

Flint Neighbourhoods United Meeting
December 5 2020, 9:30-11:00

We are: a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of every month to share information and share resources to create positive change in the greater Flint community

Genesee County Land Bank

- Community Survey: Prioritizing Demolitions with Limited Funding
- Secured demo funding from Focus on Flint process; 450K allocated through community-driven voting process; est. 30-35 strategic demos to be completed across city with funds
- “Lots of Blight, Limited Funds”
- Of 4706 blighted properties within City of Flint, this funding will only address 1% of demos
- We asked the community how important a variety of different factors are when prioritizing demos; rate 1-10 (e.g. proximity to open schools, etc.)
- Preliminary results:
 - Almost 400 survey submissions, 89% City of Flint residents, 11% outside City of Flint
- Blighted houses directly next to occupied homes had an average score of importance 9/5/10
- Second most important factor that residents pointed towards was homes in areas with more people
- Third most important factor was properties near open schools/en route to schools
- Fourth most: burnt properties
- Fifth most: properties with fire insurance funds available
- Sixth: properties close to local parks or playgrounds
- Seventh: properties on or near major corridors
- Hoping to complete demolitions in Spring 2021
- **Q:** Was this survey available in any other form for those who may not have or may not prefer online access?
 - **A:** Had 40 paper surveys submitted through this process

Flint Public Library, Kay Schwartz

- Decided to close during Governor’s 3 week pause; considered factors including covid exposure risk; staff is working from home
- Wednesday December 9th; going to be opening up library at Cortland Center for regular hours, Tues-Sat 11-7:30, 9-5:30, to provide “lobby service” - best thing to do is put things on hold from home; there will also be things in the lobby to choose from
- We ask that everybody limit their visit to less than 15 minutes; in keeping with CDC guideline for exposure; annex with computers will be closed for now
- Library will be closed from December 25- January 1

GHS, Lisa Bruder

- Excess amount of stress we’re experiencing recently
- Traditionally our services can take a long time to secure
- In this time of grief and loss and complex stress; really great time to kick off “urgent care” for anyone; no cost to anyone in the community; really allows for services to be immediate

Flint Women’s Study Community Action Network, Julie Lopez

- Flint Women's Study Community Action Network is holding a “Grief and Loss Support Zoom”
- Thursday, December 10th, from 11 am - 12:30 pm and from 5 pm - 6:30 pm
- Zoom link: <https://msu.zoom.us/j/91200882191>

Marcellina Clark

- “Taste of Flint” idea, for vendors in corridors in North Flint and other nearby neighborhoods
- What's goal of idea? Promote businesses? Promote healthy food?
- A few different goals: Talked to vendors in area, trying to promote each others’ business, thought it would be good to have this area highlighted
- Contact: marcellinaclark2@gmail.com

Crim, Theresa Roach

- Wrapping up sidewalk construction as part of Safe Routes to school programs
- 1.2M in infrastructure improvements around schools
- Working on developing a “nutrition action team”
- Goal was to get 10 cts meal policy approved by state; for local foods purchased

Mott Community College, Regina Broomfield

- Futures for Frontliners scholarship
- Providing access to education to those who are interested; offering info-session to learn more about that process
- Need to matriculate in 2021 (either January or September)

Shareka Howard

- Tearing down playground at Grant park and putting a new one in
- McCallum park as well; has received new basketball court and rims
- Contact: Program Coordinator at Keep Genesee County Beautiful: showard@gcparks.org

Mayor Neeley

- State of the City will be delivered on December 8th, a taped address; available on channel 25 and other media outlets; will be addressing infrastructure, roads, etc.
- City Hall is closed but walk up window open to pay water bills, etc.
- Water assistance payment program launching, up to 75 dollars, 3 consecutive months (\$225)
- City of Flint contributing 20M to settlement, not taxpayer money...will go toward the benefit of Flint residents...
- Fight on Blight is on; just initiated our first arrest of an habitual dumper
- **Q:** When the Mayor says the financial burden may go to residents regarding insurance contribution for Flint - do I understand correctly, if it is refused, then the insurance company will withdraw their \$20,000,000 offer and end their contribution???
 - Highly likely insurance company pulls away; City of Flint remains a defendant, so we would have to continue to pay legal fees
 - If there's a judgement against the city of Flint, highly likely it will come from out taxes
 - Likely to be devastating if we don't move in a positive direction, take affirmative action with 20M dollars of non-taxpayers dollars
- Flintsettlementfacts.org is where you can read the agreement yourself
- Bottom line is that if they council fails to agree to that, we - the taxpayers - assume any burden of the suit against the City

Flint and Geesee Chamber of Commerce, Adrian Walker

Flint and Geesee Chamber of Commerce

- Moving Flint Forward program; second iteration of the program in partnership with GM, interested in supporting, revitalizing neighborhoods by supporting businesses in them

- 210K; 15-20 grants; 10 of those grants will be designated for minority-owned businesses
- Application process open until December 30th at 5pm

City of Flint, Brian Larkin

- Proposed idea that has had some community dialogue thus far: “I-475 Reconnecting Community”
- MDOT has money for this project to fill in 475
- “Repairing a Rift”
- Can we repair those communities, repair the linkages that were broken by the construction of I-475
- Fill in highway, create developable land where interstate was before, reduce lanes; potentially 34 acres of land
- Want to see if there’s interest in extending the project scope and going all the way to Davison st
- Proposed idea would look at slowing down traffic from Court st to Davison
- Right-sizing the road: can a smaller road handle the traffic? Yes, tentatively; currently there’s a feasibility study being conducted by department of transportation
- From city’s perspective, we’re not putting any of existing city dollars into this project; there are dollars from state and federal gov’t
- **Concern:** 475 built during high point of GM activity, when they planned 475 they did
 - Flint has v good infrastructure, not a good idea to disrupt it by filling it in
 - MDOT gave a presentation that said they were going to do necessary renovations, looking to use 475 as alternate route for trucks, etc.
 - MDOT management lives in different city, has different concerns than city residents
- **Response:** Need to separate economic business model and community component
 - Understanding what economic impact this will have, impact on travel, input will drive this project
- **Comment:** I-475 serves as barrier, really difficult to cross, even at crosswalk, even for able-bodied people
- **Comment:** When we are told the intention is to make this corridor more pedestrian friendly, I worry that much death and injury has been car to car along this corridor - it is difficult for me to see this area as becoming more pedestrian friendly even if they create the boulevard treatment
- **Contact:** 475input@cityofflint.com

Chris Frye, FNU

- Elections coming up in January for treasurer and president; nominees are Chris Frye and Carma Lewis, respectively, to hold their positions as incumbents
- Flint, Our Community, Our Voices is now online
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