

FNU Meeting

August 7, 2021, 9:30-11:30

Facilitator: Lucille James

Flint Neighborhoods United (FNU) is a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of each month to share information and leverage their resources to create positive change in the Greater Flint community.

Neighborhood Updates & Projects: What neighborhood project(s) are you a part of?

Sarvis Park Neighborhood Association:

- Trying to cut down grass in blocks at a time, trying to eliminate some of the tall grass growing up in houses, some are owned by landbank, some are abandoned, some are empty fields, lots
- Also making sure that bulk trash, mattresses, etc. are properly disposed of
- Next week there's a property that just has all kinds of trash, working to clean up
- Ladel Lewis: Crim is leading fitness in the park every wednesday at 7pm
- Thursday from 6-830pm, live music at Sarvis Park
- August 20th, movie under the stars, showing Marvel's Black Widow, 8pm
- Last Friday in August: Caribbean Beats and Eats festival, sponsored by Autozone, free food, music, and vendors

West Flint Community Watch:

- hats off to the work undertaken; trying to follow in footsteps by checking neighborhood for mattresses that need to be bagged, move-outs that need to be brought to Republic's attention; graffiti 0 seems to be a new surge - and providing meals for our artists who have just completed three new mural in the neighborhood
 - Business owners are calling Joe to ask for a mural
 - We will be part of the September 18 blight elimination day

Traffic Taming Task Force

- Group is out of money, need to work on writing more grants
- Kate Cole stepping down after 2021
- **Discussion:** we need another volunteer who is willing to step in; Michelle from NEH supports Cade; Theresa works on finding funds; a lot of support - if someone was interested in leading, they wouldn't be working by themselves
- Contact Michelle at Neighborhood Engagement Hub - michelle@neighborhoodengagementhub.org

Tony, Ward 8; Mona Munro-Yunis

- Organizer in Flint, specifically in environmental justice; we are dealing with an oncoming commentary on August 11th, 6-8pm regarding Ajax Asphalt, who wants to put a processing plant within 2 miles of Bluebell Beach, working on organizing surrounding neighborhoods
- In 2017, EPA ruled that the siting of that incinerator was racist, affects communities and neighborhoods of color disproportionately; reports of asthma and cancer in those neighborhoods
- We need to pack that room - it's a lot harder to get a company to reduce emissions once they're there; so we need to oppose them coming at all
- **Discussion:** Both at a federal and state level, they assess cumulatively; pushing for that to change, because it's not an accurate representation of how people experience pollution in their neighborhoods
 - **Q:** Have any actual changes been proposed? How can a collective group get together to get behind a particular proposal? What about calling state reps, senators, etc?

- Folks on the organizing call shared their reflections, EGLE has been looking at 3 mile radius of air pollutants around that facility; which makes no sense - if you're looking at a 3 mile radius, it's diluting that number - technically they're saying they've looked at air quality effects, but not in a way that's scientifically meaningful
- **Q:** Have you been including Bernadel Jefferson in these conversations? Might be a good resource as well; also residents in the neighborhood across from the incinerator.
- Want to join effort to oppose the Ajax asphalt plant from moving onto Carpenter Road and affecting health in Flint? The proposed permit (PTI Application No. APP-2021-0019) is for the installation and operation of a new hot mix asphalt (HMA) plant. Please feel free to contact me, Tony or Deb from the St. Francis Prayer Center (directordeb@stfrancisprayerflint.com). Anyone willing to canvass in Flint and nearby Genesee Township, please come to the St. Francis Prayer Center on Monday, August 9th at 10 am. Help us pack the Genesee Township Hall for Michigan Environment, Great Lakes & Energy's (EGLE's) in-person public hearing in-person this coming Wednesday, August 11th at 6-8 pm. As Chris said, EGLE's public comment period is currently set to end on August 16th, however we're advocating for a 6-month extension and ask others to do the same.
- More detailed information about the Ajax permit can be found at: https://www.deq.state.mi.us/aps/downloads/permits/PubNotice/NSR_PTIs_Open_for_Comment.pdf.
- If you have questions regarding the permit application, please contact Ms. Ambrosia Brown at 517-648-6216 or BrownA39@Michigan.gov .

Essence Wilson, Communities First

- Step-up, Pick up initiative is happening again, beginning August 21st
 - Looking for neighborhood groups to pick up litter throughout the neighborhood, it is a competition, giving away \$2500 in prizes
 - \$1000 first place, \$500 for second, and then in-kind prizes as well between KGCB, and a \$250 cash prize
 - Organize a group in your neighborhood, register, go out during the allotted time-frame and pick up as much litter as possible, just litter and debris (not mattresses or big items)
 - KGCB will provide gloves, bags, pickers, and buckets
 - Also have our litter champion efforts - people who you nominate will receive a gift card, t-shirt, etc. and recognition on social media
 - Last year it was people who do that work on a day-to-day basis, who aren't doing the work for recognition
- To register your neighborhood group for Step Up, Pick Up please use this form: <https://tinyurl.com/CFIStepUpPickUp21> Participating groups will be eligible for up to \$2,500 in prizes!

