

Flint Neighborhoods United
Saturday August 1, 2020, 9:30-11:30 (conducted remotely via Zoom)
Facilitator: Lucille James

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- *Welcome, Name, Group Association and What are you doing to help eliminate blight in your community?*

2. Resident Comments, concerns, announcements, & Community Partner Updates

- *Share your successes, upcoming events and programs, ask questions, etc.*

3. Presentation: Flint Service Line Map

- Chris begins by reading civil rights leader and Congressman John Lewis's final words
 - <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/30/opinion/john-lewis-civil-rights-america.html>
- Mott Foundation is ready for people to start voting on Focus on Flint follow-up
 - You get 10 choices, create a budget, all online
 - www.focusonflint.org to vote
 - Bus stop beautification, bus stop repair, streetlight repair, boarding up homes, bike lanes, commercial and residential demolition; providing \$250K to Community Foundation is an option
 - Jennifer Acree: (810) 766-1725
- Update from Kitty Gazall, Downtown Neighborhood Residents Association
 - Downtown appears to be getting back to a "new normal"
 - Restaurants are doing everything they can with outdoor seating for a safe dining experience
 - Pop-up parties in the flat lot have been a problem but not for the last 4 weekends
 - Putting together a cleanup crew with residents to pick up trash, etc. in the alleyways
 - "We all know that a strong downtown enhances our neighborhoods"
- Ashley Everhart, Neighborhood Engagement Hub
 - Weekend rundown Facebook live fundraising event
 - Sunday August 16, 4-7pm, a DJ will do a Facebook live event for us
- Kate Cole, Traffic Taming Task Force
 - Would like to quote two of the messages that we heard from John Lewis:
 - Respect for human dignity and we can't tolerate injustice
 - Speeding remains a real issue in neighborhoods
 - 891 people going upwards of 70 mile
 - We can't tolerate people - We need to respect the law and the life of our neighbors

Shareka Howard

- Two activity kits left; consist of 25 kites, jump ropes, chalk, etc. to disburse throughout your neighborhoods to kids to encourage kids to be outside but safely distant
- Can visit Keep Genesee County Beautiful Facebook page or email showard@gcparks.org or Nancy Edwards nedwards@gcparks.org
- Call 810-209-6012 for applications for grant and concerning kits for Flint Neighborhoods and Youth

Vivian Williams, 100K ideas

- Hosting virtual pitch for K on August 6th on Facebook live
- Typically do a series of Pitch for K competitions

- We've recently joined with V1 to do a hackathon
 - Participants will be able to create an app through V1 in 72 hours
 - V1 is a no-code, drag and drop technology
- Had some fellows over the summer for a virtual fellowship; they created an activity book for Whaley Children's center; how to talk to children about COVID-19, including anxiety and frustration that might be related to this experience

Tom Allen, Kearsley Park neighborhood association

- Had a great cleanup 10 days ago; filled a whole dumpster
- Grabbed a big pile of blight junk that had been sitting there a whole month
- "Tremendous spirit of cooperation, we're very happy about that"
- The wildlife in the park is thriving; saw a crayfish; reviving local ecology

Kay Schwartz, Flint Public Library

- Flint Public Library opened for business at Courtland Center a week ago Thursday
- Similar hours: 11am-730pm on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday, 9-5:30 on Friday and Saturday,
- Number 10 Ridgefield Road bus serves Courtland Center
- "Browse and Go" - no more than an hour in the library (for now)
- Can put your books on hold ahead of time and pick them up, almost contactless
 - Holds online or over the phone
 - If you need your library card renewed you can call!
- Not open for computer access until this Thursday; then computers will also be limited to 1hr for access
- Digital downloads: eBooks, audiobooks, online magazines that we have purchased for you! You can use your device
- You can get an e-card from FPL website; you can sign up right there to get a "pretend" barcode and PIN and start using digital assets right then
- Normally that option is only available to Flint residents but through the end of September we've opened it up to any zip code in Genesee County

Crim Fitness Foundation

- Our advocate coalition: Safe and Active Genesee for Everyone (SAGE) meetings 3rd Friday of every month at 1PM; met in February, took a pause and had our next meeting like month
- We focus on improving policies and environment for people to walk and bike and take the bus - use your body to be outdoors
- troach@crim.org

Cheryl Kristoff, West Flint Community Watch

- Tidied up 9 properties, primarily commercial, many of which are landbank properties, on Corunna Road; will continue doing this throughout the summer
- **Q:** Who do I contact or who do I get help with squatters in private residences when owners show no interest in dealing with this?

Discussion

- Suggestion: Trooper Kramer; contact the City's task force
- Padlocking law has been used in this county in the past to curb drug houses
- Trooper Kramer: What is needed is a number of documented police contacted and arrests involving the house so a petition can be had to invoke the padlocking act
- **Q:** How do we know squatters are dealing drugs? Maybe the thing to do is provide them with resources for housing support.
 - Suggestion: Focus on resources to assist housing insecure people; mental health resources, etc.

Judge Marable

- Been your district judge for the last 20 years, no Flint residents on Circuit Court right now, there's an open seat
- Flint needs to be represented on Circuit Court - I'm the only Flint resident running for this position
- I've lived in Flint for 57 years; I know our town should be represented

Geri Clark

- Keeping our neighborhood free of blight, keeping our lawns cut
- Sharp Manor is having their block party on 22 Aug 2020, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on W Parkway and Wills Streets

Mayor Neeley

- Reminder that the pandemic is still happening and the numbers are growing
- Please observe all laws as we go forward
- Hitting African-American community hardest, including Flint
- 14 open positions for Police Academy...

Joyce Ellis-McNeal, Nethercut Neighborhood Association

- Issues with people turning their front yards into auto repair shop

Peggy Stribling, Metropolitan

- Flint Area Unity Coalition presents Prayer & Unity Prayer on Clio Rd, between Pierson and Pasadena from 1-3 pm. Unity gathering at Hallwood Plaza at 3 pm.