

Fairgrounds Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday – July 11, 2012 – 7:00pm

Members Present: Greg O’Neal, Craig Vanderburg, Kim Tandy, Frank Hammer,
Members Excused: Doris Ewing

Staff Present: Kim Homan, Michigan Land Bank
Jill Robinson, Michigan Land Bank

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman O’Neal, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Jill Robinson presented the roll call. A quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman O’Neal presented the agenda for approval.

Motion: Member Tandy / ***Supported by:*** Member Hammer

“To accept agenda with noted changes – moving item #1, Approve Minutes to after #4, Strategy”

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

REQUEST EMAIL ADDRESS FROM MICHIGAN LAND BANK

Chairman O’Neal requested that the Michigan Land Bank get an email address where incoming messages can be forwarded to the Advisory Committee. Jill Robinson indicated that she would prepare a request, send it to Chairman O’Neal for signature then submit the request to the State.

REQUEST REIMBURSEMENTS FOR PARKING AND EXPENSES

Chairman O’Neal requested that the Advisory Committee have an expense account for reimbursements for parking and related committee expenses. Jill Robinson indicated that she would prepare a request, send it to Chairman O’Neal for signature then submit the request to the State.

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion: Member Tandy / ***Supported by:*** Member Hammer

“To approve the minutes as submitted.”

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

STRATEGY TO INCORPORATE THE COMMUNITY INTO OVERALL PLAN

Member Tandy indicated that there needs to be a time when community members can present their proposals to potential developers of the site.

Member Hammer stated that the Advisory Committee was created because of the legislation – indicates that the role is advisory and shall provide input on the sale and use of the property independent of the Land Bank Authority.

Member Vanderburg indicated that the Advisory Committee should serve as a conduit between the community and the Land Bank board.

Member Hammer clarified that, in addition to providing community input, the Advisory Committee can provide their own input as to what are good ideas that might fit it well with an overall plan.

Chairman O’Neal stated that the community plans can’t be presented to the potential developers because of the anonymous stipulation in the RFP process. He suggested that the community ideas be included as part of the minutes and loaded onto the Land Bank’s website. He stated that the Advisory Committee would advise the Land Bank Board to entertain joint venture ideas between developers and community group concepts.

Member Hammer suggested that the Advisory Committee listen to the ideas from the public tonight then craft discussion points for the Joint Meeting next week.

Member Vanderburg wants to make a distinction between the community-at-large coalition and the neighborhood groups.

Chairman O’Neal concurred stating that Palmer Woods and University District are not involved with the coalition group. Chairman O’Neal also requested that any ideas from the community be emailed to him. He will then email the ideas to Jill Robinson to be included in the minutes, which will be uploaded on the Land Bank’s website.

Jill Robinson indicated that she would finish the draft minutes on Thursday, send them out to the Advisory Committee members for review, wait for all of their responses, and then send them to the website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman O’Neal asked for public comments. Member Tandy reminded the public that if they were planning on submitting a proposal next week then they should not speak. The results:

- Joe Keyes – reminded the Advisory Committee that developers cannot disclose their names to community because they could be disqualified from the process.
- Karen Hammer – member of Coalition; they are not submitting a formal proposal, just have a list of ideas that she read into the record and stated that she will send an electronic copy to Chairman O’Neal.
- Eunice Rose, Southfield – Participated in the “Save the State Fair” meetings; read statement into the record and will send electronically to Chairman O’Neal.
- Jim Casha, Norwich, Ontario – read a letter into the record which will be sent electronically to Chairman O’Neal.
- Eugene – has been involved with the State Fair for 69 years.

- Ed Bullock, Treasurer of ICARE.
- Bob Lang, Green Acres – lived around fair for 74 years.
- Ann Kirwin, University District – referenced an article from the Detroit Free Press from 6/28 about agriculture which will be sent electronically to Chairman O’Neal.
- Eunice Rose, Southfield – wanted to know whether there was something legislatively that gave support to the Escanaba Fair
- Ed Bullock, Treasurer of ICARE – indicated that no, Escanaba had to raise their own money.
- Bob Lang, Green Acres – indicated that he had heard that someone from China might be interested in the property

Chairman O’Neal closed the public comment and requested again that anyone with ideas send them to him electronically so they could be submitted as part of the minutes.

Member Tandy suggested the following for discussion at the Joint Advisory Committee / Land Bank Board meeting next week:

- Prepare and submit an addendum requesting that the date for submissions of proposals be extended;
- Why was the end date established, what is the reason for the fast pace and can it be changed;
- Expectations of the Advisory Committee and the Land Bank Board.

Chairman O’Neal requested that the Advisory Committee send him proposed language for an addendum for next week’s meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Member Hammer / *Supported by:* Member Tandy

MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Robinson
Property Analyst