

FNU Meeting
Saturday, April 3, 2021, 9:30-11:30
Facilitator: Lucille James

Mindful Moment with Theresa

Neighborhood Group Updates: *Share your successes, upcoming events and programs, what do you need, etc.*

- Sarvis Park is having a neighborhood clean up/beautification project on April 24th, starting at 9:45, 10am-1pm - will be painting fencepost like crayons
 - 4000 Wisner, Flint MI 48504
 - Lunch & Donuts will be provided
 - ladel.lewis@yahoo.com
- Flint Public Art Project is looking for walls to paint! joe@flintpublicartproject.com
- East Side had a 40 yard dumpster brought into parking lot of Washington elementary school; filled it up, good feeling, hope to
- Edible Flint Kit orders due May 1
 - Online <http://www.edibleflint.org/garden-kits> or 810-348-5332, or forms in a box at 2033 MLK
 - Distribution of plants, May 15
 - Jane Richardson
- Kate Cole, Traffic Taming Taskforce: we're ending speed collection in Mott Park, someone went 73miles/hr this am, for example, in a 25 miles/hr roadstrip right next to the park itself
 - High risk area for survival if hit
 - Will be bringing this info to people who can do something about it
- "Blight Blast" at 2910 Corunna Road, Friday April 16, noon
 - house that has accumulated a lot of trash; gonna work for an hour or so, we'll call to arrange in advance a pick-up by the blight team
- April 21st, Purses with a Purpose; collecting everyday items for women's shelters, for female victims, domestic abuse, goal is to collect comfort items...
 - Michigan State Police Post
 - New purse, filled with pads, deodorant, etc..
- Building up the Blocks
 - Community service-related initiative by troopers
 - Goal is to engage troopers in community, have to have some investment in the community...if you're policing that community, you're part of that community
 - Goal is to have community and police get together to talk about areas where help is needed...
 - We'll be looking for a location to dump trash; if somebody knows someplace for bags of trash or large items
- Land Bank
 - Raul Garcia has joined Land Bank staff
 - Clean & Green is kicking off, 70 groups participating, most groups ever had for the program
 - Filed for \$1M through Kildee's office to demolish buildings, following Focus on Flint initiative process; looking forward to getting more \$ to demolish blighted structures in the community, in the City of Flint
- Crim Fitness Foundation
 - Neighbors Changing Flint Leadership Series has wrapped up, had our last session this past week; all sessions are recorded, available

at neighborschangingflint.org, February - end of March, twice a week for 6 weeks, lots of content!

- Looking for members of our Resident Advisory board, email Ashley at NEH, director@neighborhoodengagementhub.org

Theresa Roach, Crim

- certified to teach mindfulness leadership training to Flint residents, free to FNU members/Flint residents; limited to 24 people/class
- Mindfulness Leadership Training
- troach@crim.org
- 810-423-5154

Communities First

- A lot of work around census, as part of our continued work to civic engagement, we're working on redistricting in partnership with michigan nonprofit association
- Year after census, boundaries and lines for how people are elected to political offices are redrawn; in Michigan we voted for a citizens redistricting commission
- Hosting a Town Hall event, Monday April 12th at 5:30PM

Fire Department

- 5 firefighter positions open, and one office assistant position open
- As we continue to hire people outside our community, they continue to get their experience here and level we'd rather have people in our communities stay here and make their career
- Chief Barton: 810-210-8633

Congressman Kildee's office

- Still offering people assistance with IRS refunds and stimulus
- 810-238-8627

Metro Community Development: *Homeowner Rehab Program* (Brian Glowiak, CEO)

- MCD has been serving community for almost 30 years
- Importance of grant money for free home improvement repairs
- Two categories:
- MCD is part of Federal Home loan Bank, we've had access to a significant amount of funding
- **First Program:**
 - NIP: Neighborhood Improvement Program
 - \$400K
 - Up to \$10K/household for new roof, new doors, new furnaces, new A/C
 - Have to be a homeowner, primary residence for at least 6 months, can not have received prior funding, income eligibility level (1 member, can't exceed 36K, 2 members 41K, 3 members, 46K)
- Homeowner must find 2 contractors and select bids from them
- **Q:** What about home insurance?
 - Homeowners have to be current on their homeowners insurance, property taxes, and mortgage payments
- **Second Program:**
 - Accessibility Mobility program
 - Geared toward senior 62+ or person in household with disability
 - \$300K total; \$7500 per household to improve accessibility, e.g. build ramps, widen doorways, bathroom renovations, plumbing and electrical modifications to move laundry upstairs, changing flooring, etc.

