



**Kalamazoo County Land Bank Fast Track Authority
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—February 11, 2021
Electronic Meeting**

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

Members Absent: N/A

County Liaison Present: Tami Rey

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

Community Members Present: Pat Taylor, Rachael Grover and Jeff Hawkins

The February 11th, 2021 Meeting of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Whitener at 8:32 AM Via Zoom. Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88138799938?pwd=WWd6YUZqaTBqQlJxZ05lWU4rVHEvdz09>

Approval of December Minutes:

Hudson made the motion.

Crump seconded the motion.

Approval of October Minutes passed unanimously.

Additions: N/A

Citizen’s Time: N/A

Commission Liaison Comments: N/A

Chair’s Remarks: Whitener informed the board of the upcoming Strategic Housing Meeting for how the 6.3 Million dollars will be allocated. Three of the major questions of allocation include rental subsidies, housing, and what the overall community needs. Kalamazoo County is looking for solutions of foreclosure prevention and housing stability.

Executive Director Report: Clarke reflected on the workplan goals. Though it has been a difficult year given the downsizing that took place last fall related to budget cuts, Land Bank staff made good progress on goals and the Eastside Square.

2020 Goals included listing Washington Square properties in order to promote their return to private community ownership. 1301 Portage Sold to a father/daughter team. They are involved in the community and Black Wall Street of Kalamazoo. 1311 Portage will be closing in the next few weeks with Black Wall Street of Kalamazoo.

Pat Taylor shared with the board the Eastside Neighborhood Association has been partnering with the Land Bank on collaborative projects on the Eastside for 10 years including the most recent Eastside Gateway project. The neighborhood is excited about the development of the Eastside Square project and is providing leadership in a variety of capacities regarding these efforts.

Regular Agenda

- Creation of DEI Committee

Roberts Made the motion.

Kik seconded the motion.

Creation of DEI Committee passed unanimously.

- Approval of 2021 Goals

Roberts made the motion.

Decker seconded the motion.

Approval of 2021 Goals passed unanimously.

Real Estate Update: Clarke informed the board of the sale of 1301 Portage and the pending sale of 1311 Portage to Black Wall Street of Kalamazoo.

Affirmative/Vibrant: Clarke updated the board on the Affirmative Marketing Campaign. The committee is partnering with KENA's planned Show Me the Money event this summer. Decker informed the board on ideas they are working on that include creating workshops for first time home buyers.

Board Member Comments: Roberts shared his appreciation for the work the agency has done and the improvements that have been made in the last year. The agency has worked on clear communication with the public with the program overview sheet and the public having the ability to navigate through the programs and properties.

Kik shared with the board for the housing millage her thought that there should be an emphasis on home ownership because of its ability to support community wealth building.

Crump shared with the board utility assistance would be beneficial to homeowners. Maintenance programs would help with utilities to help homeowners maintain their homes and avoid foreclosure.

Move to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 AM