

**Land Bank Commission Minutes
October 21, 2009**

Meeting Date:

October 21, 2009 (Regular Meeting)

The meeting was called to order by the chair 11:30 a.m. at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 3805 W. 12th, Little Rock, AR 72204.

Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Grace Blagdon, Chair
Commissioner Arlen Jones
Commissioner Susan Chan
Commissioner Mike Robinson
Commissioner Andy Francis
Commissioner Willis Smith

Commissioner Absent:

Commissioner Brad Walker
Commissioner Hillis Schild

Staff:

Ward Hanna, Assistant Director of Housing and Neighborhood Programs
Tasha Smith, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes-

Commissioner Robinson made a motion to adopt the minute. The motion was seconded by **Commissioner Francis**. Motion carried.

Staff Reports –

Assistant Director of Housing and Neighborhood Programs, Ward Hanna provided a City lien foreclosure update. Mr. Hanna noted that Housing staff is meeting every Friday morning staff meets with the City Attorney's office and City Manager's to review this project. There have sixteen potential lien files forwarded to City Attorney's office; **Commissioner Francis** asked how many liens we are filing, and the areas we are targeting? **City Attorney Brittany Jefferson** stated all of the properties are in the target area.

Mayor Stodola stated that the lien foreclosure is just one tool, and suggested looking at every property in the focus area. He said from a staffing standpoint we have \$300,000 to acquire property, and noted that another option to acquire property is to negotiate with current owners. The mayor also noted the City of Little Rock can move forward with Eminent Domain particularly with unsafe properties.

He said that staff needs to and identify properties and make it available to the LBC. **Commissioner Wingfield** agreed with the mayor and asked to see a list of lien over \$500.00

Commissioner Francis suggested picking an area in the Stephens and Central High area. Commissioner Robinson stated he would like to receive the maps from **Redevelopment Administrator Travis Martin** is currently re-working before they pick an area. **Commissioner Wingfield** would like to have info on the overlay maps. The Mayor has about eight hundred and fifty houses that are vacant and unsafe.

Commissioner Chan asked if maps would be available for the next administration committee meeting.

Ward Hanna stated **Travis Martin** attended the recent Little Rock Land Lord Association meeting to brief them on Land Bank Commission activities.

Committee Reports-

Legal Affairs

There was no report.

Administration and Operations

Commissioner Robinson stated we have been working with Travis **Martin** about overlay maps. Commissioner Robinson noted there is a table that was provided about the liens. Citizen Scott Reed suggested providing a link to GIS mapping and helping the Commission with mapping issues. Mr. Reed requested the spreadsheet used to generate the maps.

Funding and Development

No report

Old Business-

Discussion was held on maps and information needed to produce them.

New Business-

Commissioners discussed marketing strategies for the commission. **Ward Hanna** noted that some information is currently available on the city's web page. **Vanessa Huton**, Arkansas Historic Preservation briefed the group on the progress of the city wide historic Preservation plan and tax credits for historic property preservation

Citizen Communication

Citizen Robert Jones stated requested Land Bank binder books for all Alert Centers. He also suggested conducting a training class at the alert centers.

Citizen Cheryl Warden requested that all Land Bank books be updated regularly.

Adjourn