

Oak Ridge Land Bank

May 14 Special Housing Strategy Work Session

On May 14 about 75 people joined the Oak Ridge Land Bank for our first Housing Strategy Work Session. The meeting included a discussion of successful public housing projects led by Alvin Nance, former Executive Director of the Knox County Development Corporation.

Highlights of his talk included emphasizing the importance of partnerships among organizations to gather the expertise needed for the project. He also stressed the need to include people and organizations in the community to help assure acceptance of changes, and to avoid costly mistakes that might disrupt the already-successful aspects of that neighborhood.

The afternoon concluded with a bus tour conducted by the city Community Development Department. The tour included a newly constructed home by ADFAC; a Land Bank partnership with First Place Finish Construction to rehab an existing house, a property that is currently under a sales contract; and an interior tour of a blighted property in Woodland that is slated for demolition.

~Charlie Jernigan, Observer