

Flint Neighborhoods United Minutes/November 7, 2015

1. Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Joe King.
2. Attendees welcomed.
3. Guest speakers: Keep Genesee County Beautiful-Ms. H. Shaker, Flint public library-Kay Schwartz, and City of Flint-Kevin Schonce
4. Ms. Shaker informed the group that this would be the 3rd year that the city has bagged leaves instead of raking them into the curb side. The response from the city overall has been good. Most people that KGCB has spoken to are happy door hangers are available to remind them of leaf pickup schedule. Trucks will clean storm drain gutters where leaves have collected. Citations can be given to those houses that rake leaves into the streets. Leaf pick up will be provided until November 28. Ms. Shaker can be contacted via email at hshaker@kgcb.net.
5. Kay Schwartz thanked everyone who supported the library millage and informed the meeting attendees that the library budget is now balanced. This information will be emailed to all library card holding residents.
6. Kevin Schonce gave a brief overview of the initiatives from the city of Flint in reference to street lighting. He stated that a housing assessment/street light assessment had been completed this past August with the support of the Community Foundation. There is no staff to physically check and report street light discrepancies. The city has had to rely on the volunteerism of its residents to do this. There are 11,700 street lights in the city, and approximately 10% (1200) were not functioning. About (800) have been repaired in the last six months. The city of Flint does not own street lights, Consumer Energy does. Because mercury vapor lights are now illegal, Consumers will have to change out those lights. Most of the lighting in the city is aged and it is hoped that current state legislation will force Consumers to update its street lighting systems. There is about (400) work orders to repair lights with Consumers. Neighborhoods are encouraged to do street light audits regularly to keep up with any outages. A GPS mapping system has been created with the locations of all of the street lights in the city. This tool can be used by any resident to report a light that is out to the city. The map can be accessed through the cities on line services. The site is located on the bottom left side of the cities web page at (cityofflint.com)

–street light outages-. The city will provide a paper map to any groups working on street light auditing in their neighborhoods.

7. Chris Frye asked for the support of the paper (FOCOV) from the FNU member groups by purchasing a \$10.00 ad (business card size) showcasing information about the group. Microsoft publisher is an excellent source for creating the business card. Computers are available at the Public Library.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS: 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

UPDATES:

Mater plan-Check email for December meeting time.

Habitat for Humanity-Dollars are still available in the home repair program. Residents can call Tom Hutchinson at 766-9089 ext. 211 for application instructions. Qualifying neighborhoods are Foss Ave., Grand Traverse, Mott Park, and Civic Park.

Fire Dept.-Fire prevention activities for local students are in place and have been performed. The program introduces them to the possibilities of employment with the Fire Dept. Open houses have been held for 4th and 5th grade students from Flint schools. Listen to public service announcements for carbon monoxide detector giveaways. Fire prevention talks are available to neighborhood groups. The Fire Dept. can be reached at (810)762-7336 ext.5225.

Charter Commission-Next meeting will be held at Joy Tabernacle on December 3 at 6 p.m. All residents are encouraged to come. Discussion will be on Article 1: Questions asked will be – 1. How to hold elected officials responsible and- 2. How to ensure that the charter is followed. Copies of the City Charter were given out. The Charter Commission has a facebook page @City of Flint Charter Commission. January discussion will be Article 2 – Structure of the 9 wards.

Land Bank-Turkey Trot applications were passed out. The turkey trot is held to encourage the involvement of residents in the creation of neighborhood groups to support the affairs of their local community. All are welcome and encouraged to participate. Details of the allocations of recent funds made available to Land Bank are scheduled to be posted on the website around December 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Calvin