



Flint Neighborhoods United

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
November 2, 2019, 9:30-11:30AM
Facilitator: Chris Frye

AGENDA:

1. Resident Comments, Concerns, Announcements & Community Partner Updates
2. Voters Not Politicians (Kim Murphy-Kovalick, Project Coordinator)
3. Michigan Department of State (Jocelyn Benson, Secretary of State)

Kearsley Park

- Brought in a bunch of wood from fallen trees in the park; organizing cleanups in the neighborhood

Ballenger Park

- tore down building at the corner of Ballenger and Berkley

West Flint Community Watch

- Removed almost 700 tires from the West Side neighborhood with the help of Neighborhood Safety Officers
- Took tires that have been dumped in the neighborhood to behind the fire station on Fifth; identified a home in our neighborhood on Swayze; 4 volunteers met and loaded up 57 abandoned tires
- 600 tires from a single private residence; most in the garage, suspect the dumping was done by a nearby tire business...talking with Raul about making arrangements to donate, to have a camera set up
- Have been recording street light outages, 38 so far; happy to report great cooperation from City and Consumers; many lights are being replaced the next day after reportage;
- If anyone is interested in doing a streetlight inventory, **contact Michael Lawlor,**
- **(810) 766- 7426, Ext 3035**

East Village Magazine

- Editor Jan Worth-Nelson is out of state now and for next month; working remotely

Oak Street Health (Sonya Waters)

- Medicare organization that offers transportation
- "We are here to help the community in more than just health care"
- Trying to reach shut-ins, especially at this time of year
- Sonya is trying to reach out to local organizations and groups that service older residents
- 2 locations: On South Saginaw in Burton; At Pierson and MLK, down from Landmark Food Center

Our Community, Our Voices (Jane Richardson)

- the November issue is extremely important as it includes information about the FAST Start service line replacement program
- Nearly 3000 people who are eligible and have not had their service lines tested
- Urge people to opt-in

- <https://www.cityofflint.com/fast-start-online-opt-in-form/>

Flint Public Library

- New calendar of all events
- Two ballot proposals for this Tuesday (November 5)
- **1:** Millage renewal: money to maintain the library's current programs and services; will not change your taxes, it's what you're paying now
- **2:** Bond proposal to renovate the library; have raised half; asking public to come in for a 12-year obligation for \$12.6M
- ****Note: the ballot proposals passed:** <https://www.mlive.com/news/flint/2019/11/flint-passes-126m-library-bond-renovation-to-begin-in-may-2020.html>

Central Park Neighborhood Association (Barb)

- Completed sidewalk replacement project on Second street, from Chavez to Crapo
- Holding a fundraiser for our fiduciary, Court Street Village Nonprofit, more information to follow

Traffic Taming Task Force (Michelle, Neighborhood Engagement Hub)

- Went to America Walks Summit in Little Rock, Arkansas
- Learned about measures other cities are taking to reduce pedestrian-vehicle casualties and improve walkability and safety

Michigan State Police (Steve Kramer)

- December 6th, 8am-6pm at all the ELGA branches: Annual stuff the blue goose in conjunction with the Salvation Army, donations can be made at ELGA in Burton and in Flushing; the one downtown Flint is periodic
 - Last year ~10,000 raised, about 5-6000 toys
 - New unwrapped toys or monetary donation
- Traffic initiative with the Flint Police Department: focus areas I-69, 475, Saginaw, Dort Highway, and Ballenger Highway
 - Details last about 4 hours during morning rush
 - Based on traffic crash data and 911 calls
 - Focused on complaints
 - **To make complaints, call: 810-732-1111, ask for Lieutenant Zook**
 - **You can also email: kramers1@michigan.gov** → shoot an email with locations you might have, will forward to Lieutenant Zook
 - **Question:** During these speed traps, if people take off, what happens in terms of high speed chases? How do you ensure profiling is not happening?
 - Kramer: our chase policy has changed; generally speaking we will not pursue unless it's a felony; officer on scene makes a determination about what's going on
 - **Question:** What are you all doing to ensure that people are not just getting pulled over according to profiling?
 - Kramer: as far as traffic stops, every one we make is for a valid reason; we make a lot of traffic stops and we write very few tickets
 - Proactive enforcement; that is, deterrence (by visibility and traffic stops)
 - Troopers make a lot of stops for "equipment violations" → e.g. tail light out

City of Flint Planning Department (Michael Lawlor)

- Exciting announcements: we received \$75,000 award from Bloomberg Foundation for the Flint Property Portal → one of three cities in the world that have received this award!
- Money will go to updating Flint Property Portal and making it more useful for residents

- Other big announcement: construction on excavations has begun on the Clark Commons site for Choice Neighborhoods Grant across from Doyle Ryder Schools
- Mixed income project is underway there
- City is hiring a new zoning coordinator

Eastside Coalition

- 2 or 3 Neighborhood Planning Meetings following up on the Eastside Coalition neighborhood plan; the Planning division addressed some concerns at the third meeting
 - Concerned about the greenhouses and Green Neighborhood Zones
 - <http://www.imagineflint.com/Portals/tempflint/greenneighborhood.pdf>
 - Planning division really tried to address residents' concerns
- Water replacements:
 - Block of Maryland between Dort Highway and Franklin: crews came out to replace sidewalks that had been broken up
 - City's planning and coordination is a bit lacking with clean-up following line replacement

