about further training. Request for board to send information about trainings they have had that may benefit the organization in these areas. Outreach to organizational leaders in the community who are models of integrating to be interviewed- Alvin Gray (director of DEI county) Sheri Thomas Clout and Valerie Cunningham. They may have ideas of trainings that may be useful for the Land Bank. Seeking in-house annual training (retreat) with the focal point being DEI. Invitation for another board member to join the DEI committee (invitation to reach out to Carl Roberts if interested).

Affirmative Marketing Campaign Update (Quianna Decker): Decker shared that she is no longer able to serve on this committee. Theresa Coty O’neil added updates- Show me the money event has been the focus recently. Ongoing efforts to work with people on the Eastside for homeownership readiness and financial literacy. Residents took surveys. Panels with financial experts (one in Spanish). Mobile lending library. Eastside square remains the focus and this group will resume in the fall. Social media and positive press coverage. Working on a newsletter to help share what the Land Bank is doing and how the programs can be utilized. Annual report is nearing completion. Discussion ensued. Kik suggested referencing the various neighborhood plans to see where there may be potential for future partnership. Jae Slaby- neighborhood activator. Tianna Harrison- Community Homeworks has a specialty with financial literacy (mock-interviews, job application assistance). How do we connect with other neighborhood organizations beyond the main neighborhood associations. Idea of hosting community listening sessions to open to organizations to hear needs questions and feedback about the Land Bank.

Financial Statement

Ellis shared updates.

Brian Kroll (Seber Trans) was present to point our highlights and translate the current budget numbers.

Target 50% and we’re just under that presently. New Merchant’s Crossing is anticipated to be valued at over $1million. Updates on Rootead- they have first right of refusal once the new building is completed. County draft budget ($250,000). Discussion ensued. Exploring options for renting out office space.

Board Member Comments: Round robin updates with board members.

Decker shared appreciation for working with this group and upcoming projects. Kik is excited to introduce new neighborhood activator Jae Slaby to help further neighborhood engagement. Newsletter sounds like a good idea. Encouragement to spread efforts throughout the county. City news- $6million build grant came through for design, planning and engineering on transportation. Crump is planning to step down in September. Expressing gratitude for all of the amazing work and seeing the work come together. Schlott expressed gratitude for being a part of this board. Lindsey expressed gratitude for the board and conversation. Roberts reminded that we’re looking for a treasurer, share relevant trainings, need board member to join the DEI committee.

Move to adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 am.