

Land Bank Commission Minutes

July 21st, 2010

MEETING DATE: July 21st, 2010 (Regular Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by Grace Blagdon at 11:30 a.m. in Room 105 at Neighborhood Resource Center.

COMMISSIONER ABSENT:

Commissioner Hillis Schild
Commissioner Keith Wingfield

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Grace Blagdon, Chair
Commissioner Arlen Jones
Commissioner Susan Chan
Commissioner Willis Smith
Commissioner Brad Walker
Commissioner Michael Robinson
Commissioner Andrew Francis
Commissioner Corey Thomas
Commissioner Odessa Darrough

BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mayor Mark Stodola, Mayor
Erma Hendrix, Board of Director
Andre Bernard, Director of Housing and Neighborhood Programs
Brittany Jefferson, Redevelopment Administrator
Tasha Smith, Administrative Assistant

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

COMMISSIONER SMITH made a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion was second by **COMMISSIONER ROBINSON** Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS –

COMMISSIONER BLAGDON would like to welcome Corey Thomas and Odessa Darrough to the Land Bank Commission.

Brittany Jefferson reported that the committee meetings have changed to joint committee meetings. She also stated there is twenty-six thousand three hundred and forty four dollars and eighty six cents in general fund one and seven thousand one hundred and fifty four dollars and twenty one cents. The CDBG account has one hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars.

She stated we have received new inventory it is 1805 Wolfe St. **Andre Bernard** asked Brittany to explain to the commissioners the process regarding quiet title. Brittany stated the process will take place in August 2010. The one year litigation will have expired on the first properties that were acquired and the properties then will be sent to the City Attorney's for review. **Mayor** stated to make sure the City Attorney's expedite their process.

City Lien Foreclosure stated the commission purchased property at the auction. Brittany stated she created a chart for everyone to review. The chart is two sided.

Brittany stated she does not have the letter format for letters of interest. She is processing four properties for Board of Directors approval.

Brittany also stated the Land Bank Commission bought ten properties at Arkansas State Land Commissioners Auction.

COMMISSIONER ROBINSON stated there are properties that step across the five thousand thresholds. He would like to know why we purchased those properties. Andre Bernard stated he let Kevin Howard appraised the properties and researched each property the Land Bank considered purchasing. Before the auction staff stayed within the cap that Kevin Howard advised. Mayor stated asked did we have any competition. Andre Bernard stated yes. Brittany stated there is a thirty day redemption period. The properties will go up before the Board for approval in September.

Andre Bernard stated that NSP2 is going well. He stated the NSP2 have to wait the one year period. NSP2 have twenty-two properties in the bank. He stated he attended a webinar which HUD presented. Mayor discussed funding for the NSP3. **COMMISSIONER DARROUGH** asked is there a need for NSP3?

Discussion was held on the process for NSP3.

OLD BUSINESS-

Brittany Jefferson stated the City Attorney has not turned in a legal opinion regarding the tax exemption status. Mayor stated that the Land Bank properties will be exempt.

Brittany stated that the acoustics are being handled by Ward Hanna. **COMMISSIONER Blagdon** stated the Land Bank is trying to develop a list of commonly used terms.

NEW BUSINESS-

The summer intern name is Donovan Onumuwere. **COMMISSIONER BLAGDON** stated Brittany Jefferson to email the commissioners' to volunteer as liaisons to neighborhood association within focus area.

CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Citizen Gary Iverson stated he is all for revitalizing neighborhoods. He would like to know how the government can work with the private sector. How can the government take funds and encourage private investments. He hopes that the governments will not discouraged private investment.

Director Hendrix stated that this issue is a Board issue. Andre Bernard stated one of the purposes for the stimulus money is to revitalize the neighborhood.

Citizen Robert Jones asked the Land Bank Commission to elaborate on the donation letter process.

Adjourn