

**Kalamazoo County Land Bank  
Fast Track Authority  
June 10, 2010  
Minutes**

Members Present: Balkema, Kisscorni, Marquardt, Rowe, Vander Ark, Ziegler  
Members Absent: Montoya  
Others Present: Ken Hartman, Jeff Hawkins, Thell Woods, Jack Urban, Laura Lam, Peggy Bresnahan, David Artley, Roger Erikson, Martha Ails, Toby Hanna Davis, Lotta Jarenfelt, Jeff Sorensen, Carol Dehaan, Steve Barber

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Balkema at 8:35am in room 105 of the Kalamazoo County Administration Building, 201 West Kalamazoo Ave., Kalamazoo, MI, 49007.

Chairperson Balkema asked for a motion to excuse absent members. Vander Ark motioned. Marquardt seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

Approval of May 13, 2010 Minutes- Rowe moved. Vander Ark seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

Balkema stated that there would be two additions to the agenda under section 4; e. Land Bank Conference Report and f. An Employment Agreement for the new Executive Director. Vander Ark moved to approve the additions to the agenda. Ziegler seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

1. Accounts Payable & Monthly Statement

Balkema reported on the balance sheet and expenditure report using the new BS&A Fund Accounting software recently purchased by the Land Bank. Vander Ark motioned to approve the report. Marquardt seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

2. Update on Executive Director Position

Balkema updated the board that Kelly Clarke has accepted the position as Executive Director of the Land Bank. Her start date is July 19<sup>th</sup> contingent upon passing the background check, credit report, and drug screening. Ms. Clarke will work with the Board to formalize a Strategic Plan for the Land Bank in the 1<sup>st</sup> part of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

3. MSHDA Grant

Balkema requested that the board approve the MSHDA Resolution to accept the NSP2 grant in the amount of \$5,924,205. Vander Ark moved. Marquardt seconded. Ziegler abstained. The vote passed.

4. Property Maintenance, Renovation, & Development

a. Update on NSP2 Plan

Chairperson Balkema gave a brief update on the NSP2 program. Kristen Ramer, LISC AmeriCorps, reported on the Neighborhood Outreach Meetings that the City of Kalamazoo

and the Land Bank are performing in order to gather community input around the NSP2 process. Vine, Edison and East Side meetings have been conducted to date.

b. Update on Market Place

Chairperson Balkema reported that the City of Kalamazoo and the Land Bank are moving forward with further environmental testing due to the results of the Phase I Assessment.

c. Reminder: Tax-Sale- July 28<sup>th</sup> 12noon at the Radisson (11am registration)

d. Edible Edison Community Garden Update

Kristen Ramer, LISC AmeriCorps presented on the progress of the Edible Edison Community Garden. Approximately 50 volunteers have contributed over 155 hours to the garden and the total cost is under \$1,000.

5. Meeting Schedule

Land Bank Board Meetings are scheduled the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month at 8:30am. The next meetings are as follows:

i. July 8/August 12/September 9

Public Comment- 3 minutes per person

Steve Barber from ISAAC introduced himself and requested that the Land Bank give a presentation to ISAAC's Housing Task Force using the power point on the Edible Edison Community Garden.

Thell Woods inquired about 5yr/50% TIF that's available to the Land Bank in conjunction with the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Chairperson Balkema clarified that for 5 years, 50% of the tax revenue would go to the local taxing unit and 50% would go to the Land Bank.

David Artley expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership between Land Banks and Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities and spoke to some of the tools made available to Land Banks.

James Marquardt offered to receive comments from the Board regarding the Employment Agreement for the Executive Director. Board members have 7-10 days to return comments. Marquardt will gather the information, make changes and submit the new agreement to Chairperson Balkema who will have it reviewed by the County Counsel.

Chairperson Balkema reported on the housing situation for 5 homeowners who were foreclosed on as of April 1, 2010. She has been talking with HRI who has emergency shelter money that can be used to assist these families. Chairperson Balkema is working with the County Attorney to evict these families.

Vander Ark moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40am. Marquardt seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Al Rowe,

Kristen Ramer, Recording Secretary