

FLINT NEIGHBORHOODS UNITED
MINUTES – April 2015

9:12 Call to order, Joe King

1. Minutes from last meeting were available for review.
2. New members: Erma Walker, Baker Street Block Club, Michael Moore, Wellington Neighborhood Association
3. Guest Speakers: Kevin Schronce with Imagine Flint, Wendy Johnson with Salem Lutheran Church, Vince Slocum with Habitat for Humanity, Hurb Pitts with Neighborhood Tool Shed, Carrie Edwards with Flint Fire Department.
4. Kevin Schronce discussed getting the work out on Zoning, last update was in 1974. The draft code is online. Ward 6 was the first ward of an introductory zoning session. Other ward sessions are being held this month. Basic training is being held next Wednesday, 601 N. Saginaw St. at GCARD, he urged everyone to attend the zoning classes. The plan should be completed by mid-summer and turned over to the Planning Commission and the Flint City Council for approval.
5. Land Bank - Heide Phaneuf discussed property; if the land bank owns it, it can be looked up on their website, thelandbank.org and it is free. She demonstrated how to look it up. The owner of each property is updated once a year, and you can scroll around on the aerial map.
6. Wendy Johnson from Salem Lutheran Church presented the objectives of the Church to have the liquor license of Liquor Plus not be moved, due to it being less than 500 feet from the church. Update: Ms. Johnson suggested that Salem Church's approach be used as a model for FNU in dealing with the Party stores in our community. The activity at the building was noticed by the church. The owner had started the process of relocating the liquor license in September 2014, after the burning of the old party store. There were laws in place to protect school and churches, they had grounds to oppose. On 2/17/15 they hired a lawyer, allowed the church to an administrative hearing on 3/31/15. The church's approach was to document the dates of criminal activity at the store, a student from MSU Criminal Justice Program prepared a map of the criminal activity. Criminal activity of drug sales, robbery, assault, burglary and a major shooting with 5 people hurt. Two purposes of MSU student: Planning strategy with the church and the map that compare this store to other party stores in Flint. This could be a useful document for FNU and Party Stores as a negative element to the city. Legal help was a key element, due to knowing the legal aspects of the church's rights. The church had letters of support to the commission, 75 plus letters and twenty plus people from the community to attend the hearing. Roger Isaac was the party store's attorney. The hearing took 4 hours, an assistant Attorney General was in attendance. Two police officers Bobby Folks and Tanya Meeks attended the hearing to report on their investigation of incidents at the store. The City of Flint gave permission for the officers to attend the hearing. The history of criminal activity at the party store, it was considered a Hot Spot. A decision will be made on 4/21/15. State Representative Neeley had an assistant to attend the hearing. The Church did their research, had the law on their side. The liquor licenses in Flint should be 35, it is currently at 60. It is hard to understand the Liquor Commissions website and navigate through it.
7. Vince Slocum is now working for Habitat for Humanity.

8. Hurb Pitts with Neighborhood Tool Shed, says that they are lending tools to groups. They need to have your request before the project, they will assess your needs, get the tools that you need on the site. For heavy equipment, you will need training.
 9. Carrie Edwards from the Flint Fire Department says that they have attended several block club meetings, and she wants to come to your group. Contact the Fire Marshall, Michael Cochran at 810-762-7336 extension 5206.
 10. State Police Trooper Kramer gave us a Light Up the City reminder. Light Up the City events will take place on 4/20 at the Myrtle/Clio Rd. Blackwell Church, 4/28 at Sarvis Park and Atherton Terrace, 5/6 at Galileo Church, and in June at Bassett Park.
 11. Tanya Meeks from the Flint Police reminded us about Love Your City Month, which starts May 2, she also gave out the information on activities.
 12. Raul Garcia from the City of Flint, has dumpsters and equipment for cleanups, he gave us information on getting a dumpster for your neighborhood.
 13. Andy Ellard of Fairfield Village spoke on bike routes and safe routes; he wants to increase the number of routes in the city. He asked each neighborhood to circle their boundaries and what you want.
 14. Blooming Flowers, May 2 at Max Brandon park.
 15. Bill Hammond from Oasis Team Gardens charges ten dollars to deliver water for Community Gardens; he is looking for volunteers, 810-964-8898.
 16. Civic Park Clean-up is looking for volunteers.
 17. The FNU website has copies of the contract for advertising and distribution list. We need more ads, sell an ad.
 18. Next meeting on May 2, 2015
- Meeting adjourned at 10:50