Mona Munroe-Younis, ETM Flint

- On Monday we open up an online survey, if you're interested in weighing in on City of Flint's Choice Neighborhood Funds projects, placemaking improvements, making a space identifiable as a place where people want to gather and socialize that's comfortable and attractive, along north and south saginaw, improvements to mckinley park in south flint, and the Grand Traverse greenway trail - City acquired 6 parcels for a long awaited Grand Traverse Greenway Trail
- "If anyone is interested in providing feedback to the Choice Neighborhoods team through the online surveys, please contact me at mmunroeyounis@cityofflint.com or (810) 766-7426 ext. 3037 and I'll send you a personal invitation! The online surveys cover

placemaking improvements to: N. Saginaw/MLK between 5th Ave and Mary St.; McKinley Park; Windiate Park (a.k.a. Pengelly Park), the Grand Traverse Greenway Trail, and vacant lot reuse for residents specifically within Smith Village neighborhood. Thank you for your interest!"

Jerome Threlkeld, Sloan Museum

- Collaboration with City of Flint, Choice Neighborhoods, UM-Flint, Community Foundation, and Sloan Museum
 - Got together for Fair Housing Month, we had a speaker series that started in June and our next speaker series is coming up August 25th, talking about owning out truth, embracing our change - a deeper dive into Flint's history - focus on I-475 and talking with residents of St. John's Street neighborhood
 - Sloan Museum is also hosting "Driving While Black" - Tuesday August 10th, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 - <https://sloanlongway.org/event/sorin/>

Vivan Williams, 100K Ideas

- Had 1st of 3 pitch for K competitions,
- Next competition will be on January 20th, 2022

Mayor Neeley

- Gun violence emergency here in City of Flint; we have resources for suppression activity with our county and state; proven very successful, we engaged 6 executive orders for emergency response teams
- Ward to Ward meetings, 2 wards meeting every week for dialogue
- Working collaboratively across sectors to address the gun violence issue

Flint Public Library

- Flint Public Library has a Concert on Zoom today at 2 as the Summer Reading Program Finale. Link is on our homepage. <https://fpl.info> Also, every Wednesday at 6:30 PM we are having a Trivia Contest for Adults on Zoom. This week's theme is Flint. Please come and compete. The link is at the same website.
- Blues Concerts after Hours are coming later in August on Zoom. Check the website for dates and bands.

Ray Barton, Flint Fire Department

- Finishing training skills for new recruits
- Upgrading first-line vehicles, new trucks, all vehicles will be under 5 years old

Lt Jeff Short and Ladel Lewis:

- "Bridging the Gap": Police and residents working together in an apprehensive community
- Is there crime in your neighborhood? What is your perception of local law enforcement? What is your experience of interacting with local law enforcement?
- Range from not good, fair, to good
- Jeff Short: Asst. Commander of the MSP Flint Post
 - Oversight of the uniform MSP personnel in the Secure Cities Partnership initiative with the Flint Police Department
 - Vision: To bring community and local law enforcement together in a positive and meaningful way
 - Sarvis Park Neighborhood Association (SPNA)
 - Established during the pandemic, wanted to make our Wakena Subdivision our own vision of Wakanda
 - Keeping the community informed - an informed community is the best community, we deliver newsletters to 350 homes, including information from community meetings like this, and local law enforcement information

- History of Negative Policing in America: 91% of White people have good working relationship with police; only 56% of African American people report having a good working relationship with police
- “We need to look at the hard truth”
- Cops started as slave patrols, this history continues, is passed on, way of being gets passed on over time; widespread corruption in police forces racial disparities in laws (designed to incriminate and incarcerate Black individuals);
- “The current Problem”
 - Community members ostensibly rely on police for protection; police rely on community for support and cooperation
 - This relationship is strained...never going to get everybody to feel the same way...communities of color experience disproportionate brutality and violence from the cops
- Serving While Protecting
 - Positive house calls; dispel negative stereotypes; establish positive relationships; creating the Flint Community Advisory Task Force
- Flint Post Citizens’ Academy
 - 8 week program, bring in people from around the State Police to come in and speak, do traffic stops, show how crime scenes are processed etc.
- Community clean ups with police presence; cops want help from the community in solving cold cases
- The Future Sarvis Park Model:
 - Wrap-around approach
 - Based off the “Transforming Neighborhood Initiative (TNI)” in Prince Georges County Maryland
 - Work with governmental agencies and local nonprofits to increase resilience in our area
- Not about creating a police state but about empowering neighborhoods
- Wednesday August 11, 10AM, Building up the Blocks at Riverpark Apartment Complex, state police will be there
- Thursday August 12, Recruiting Fair, starting at 11AM downtown

Crimestoppers

- We do take tips on crime and suspicious situations, we only pay out rewards for felony arrests; so we’ll have someone take a look at the blight situation, but if it doesn’t lead to a felony arrest, a reward is not paid out

Liz Bryan, NEH: 2021 Flint Community Initiative & Neighborhood Engagement Hub

- Part of 2021 Flint Community Initiative, part of NEH
- Created a neighborhood group toolkit...
- Provide Flint groups and residents with the necessary tools and resources strategies for improving neighborhood conditions and neighborhood groups
- Toolkit with different folder sections, incl. Starting a neighborhood group, advocacy, grants and fiscal sponsorship
- Residents encouraged to participate in Neighbors Changing Flint planning!

FOCOV

- Planning on having a printed edition in September!
- Have acquired a dozen newspaper boxes! We’re looking for community orgs and businesses who want a box outside — places with foot traffic, people who come through often

- cfrye31@comcast.net or fnucommunications@gmail.com for FOCOV articles, events, flyers, anything that you wish to have the community know about. Our monthly deadline is the 15th of every month. (some leeway available)
- This Sunday, August 8th afternoon, starts at 3-830/9pm - movie night at Kearsley Park, bounce houses, etc.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY CARMA!!!!