



FLINT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting Notes February 4, 2014



Members Present

Jim Richardson, Co-Chair
Bob Wesley, Co-Chair
Bryant Nolden, City Council
Elizabeth Jordan, PC Rep
Jackie Poplar, City Council
John Henry
Linda Boose

Pastor LaTrelle Holmes
Judy Hovey
Supt. Quintin Marshall
Raynetta Speed
Clarence Pierce
Pamela Hawkins
Barry Williams
Charles Tutt

Members Not Present

None

Staff Present

Megan Hunter, Chief Planning Officer
Vincent Slocum, Outreach Coordinator

Kevin Schronce, Assoc. Planner
Matthew Williams, Assoc. Planner

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. The meeting was held at the Flint Public Library, 1026 Kearsley St., Flint MI.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Co-Chair Richardson stated that this is a working meeting for the Master Plan Steering Committee. Therefore, public comment will be limited to the first ten minutes in order to allow for dialogue between Steering Committee members. The audience will be invited to participate in small group discussions.

Barbara Griffith-Wilson expressed optimism that work on implementing the master plan had begun, as well as expressing high-hopes for Flint moving forward.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:

Co-Chair Bob Wesley thanked Steering Committee members for all of their hard work in helping to develop the Master Plan, stating that several new development projects had been approved by the Planning Commission based on recommendations from the Master Plan. Judy Hovey requested that Co-Chair Bob Wesley take the time later to discuss the details of these projects.

MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

Kevin Schronce outlined the role, purpose, and responsibilities of the Steering Committee during Phase II: Implementation. Mr. Schronce stated that Steering Committee Members would be subject to removal if they were absent without excuse from two Committee meetings. John Henry asked who was responsible for deciding whether an absence was excused to which Co-Chair Jim Richardson responded that Mr. Schronce had that responsibility.

IMPLEMENTATION TASK GROUPS

Planning staff outlined the roles, purpose, and responsibilities of the Implementation Task Groups that are being formed to take over the responsibilities of the Advisory Groups. It was explained that Implementation Groups would be formed in seven areas: Housing and Neighborhoods, Public Safety, Health and Welfare, Environmental Features, Open Space and Parks, Arts and Culture, Infrastructure and Community Facilities, Economic Development and Education, and Transportation.

Each of these groups would be charged with channeling public and private resources towards implementation of the Master Plan. Task Group members would also be responsible for serving as advocates and “champions” of the Master Plan. Several committee members voiced concern that Task Groups would be made up solely of experts and organizational representatives rather than residents.

There was a great deal of discussion as to whether or not Economic Development and Education should be made into two different Task Groups. Similar discussion centered on the separation of the Public Safety and Health and Welfare groups. Many committee members expressed concern that these subjects were too far reaching and significant to be compressed into joint groupings. Many expressed a desire to see them served by individual Task Groups.

Mrs. Hunter explained that staffing constraints presented logistical challenges to the formation of additional Task Groups. She also pointed out that, in their present format, these groups could easily be broken up into various sub-groups as suited the interests and skills of group members, as well as to accommodate for a variety of circumstances. It was explained that, by keeping them as one group with potential sub-groups, it was also much easier to coordinate between and accommodate for areas of overlap between the various subject areas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY DISCUSSION

Kevin Schronce presented a draft for review of the Master Plan Executive Summary. Committee members discussed changes that should be made to the document before it is distributed publicly. These changes included the removal of several photographs in favor of maps and/or tables pulled from the Master Plan, the inclusion of a Guiding Principles Legend on each of the pages for clarity sake, boxing each chapter goal in order to make it more visually prominent, and increasing the text size to make it more readable.

UPDATE ON MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Work will soon begin on the development of a Capital Improvements Plan, with a formal plan expected to be adopted by June of 2014.

Drafts of Sub-Area Plans are expected to be released by mid-to-late February, at which point community meetings will be held to present the plans to the public and to take feedback from residents.

It was explained that, moving forward, the Steering Committee would be the point group for developing a new zoning ordinance that aligns with the Imagine Flint Land-use Plan. Jackie Poplar remarked that liquor and party store owners should be involved in this process in order to better ensure their compliance with the new ordinance.

Staff submitted an application for a Target Market Analysis (multi-family housing) from MSHDA. The areas within the proposal were the Grand Traverse Neighborhood; the S. Saginaw Corridor; Downtown Flint; University Ave. Core; and N. Saginaw Corridor. The analysis will outline current market demand and whether it is served by the present stock of housing or whether mixed-use or alternative housing options should be explored. Elizabeth Jordan pointed out that, because of the Master Plan, the City was successfully able to expand the initial target area and emphasize a focus on the N. Saginaw corridor.

BUILDING NEIGHBORHOOD CAPACITY PROGRAM UPDATE

BNCP Planner Tracy Mullins explained to committee members that, as a next step, BNCP is working to build off of the momentum of the Master Plan by developing a neighborhood plan for parts of the 1st and 3rd wards. He stated that this neighborhood plan is to be used as an addition to the Master Plan and will follow a similar format. As part of this process, he explained that they will be hosting a series of public input sessions.

NEXT STEPS

There will be a Public Needs Hearing in Council Chambers on Thursday, February 27th to provide residents with an opportunity to provide input on the allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds.

The next Master Plan Steering Committee meeting will be held on March 4th, 2014, 5:30 p.m. at the Flint Public Library, Basement.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by: Vincent Slocum