

Flint Neighborhoods United
February 4, 2017

Meeting called to order at 9:04 am by president Carma Lewis

The president requested email addresses from participants to receive information and stay informed. She described Flint Neighborhoods United and shared the goals of the organization for new members then encouraged all the organization to help FNU meet or redefine the organization's goals.

Speakers:

Flint Charter - Heidi Phaneuf, John Cherry, and Jim Richardson

Shared with explanations major changes and things that stayed the same in the charter. One important change is when the council members will be chosen. Link is on the city's website for comments on the changes. The next charter review meeting is scheduled for February 25 at Bethel United Methodist Church. The first part of the charter meetings is open for questions. All are asked to attend and to encourage their acquaintances to attend. Charter members are available to visit community meetings to answer questions. Vote on the charter is scheduled for August 2017 Primary to meet the time line to go on the ballot. Jim Richardson gave information about the Ombudsmen office to be reinstated along with more power for the office and more independence to protect it from politics. If not passed in August we have November of this year to get the charter passed. If not by then the opportunity to change the charter passes. Speakers will share what and why people need to be aware of; what the charter does; that it is a contract between the citizens and the city. Charter information is available at Flintcitycharter.com; copies can be picked up at City Hall, or at a commission or review meetings, or by reaching out to members. Call Heidi at 810 444 2202 to arrange a time for a member to attend a community meeting to provide information.

Per president – a map showing the community organization will soon be on the FNU website so people can know the boundaries and contact the organization in their area.

Break outs:

The president described and explained the current focus of FNU and asked groups to decide if the focus of the groups should stay the same? Are there other things we should concentrate on to make our neighborhoods better? Three discussion groups met: Groups to help with workshops, Party Store concerns and the Blight/Neighborhood Improvement group.

- Workshops report: Three areas of focus: Entrepreneurial start up; Basics of growing an Association; Work with children in Civic engagement. Workshop group to be a permanent part of the FNU. Will work with facilitators to teach/support the development. Growing block clubs and associations will be the focus of the first workshop.
- Party Stores focus health, and blight. Group will work with the salespeople to help with compliance. Single cigarettes; signage; loitering; barbeque pits (licensed?); sales items in the stores meeting the need of the community; violence; more lighting in the parking lot; are. Licensing of barbeque sellers and helping them to get in compliance by working with the workshop group so they can be legal.
- Blight/Neighborhood Improvement group will continue work to engage citizens in Neighborhood Improvement and support the Party Store Group. Will work with the city regarding the condition of the city and will support the Party Store Group. Drafted all members as blight captains.

Police officers introduced themselves to group: Tonya Meeks; Terry Lewis; Kimberly Urbina
Announcement: (Kimberly Urbina. Officers offered to answer questions and solicited volunteers for the station to service more people and address problems. Contact numbers: (810 232-7746) or (810) 285-8060. The art parades will continue this year.

Kristin: Planning and Development provided flyer regarding the grants for city development. To make contact, due to water damage, send email to kstevenson@cityofflint.com.

Consolidated Plan process will continue to contact organizations and residents about use of funds from HUD. Survey will be put on Facebook and shared by email.

Raynette Speed - Clean and Green applications are due Feb. 24 and can be found on the Landbank website.

People asked to participate in a debriefing session or call and share observations and make suggestions to improve the meetings. Call the president Carma Lewis at 810 240 0030.

Flint Soup is a business support organization and is looking for people with a business idea to submit their proposal to obtain a micro-grant and help with the project. They now have matching funding for projects concentrated on the North side. Funding for the current projects is due by Feb.15 at midnight. The next grant will focus on the Eastside.

All are asked to pay for advertisement or make a donation of at least \$10 to help finance the Flint Our Community or Voice newspaper. Articles are welcome from all citizens and organizations.

Next meeting March 4, 2017 – 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am