

Kalamazoo County Land Bank Fast Track Authority

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes—October 9, 2014

Members Present: Mary Balkema, Chuck Vliek, Michael Collins, Terry Dorgan, Christopher Haenicke, Jerome Kisscorni

Members Absent: Dr. Addis Moore

Staff Present: Kelly Clarke, Sarah Frame, Amanda Woodin,

Community Members Present: Thell Woods

The regular meeting of the Kalamazoo County Land Bank Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Balkema at 8:32 a.m. in room 105 of the Kalamazoo County Administration Building, 201 W. Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

A motion to approve the August 2014 meeting minutes was made by Haenicke, all were in favor, and the motion carried.

Citizens' Time: Thell Woods asked about the status of the Vicksburg Mill property. Balkema explained that they are working with partners and a developer to sell and redevelop the property.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Balkema recapped the second tax auction that took place on Monday, October 6, where \$193,000 was raised through property sales. The County Treasurer's office will work with the Land Bank to rethink strategies for the tax sales that would streamline the auction process and keep troubled properties out of the cycle of foreclosure. Balkema gave a brief update on the status of Merchant's Publishing, saying that they are working with DEQ to inventory hazardous materials and remove contaminated soils.

Consent Agenda

1. Acceptance of July and August 2014 Financials
2. Acceptance of grant funds for Riverview Launch and Land Bank operations

A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Kisscorni, Haenicke seconded, and the motion carried.

Regular Agenda

1. 2014 budget amendment

Balkema gave an overview of the budgeting process. Woodin explained the proposed budget amendment, for the general and rental funds. A motion to accept the 2014 amendment was made by Dorgan, Kisscorni seconded, and the motion carried.

2. 2015 budget

Woodin gave a detailed overview of the general fund budget for 2015. Staff are also working on a 5-year budget plan and projection which they will bring to the board for consideration. Dorgan made a motion to approve the 2015 budget, Collins supported, and the motion carried.

3. 2015 personnel policy changes

Woodin explained the proposed changes to personnel deferred compensation, an increase from 5% to 7% matching on a per pay period basis as an employee retention tool. This includes a proposal to lower the cap on vacation time accrual from 240 to 160 hours to reduce liability and encourage employees to take vacation time. A motion to accept the changes was made by Haenicke, Kisscorni seconded, and the motion carried.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Clarke provided the Board with updates on the following items:

1. Anti-blight state grant and demolitions in partnership with the County Treasurer's office
2. Side lot and Adopt-a-lot parcels
3. HOME grant and sale of homes on Clinton Street
4. Riverview Launch fundraising and construction progress
5. \$1.4 million NSP2 Program Income grant for Prairie Gardens – working with MSHDA for 2015 on clarifications and requirements
6. Outreach efforts around Riverview Launch and Washington Square are engaging community and building new partnerships
7. Lunchtime Holidays in the Square series will continue efforts to promote Washington Square new businesses and engage community in support of revitalization efforts

Dorgan moved to adjourn the meeting, Kisscorni supported, and the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Dorgan, Treasurer and Secretary