

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
February 6 2021, 9:30-11:30am
Conducted remotely via Zoom
Facilitators: Lucille James + Carma Lewis

- Mindful Moment led by Theresa Roach (Crim)
- FNU Mission statement

One word to describe your neighborhood:

- Resilient, cold x 2, energized, sparkly, slippery x 2, welcoming, sunny, white, connected, concerned, quiet, informed

Home Improvement fund (Thomas Hutchison)

- Working with various partners, including Mott Foundation, Michigan Housing Authority, City of Flint, Huntington Bank
- To apply you either go to flinthif.org or call (810) 766-9089, ext. 213
- **Q:** Qualifications/eligibility for low to no interest loans?
 - **A:** Have to own and occupy a property in City of Flint; other than that it depends on the funding available regarding the qualifications; no income qualifications, no contingency on home value or debt-to-income ratio or anything like that
 - **A:** Loans capped at 3%; residents who are under 80% of area median income will have some of the loan forgiven
 - Up to \$20K and up to 7 years; unsecured loan for rehabilitation purposes
- **Q:** Any requirements for contractors?
 - **A:** Have to be licensed; depending on who is servicing the loan (Habitat for Humanity; Huntington); contractors make bids and will be assessed by Habitat
- **Q:** Credit score? Employment?
 - **A:** Credit score doesn't matter; employment matters but it depends how long you're unemployed (if you're 'temporarily' unemployed)
- **Q:** What about the regular repair program? Are there people waiting from your previous home repair program? Could those people apply for other portions of the house that wasn't covered under the repair program
 - **A:** the regular repair program will be rolled into this program; our regular repair funding will be used as subsidy for these loans
 - This will be rolled out in conjunction with regular repair program...since construction restarted in May we've complete projects on 180 homes...no recent halt
 - People in pipeline for repairs will be served in same order they were already in...this program doesn't disturb our existing program...
 - People who want to do other work besides what they've already applied for, they would wait a year and apply for the Home Improvement fund
- **Q:** Can you explain the widget on the website and what it's calculating...
 - **A:** Loans are sliding scale is you're under 80% of area media income; widget is showing what your repayment would be on the loan
- **Contact:** intake@geneseehabitat.org

Traffic Taming Task Force

- Radar sign is in Mott Park, bordering park, which has been reported by neighbors as a dangerous driving area, lots of speeders
- 30% compliant 14% were at high-risk

- When we first put the sign up it was in covert mode so people couldn't see it; when we turned on display mode, traffic speed dropped and compliance went up to 63% and high-risk was much lower
- Couldn't tell if it was because we turned the display on or because it snowed
- traffictamingflint@gmail.com

Flint Community Lab, Dominique Strong

- Located at Flint Development Center, 4121 MLK Avenue, open to the public to receive water samples for testing; not certified but gathering data to become certified
- Serving as a place of comfort; you can come use the Flint Community Lab free of service
- Pilot project of Freshwater Future, where students went out to homes to test water samples and contacted residents with the results
- Citizen science to expose youth to an experimental atmosphere and encourage youth to go into STEM programs
- Identified needs:
 - Filter education; opt-in form for full pipe replacement program with City of Flint
 - Health and Wellness Resources through local community agencies
- Tried to come up with a simple process to help residents collect their own water samples:
 - Water collection process: water has to sit for 6 hours before collection; take bottle with blue cap that says "Field Blank" filled with water and pour it into white bottle; use second bottle to collect sample...
- We're hiring! High School Internship Opportunity (5)
 - Looking for two students
 - Paid biweekly
- Phone: (810) 875-9127
- dstrong@flintdc.org
- COVID safety precautions in place

Neighborhood and agency updates

- Gas station on Ballenger is a real nuisance...hangout for young people, Mayor has spoken with the the owner
- 100K ideas is holding Third Pitch for \$K on March 11th, tickets via eventbrite, it's free — registration will provide links, reminders, notifications,
 - Another event on February 9 and 11 at 5:30pm (didn't catch it)
- **Central Park** - There are almost no opportunities to purchase homes. Whenever homes are sold, they are immediately turned into rentals. I would like to stay in my neighborhood but I do not know how that is possible unless I wish to continue to rent.
 - Active neighborhood associations in the area; landlords who participate in those meetings, could raise this issue at the meeting...
 - Any anti-gentrification/anti-development organizing happening in the City?

Mayor Neeley

- Richfield apartments are in terrible shape, Sunset Village apartments are condemned, have to evacuate residents in 7 days...
- **Q:** Is there a way to hold landlords that are allowing structures to deteriorate while profiting accountable?
 - **Q:** Anything in place once property is foreclosed?
 - City of Flint in the process of liquidating those liabilities...people are interested in purchasing those properties (Sunset and Richfield)
- **Q:** City in process of negotiating new contracts for garbage pickup?

- **A:** RFP out for new bidders or contractors
- Kristen Stevenson, City of Flint, Planning Dept - Choice Neighborhoods Program
- Clark Commons is now open; Clarkcommons.net
 - Introducing Jeffery Schiffman, Lead planner
 - 810.766.7426 x3029
 - Email: jschiffman@cityofflint.com
 - Allison Campbell, new CD Grant Coordinator in the planning department at the city. She can answer questions about the action plan (CDBG, HOME, ESG) and rfp's. acampbell@cityofflint.com

- Johnell Allen Bey, Ignite Program
- Opening on 5601 North Saginaw
 - Johnell.Allenbey@gmail.com
 - 1(248)954-8050

Neighbors Changing Flint is Coming up!

- **Mondays and Wednesdays, February 22 - March 31**
- www.crim.org/ncf - Leadership Series information
- Presented by FNU, NEH and Crim. With support from City of Flint Planning, Ruth Mott Foundation and Community Foundation of Greater Flint and LOTS of teachers from other organizations, neighborhood groups and agencies

Matthew Clark, Mott/Choice Neighborhoods

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Marketing
- **Q:** How will Michigan Reconnect affect Mott?
 - FREE community college tuition for 25+, must not have a degree already, must have lived in michigan for at least 1 year. <http://www.michigan.gov/reconnect>
- **Q:** Recruitment is one thing, but the ease with which people are able to navigate different departments, accessing support and other services, etc. once you're actually on campus
- **Q:** Are there plans for more staff? more online offerings?
- Discussion: bureaucracy can be a barrier for people who don't have experience navigating big systems; or, conversely, for people who have been let down by institutions/bureaucracies/systems
 - Socioeconomic class is a factor (not just race, gender, disability status)
- Feedback: not a lot of older people featured in the marketing video, more age-related visibility/representation
- Difficult to give feedback about marketing when there's concern about the "product" itself
- The Board of Trustees open meeting information is here: https://www.mcc.edu/about/about_board_minutes.shtml
- Here is the link to access MCC Council Meetings: <https://www.mcc.edu/mcc-council/index.shtml>

Clean & Green Program

- The application process is now open for our Clean & Green Program. applications are available on our website and in the entryway of our building.
- The deadline for submission is Feb. 26t, 2021.
- If you have questions, please call Raynetta at 810.293.0663.

Laurie Lennox, Flint Public Library

- Back to Browse 'n' Go - limited to 30 minute
- Annex is open again for computer usage
- Construction is ongoing —> ribbon cutting probably about a year from now, 2022

New Community Development Grant coordinator with City of Flint, Allison Campbell