

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
November 6, 2021, 9:30-11:00am
Facilitator: Lucille James

Neighborhood Shoutout/Updates

- What topic would you like to learn more about?
- Recent discussion about ARPA funds - leadership not being as creative as they could be at customizing them to the needs of Flint community
 - American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)
- Formula for determining the grants is not just determining grants, income and resources of people in that municipality, Flint got second-greatest big amount in the state
- Primarily COVID relief; city is allowed to take certain funds into its own budget to address revenue loss; might buy Flint additional time to 'mend its fences' financially, esp with deficit
- BUT most of the money is dedicated to needs of community; can use funds to provide medical assistance regarding COVID, services such as enhanced vaccination clinics, testing, access to vaccines, boosters, tests, etc; could address mental health effects; could address revenue loss for small business; can provide job training for displaced workers
- 27 census tracts in Flint are eligible for ARPA funds; more than 70% of people in the city live in those areas; ability to assist those residents is significantly enhanced!
 - Can make grants to individuals to improve their homes for purpose of enhancing generational wealth; can be used for rental assistance; assistance with utilities; grants for block clubs
- Common question: "What are we going to do about blight?"
 - That's not really prohibited exactly but in the final rule, the IRS - treasury department left open the question of whether the money could be used for blight
 - A lot of blighted properties are held by Genesee County, not private individuals; Flint cannot transfer funds to the county
- Q: "Is there any way some of these funds could be given to the neighborhood groups to support their efforts in helping their own neighborhoods. All of us would appreciate a little help. You can't get more grass roots than the neighborhood associations."
 - Yes: there might be some parameters, e.g. permanent changes to your neighborhood (as opposed to "ice cream socials")
- "We have not yet had a meaningful interaction between government and people of this city to discuss the possible uses"
- Survey with 5 options went out; one of first steps is to persuade decision makers in city hall to open this subject to meaningful community participation/discussion/ideas/consensus
- Q: What's the deadline by which ARPA funds must be allocated/used?
 - Allocated by December 31st 2024, expended no later than December 31st 2026
- We already have first \$47M and next \$47M is coming in May
- Money should be spent in a way that takes into account needs of community
- There's a task force for COVID relief; but important for this community to come up with a community-wide plan
- People in this community are seriously in trouble; getting some relief out to these families is important, but not piecemeal and not pursuant to politician's pet projects; community needs to have a voice, demand things
- Different cities have plans to use the money for various things; we need to make a decision as a community about what we want to do and get the attention of City hall

- Mayor has not been transparent in his intended use of the money; community engagement in the ward meetings did not offer opportunities for discussion and only offered 5 options, when there are actually literally hundreds of ways the funds can be used, and the guidelines are flexible
- Contact: Linda Pohly, lindapohly@gmail.com

Agency Updates

NEH/Traffic Taming Task Force:

- November 8th monthly meeting has been cancelled and instead hosting an advocacy meeting on November 22nd at Crim to focus on the direction they would like to take
- If you would like to be a part of this session or have questions please contact Michelle at NEH via phone or email (michelle@neighborhoodengagementhub.org or 810-620-1299 ext 2.)

Raynetta, Land Bank

- Second State of Land Bank address on Tuesday December 7th at 7pm, Facebook Live event and it will later be on YouTube

Serena, Crime Stoppers

- Crimestoppers is working on putting out a factsheet on elder abuse

Chris, FOCO

- Papers available at NEH, call Michelle at 810-620-1299 ext 2. because building is still not open to the public

Kay Schwartz, Flint Public Library

- April 2022 will probably be first live FNU meeting at the library!

Rick Sadler, MSU Public Health

- Survey and job opportunity to share
- ReCAST evaluator, generally they do a community-wide survey called the CASPER
- Prevention Research Center at U of M, broader with community partners on healthy environments, we're always seeking data collectors, \$15/hour jobs, going out and surveying physical landscape of community and door-to-door surveys starting in March

Essence Wilson ,Communities First

- Bringing back the African American film series
- Thursday November 11, at 5:30, free movie, free meal
- Summer of Soul, directed by QuestLove, about the 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival
- Discussion will be on November 13 on Zoom

Trooper Kramer

- First responders playing sports, community event, come out meet great talk have a good time
- Wrapped up our Building up the Blocks for the season
- We made a lot of community partnerships specifically in the North End

Carrie Edwards, Fire Department

- Only a few small fires on Devil's night

Cheryl

- Proud to say that West Flint community watch patrolled for 9 hours on Devil's Night and Halloween, quiet patrol; and we were able to report 9 street light outages

Dr. Brenda Rogers-Grays, Links Incorporated

- Chronic Kidney disease running rampant in our community
- Since 1979, member of Flint-area michigan Chapter has provided programming
- 22 members, Black Care initiative to bring awareness to this community about Chronic kidney disease

- C.A.R.E. - Kidney awareness, resources, and education for Black residents to address kidney disease
- Lifestyle behaviours that prevent the advancement or advancing progression of Kidney disease
- Many community partners
- High rates of kidney disease in African-American communities
- How can we help delay the progress of kidney disease?
 - eating healthy, getting exercise, taking right medications
- We want our neighborhoods and communities to understand how diseases such as diabetes and hypertension can cause chronic kidney disease
- Risk factors: diabetes, high blood pressure, family members w/chronic kidney disease; African-American, Hispanic, Native American, or Asian
- **Q:** blood test at the doctor's office - what numbers, what am i looking for to key me in to kidney disease?
 - When you come for blood pressure and blood work, number 1 - ask your doctor what is your A1C
 - We check the urine, how much protein you're dumping in the kidneys, because kidneys cannot handle a certain load of protein
 - Creatinine levels, BUN, GFR levels - these are very significant numbers
- **Q:** Is natural healing an alternative to taking medication?
 - Get tired of the pills, the regimen, the discipline
 - A: Talk to your own doctor; you can reverse the progression of the disease, but not the disease
- Contact: flintarealinkinc@gmail.com

Chris Frye, FOCO

- To book FOCO Holiday Ads at \$10. Business card size. Let us know and send artwork (if you have it) to fnucommunications@gmail.com
- Elections for Vice President and Secretary positions are coming up. To nominate for either of these offices, Nominate via email at fnuommunications@gmail.com
- Our next meeting is December 4th, elections January 8th