

**FLINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**11-14-16 Meeting**

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**Commissioners Present**

Dale Suomela, Chair  
Stephanie Wright, present via phone  
Michael Hurley  
Maurice Davis  
Heather Burnash

**Staff Present**

Corey Christensen  
Claire Nowak-Boyd, Planner I

**Commissioners Not Present**

*2 Board member vacant seats*  
Mildred Smith

**ROLL CALL:**

Commissioner Suomela called the meeting to order at 5:57 p.m. Roll was taken and a quorum was present. The meeting was held in the McKenzie Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Flint City Hall.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

*M/S - Davis/Hurley*

Motion to adopt the agenda as presented.

*Unanimously carried.*

**ADOPTION OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Claire Nowak-Boyd stated there will be an additional set of minutes at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

There were no public comments.

**CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS:**

There were no COAs.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Community preservation alerts**  
**YWCA, schools**

**Number of cases upcoming — capping number of cases**  
**District boundaries**

Commissioner Davis presented a map, stating that the boundaries had been shrunk. National is larger, local is smaller. Commissioner Stephanie said they petitioned and got approval to change the boundaries. She said they never showed how much they were shrinking. Commissioner Davis said they shrunk it all the way.

Land Bank meeting started with saying that there is no rehabilitation money. There is no way that these blighted structures will look better than what they are. There are dumpsites, crime, dead dogs, and dogfights.

Total number is 295 in national district. 36 we are meeting on. Dilapidated ones still standing. No way to rehabilitate an old house because it would be upside down. Now they are stuck. Maurice stated they had to do Notice to Proceed because they are just dumpsites. Commissioner Hurley was glad you took notes on it because we don't know.

Suomela: How about the suggestion to respond to the fact that we will not hear more than six cases at any one meeting, because along with the other things we have to do we don't have time, how does everyone else feel about max six per meeting. Commissioner Wright said it depends on the amount of pictures. In the past they've had to come back with additional pictures. The house may look ok but the application looks bad.

Direct staff: we need appropriate pictures of interior and exterior damage along with their findings.

Commissioner Wright said the only way to seek funding is through MSHDA. They decided in 2013 they weren't going to add additional money, no rehab money. Nobody's going to continue to rehab when they can't make money back on their investment.

Commissioner Hurley asked how many houses remain in the local historic district total. If they tear down 36 how many will that leave? Nothing, stated Commissioner Davis. There were 950 within the radius last year

Commissioner Suomela asked if before they decided what to do with two and half million, weren't there at least two town hall meetings at the church and what were the results.

Commissioner Suomela stated that the commission can't hear all the cases at once. Are there any commissioners opposed to Claire Nowak-Boyd responding to the land bank and saying that because of other commitments, we will limit requests to 6 structures per month.

Commissioner Suomela stated that if they don't plan on doing anything until late 2017, we could hear a max of four cases per meeting, then that could be 36 in nine months. Commissioner Wright said that it was her assumption that they have already sent out bids, and are just looking at approvals but likes six per meeting, and that her fear is they will request a special meeting depending on how they are allocating the awards for the demolition. Commissioner Burnash acknowledged that for them to have a special meeting, they must show that it's an emergency, and if they waited, their financial emergency is not the commissions' problem. Commissioner Hurley stated that six should be fine.

Commissioner Suomela stated that we should give Land Bank a limit, and direct Claire Nowak-Boyd to cap it at 6. Commissioner Wright stated it should be 4 if there are other cases.

*M/S - Wright/Burnash*

Motion for Claire Nowak-Boyd to send communication to LB limiting apps to 6 per meeting.  
*Unanimously Carried.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

M/S - Burnash/Wright  
*Unanimously Carried.*