

Land Bank Commission Minutes
July 15, 2009

Commissioner Mike Robinson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Mike Robinson was acting chair. Chair Grace Blagdon and Vice Chair Brad Walker were not present.

Members present were Hillis Schild, Willis Smith, Keith Wingfield, Andrew Francis, Susan Chan, Mike Robinson and Arlen Jones

Approval of Minutes-

Acting Chair Mike Robinson asked that the June minutes be approved. A motion was made to amend the minutes for approval by Commissioner Andy Francis, seconded by Commissioner Keith Wingfield.

Staff Reports –

Redevelopment Administrator, Travis Martin and Housing and Neighborhood Programs Director, Andre Bernard attended the State Land Commissioner auction on July 14, 2009. City Staff acquired ten properties at the auction. One property was donated in the Central High area. The Land Bank has eleven properties total. The Land Bank will have to wait 30 days for redemption for the property owners to pay the taxes. It is pending. Commissioner Keith Wingfield expresses opposition to the purchasing of the property by City of Little Rock for the Land Bank with out consulting the Land Bank Commission. Commissioner Andy Francis asked what the plan is following up on phase 1.

City Attorney Brittney Jefferson stated she was assigned to help draft correspondence for the Land Bank purchases. Andre Bernard stated the monies that were used were from Neighborhood Revitalization account. Andre Bernard stated that if we had environmental issues we can submit it for Brownfield grants. City Staff were to buy properties in the Central High Neighborhood. The Mayor and City Manager instructed Andre Bernard and Travis Martin to buy properties. Commissioner Hills Schild stated we should have bought properties after Land Bank Commission finish Phase 1 assessment. Commissioner Andy Francis stated he was concerned about the legalities purchasing the properties.

Commissioner Susan Chan stated we are an advisory board and things are happening with out Land bank Commission acknowledgement or advice. She also stated if we are given clear direction that Central High is to be the Land Bank direction; the commission should follow through with that. Commissioner Wingfield agreed with Chan but state the commission did not have an opportunity to advise, he felt like policies and procedures have been overlooked. Commissioner Schild asked to have the addresses of what was purchased.

The grant for NSP 2 application was due today. CLR, LR Housing, Habitat for Humanity and BCD is applying for the joint application. The amount is 22,000,000. Commissioner Mike Robinson extended Thanks to Kirk Rogers for providing maps.

Committee Reports-

Legal Affairs

The committee did not meet.

The committee asked, what is the capacity for the city attorney's office to handle mass amounts of foreclosure of city liens over \$1,000?

Administration and Operations

The committee did not meet.

Funding and Development

The committee did not meet.

Commissioner Keith Wingfield stated he is hopeful the NSP 2 grant will lead us in the right direction.

Old Business-

Commissioner Mike Robinson held discussion on the focus area. Stephens's area is the # 1 focus area. City Board director Joan Adcock stated the City Board was not part of the discussion of purchasing the Land. Redevelopment Administrator Travis Martin stated to continue working as advisory board.

New Business-

New business was tabled to the next meeting.

Citizen Communication

Martie North stated to make sure Land Bank Commission is not violating Fair Housing Act when looking to foreclose on city liens in different neighborhoods.

Citizen Robert Jones expressed appreciation for the maps. He also stated that the Board of Directors work for the citizens. They should listen to the concerns of the citizens.

Adjourn

Commissioner Keith Wingfield motioned that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Andy Francis. Motion carried.

