



**Kalamazoo County Land Bank Fast Track Authority  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—December 10, 2020  
Electronic Meeting**

Members Present: Mary Balkema, Carl Roberts, Rebekah Kik, Holly Crump, Brian Hudson, Qianna Decker, Elizabeth Schlott

Members Absent: N/A

County Liaison Present: Christine Morse

Staff Present: Kelly Clarke, Tammy Lahman, Theresa Coty O’Neil, and Reality Rojas

Community Members Present: Rachael Grover, Jeff Hawkins, and Thomas Whitener

The December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Balkema at 8:32 AM Via Zoom. Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86518580852?pwd=WmpXcXYycWRwM2Jsa3lvc0o0L3dwdz09>

Approval of October Minutes:

Crump made the motion.

Hudson seconded the motion.

Approval of October Minutes passed unanimously.

Additions: Balkema suggested all items of the agenda be moved to a consent agenda with the exception of the resignation of Mary Balkema as board chair, the appointment of Thomas Whitener as board chair and the Resolution honoring Mary Balkema’s service.

Chair’s Remarks: N/A

Citizen’s Time: N/A

Commission Liaison Comments: Morse shared there is a Housing Director position open with Kalamazoo County that will take the lead with the Millage that passed to help with housing in Kalamazoo County. There will be community meetings held for community input. Morse also expressed gratitude towards Balkema and her service with the Kalamazoo Land Bank.

Executive Director Report: Clarke informed the board of the MCACA Grant. This grant for \$12,705. This grant will fund the community engagement component and art for the Eastside Square project. Buddy Hannah is working on a community poetry project about growing up on the Eastside and what living on the Eastside means for the residents. Gerald King is working on a document about the Eastside Square project to help engage with the residents. Clarke also

informed the board on real estate transactions. Remi Harrington closed on 10 Mills. Raymond Ryan purchased a property with plans to build a residential home. Raymond is the first private individual to purchase property from the Land Bank with the intent to build a new home without additional subsidy. This has been a long-term goal of the Kalamazoo Land Bank. 1301 Portage has new buyers, a father/daughter team. They have been active in the community and the daughter is involved in Black Wall Street of Kalamazoo as well as other community efforts. There are also offers on 1311 Portage St which will be evaluated when all the documents are submitted.

#### Consent Agenda

- Final 2020 Budget Amendment
- Acceptance of Funds
- Reappointment of Holly Crump to Vibrant board
- Resolution regarding credit card authorization
- Acceptance of resignation of Mary Balkema from Vibrant Board effective December 31, 2020
- Appointment of Thomas Whitener on Vibrant Board effective January 01, 2021

Roberts made the motion.

Hudson seconded the motion.

Approval Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

#### Regular Agenda

- Resignation of Mary Balkema and appointment of Thomas Whitener as Board Chair to the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority

Hudson Made the motion.

Crump seconded the motion.

Approval of resignation and appointment passed unanimously.

- Resolution Honoring Mary Balkema's Service

Crump made the motion.

Hudson seconded the motion.

Approval of Resolution passed unanimously.

Real Estate Update: Hudson updated the board that 10 Mills has been sold to Remi Harrington for an Urban Arts Exploratory. Rootead entered into option for 20 Mills; they are planning to open an integrated healing center. 1301 Portage has buyers looking to open a Wing Heaven with enthusiastic support from the neighborhood association. 202 Allen and 605 Arthur were sold for renovation. 934 Southworth was sold to a new homeowner as a KPEP rehab.

Affirmative/Vibrant: Clarke updated the board on the Affirmative Marketing Campaign. It launched last summer and sees the participation of approximately 20 community members participating in the efforts. The goal is promote the potential of homeownership to people of color and neighborhood residents such that they have access to resources for credit repair and knowledge about financial products so that when the Eastside Square development comes to fruition underrepresented groups will have more opportunity to participate should they choose.

Habitat for Humanity is completing the vision for Eastside Gateway by finishing the remaining two small homes. These homes will be sold to someone with 60% or lower median income.

Board Member Comments: Balkema introduced the Treasurer Elect Thomas Whitener. Board members shared their appreciation for Balkema for her efforts and service.

Move to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 AM