

**Land Bank Commission Minutes**  
**June 17, 2009**

Chair Grace Blagdon called the meeting to order. Members present were Grace Blagdon, Brad Walker, Hillis Schild, Willis Smith, Keith Wingfield, Susan Chan, and Mike Robinson. Arlen Jones was not present.

**Approval of Minutes-**

Chair Grace Blagdon asked that the May minutes be approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Vice Chair Brad Walker, seconded by Commissioner Willis Smith

**Staff Reports –**

Redevelopment Administrator Travis Martin updated the commission about his trip to Traverse City, Michigan. He mentioned that their Land Bank is a separate entity from their city. He also traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the national Land Bank convention and he stated that whatever adversity we have can be over come. Mr. Martin also suggested the commissioners' travel to the conferences in the future.

The Board of Directors approved Wilson and Associates to be the title company for the Land Bank Commission and it is a one year contract per parcel. The parcel will be \$275.00. The title commitment will search back 30 years. The turnaround for updating properties will be up to two weeks.

**Committee Reports-**

*Legal Affairs*

The committee reviewed where they were on tearing down condemned property. Committee has a plan in place to take steps on how to execute foreclosures. They would like make a recommendation to the Board to removed properties that are on the condemnation list. The committee also would like to recommend historical survey on which properties are historical.

HNP Director Andre Bernard mentioned there is currently a procedure for the capitol zoning district.

A discussion was held on how to obtain condemn property.

The commission decided to table the conversation until next meeting.

*Administration and Operations*

The committee recommended the Land Bank have a focus area located between I-630 on the north 18 Street on the south cedar street on the west and Woodrow street on the east. There was a motion to approve the recommendation for Michael Robinson, seconded by Andrew Francis.

Discussion was held on the recommendation for the Land Bank focus area.

Commissioner Wingfield suggested that the commission amended the focus area to cover Charles Bussey Drive and Central High area; he also made a motion to table the discussion until next meeting, seconded by Hillis Schild.

### *Funding and Development*

A discussion was held on verbiage regarding the NSP applications. The application is due on July 15<sup>th</sup>. Executive Director of Downtown CDC, Scott Grummer discussed the CDC role for the Land Bank Commission.

### **Old Business-**

N/A

### **New Business-**

New business was tabled to the next meeting.

### **Citizen Communication**

Martie North asked if the intent of setting the dollar amount at \$1,000 as the threshold for foreclosing on city liens was to get owners of the properties to pay amount of lien.

Citizen Robert Jones would like to encourage a grassroots project.

Citizen Kimberly White asked is their opportunity to revitalize and had concerns about the language that was proposed in the discussions held earlier. She stated that it sounds like the term “Ghetto” is being reference when talking properties in the urban neighborhoods.

### **Adjourn**

Commissioner Keith Wingfield motioned that the meeting be adjourned.