- We compete with credit unions and banks throughout multiple states, in previous years we've been able to draw down full amount of funding for NIP; but not for the Accessibility program
- Here to promote the second program in particular: please complete application process, which opens on May 4
- Come to our office or 1174 Robert T Longway call: 810-767-4622 ext. 360

Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT): I-475 Project Update (Trevor Block & Jay Reithel)

- Doing a corridor study at Court and Fifth; looking at volumes there, which have decreased in the last 30-40 years
- Exploring options for those pieces of pavement; gathering traffic data
- No funding as yet: planning studies, analyze data to come up with fixes we can get consensus on
- What works if we have 12-16 of pavement, what's your vision? Could be a bike path, green space, parking at one end, etc.
- **Q:** What's the planning process? How will you be working with the city to ensure community engagement?
- Total is about \$400M from bond funding Genesee County to do work on I-475 and I-69; initial plan was to do replace/improve existing roadways, but got permission to pump the brakes and hold the money until a community-driven design process could be undertaken
- Planning and Environmental Languages Project
- Will be looking for people to join a Local Advisory Committee
- Biden's infrastructure plan has set aside a significant portion to reconnect communities that were disrupted by interstate highways; hearing that Flint is on that list
- Not just about the road; number of other things that go into that final alternative of reconnecting communities; e.g. land becomes available when we shrink highways; process of determining what the city needs are for that available land, e.g. affordable housing, parks, deck parks/capping the freeway
- Good timing with infrastructure plan
- **Q:** Dort Highway, speed limit through most of town is 50 miles/hour, which is fast...could you look into lowering that?
 - Speed limits determined by how fast people drive
- Reopening leith street would help with flow of traffic downtown
- **Suggestion:** "Street Furniture" - benches, trees, boulevards with flowers, fancy street lamps
- blockt2@michigan.gov

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Brown Funeral Home Update (Diane Russell, Community Involvement Coordinator)

- Been working with Land Bank to address the issue of the Brown Funeral Home, reach out to community stakeholders,
- Property burned down in November 2020, owned by Land Bank, who reached out to EPA for assistance
 - Structurally unsound, friable asbestos throughout building ruins/debris
 - EPA is conducting a removal action (cleanup) to address the asbestos-contaminated ruins and debris
 - Estimated to be complete Summer 2021
- Air sampling for asbestos, real-time monitoring for particulates/nuisance dust
- If there are any exceedances we're notified immediately

- **Q:** Should surrounding neighborhoods be concerned on windy days, should they keep windows closed during construction, etc. ?
- Copy of the mailer for neighborhood groups:
 - <https://response.epa.gov/sites/14990/files/BFH%20March%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL%20ENGLISH.pdf>
 - <https://response.epa.gov/sites/14990/files/BFH%20March%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL%20SPANISH.pdf>
- response.epa.gov/FormerBFH
- Contact:
 - Jackie Cole, EAP ON-scene Coordinator
 - cole.jacquelyn@epa.gov
 - 3125974421
 - Diane Russel, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
 - russell.diane@epa.gov.
 - Brandon Reid - MDHHS - ReidB1@michigan.gov
- Mayor Neeley
 - Will not be shutting off water to residents; will be going after commercial non-payers
 - Encouraging residents to report on each other and “commercial dumpers” for blight; offering monetary rewards as incentives up to \$1000
 - 5 Pillars:
 - Public safety
 - Infrastructure repair
 - Healthcare disparities
 - Economic development (business, entrepreneurship)
 - Owner-occupied rehab for our structures, with philanthropic and corporate partners
- Not only a blight problem but a health issue as well