Brownell Holmes NA

- Had harvest festival a few weeks ago in the pocket park where the library is, did a "Trunk or Treat" event
- Clean and Green maintained over 4100 properties

Court Street Village Non-Profit (Norma)

- We run Fairfield Village and Central Park NA
- Barb mentioned the sidewalk project; also finished the 17th house being painted in a 3 year period
- We believe 46.4 percent of our neighbors have undergone some sort of home improvement in less than three years
- Fairfield put 2 dumpsters on either side of the neighborhood and residents were asked to put big items outside on the curb; filled out the 2 dumpsters in 3 hours
- **Question:** How were the homes selected that were painted?
 - Tied to the landlord committee; accountability process
 - How can we incentivize landlords to get involved? Dangled the carrot; paid for 75% of paint cost through grant funding; landlord had to attend 6 meetings per year (neighborhood meetings and committee meetings)

Heather Burnash

- Burnash Wrecking can just give you a dumpster, free of charge
- 810-922-2242
- Interested in participating in/forming Downtown Neighborhood Association

Jane Trotter, Flint Institute of Arts

- Heroines and Humanitarians Project
- Raising funds to create six new sculptures of Flint women to be installed downtown
- Goal is to celebrate the work of women and improve representation
 - Our goal is \$2500
 - We've raised 10,500 for transport, etc.
 - Next phase is the pedestals!
- To contribute funds, please send to: Court Street Village Non-Profit, at 727 East St., in care of "Heroines and Humanitarians."
 - A GoFundMe account also is expected to be up online soon.
- Also collecting community input on location
- Unveiling is set for February 14th 2020, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters 100th anniversary

Voters Not Politicians (Kim Murphy-Kovalick, Project Coordinator)

- Non-partisan grassroots group; originally founded as ballot initiative to end gerrymandering, got the Redistricting Reform Amendment on the ballot, got it passed!
 - <https://votersnotpoliticians.com/>
- Applications for new redistricting commission are now open!
- 4 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 registered unaffiliated voters will be on the commission (13 total)
 - Everything must be public
 - We need citizens to apply for this commission
 - Applications close on June 1st 2020
 - Paid position, \$39,000/year, lasts for 2 years
- https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_91141-488602--,00.html
- Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission for Fair Elections
- We want to make sure that the final applicant pool is balanced
- Communities need to submit their own maps, go to meetings and make sure the commission is doing their job

Governor's Office (Gary Jones, Community Affairs - Flint and Ninah Sasy, Clean Water Advocate)

- Gary: A lot of exciting things happening in clean water and education programming
 - 120 million in executive recommendations
 - Est'd a Clean Water Advocate position
- Ninah, statewide advocate for clean water
 - Focus on improving transparency, accountability, and making sure we're listening to community members
 - "Primary role is to accept complaints and investigate them; make policy recommendations, drive that change and elevate the voice of the community
 - Will be doing a lot of collaborative work; working closely with EGLE, MDHHS, and the Office of Environmental Justice, headed by Regina Strong
 - Contact:
 - **Email:** sasyn@michigan.gov
 - **Office number:** 517-284-6843
 - **Cell number:** 517-881-5219

Secretary of State, Jocelyn Benson

- Oversees elections for the entire state
- People can register to vote up to and on election day
 - You can register right up until 8pm
- Second new right: people can vote from home! Vote by mail
 - You can request an absentee ballot
- We've identified the 100 precincts in the state with the lowest voter turnout
 - 20 are right here in Flint; 40 are in Detroit; so 60% are in these two places
 - We need your help talking to individuals in those 20 precincts, we need your help going to these precincts
 - Most of them are in public housing
- Campaigns don't go to these places; we don't go to these places; but we are going to change that
- When the state has to make funding allocations, they're going to reward the people who vote
 - Low voter turnout yields in lower investment in those parts of the state
- Working to change voting myths:
 - Not about not wanting to vote; issue is "I can't" or "I don't know how" or "I don't know where"

- Other barriers: transportation, criminal history, lack of information, feeling like your vote doesn't matter
- Pervasive belief that you can't vote if you've been arrested; you **can** vote, even if you're in a jail cell awaiting trial!!
 - Will be going to jails and making sure the requests to vote are collected and followed-up; have information shared
- **Bottom line: people want to vote**
 - Where are people not being reached? Let's go there!
- **Question:** "Is that public information? The 20 precincts" —> Yes
- **Question:** Do people think that a record is kept of how they voted? Possible barrier to voting...
 - We need to work on education and demystifying and cutting through misinformation

Special Guest: Kerry Washington

- "Because of what I do for a living, I have found myself in a position where people ask me to come into communities and support specific candidates"
 - We put a lot of focus into these individuals who can change the situation and be the heroes
- "Real heroes are the residents"
- "Your power is inspiring the entire nation"
- "It's about how each of you sets an example"
- "I'm here to highlight how much exciting innovation is happening in terms of voting rights"
- "It is truly an example to the country"
- "Incredible, positive, hopeful innovation and progress"
- "The nation is watching; if you can continue to create this change it will be contagious"

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, December 7th, 9:30am, Flint Public Library