



FLINT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
November 20, 2012



Members Present

Everett Cole
Bob Wesley, Co-Chair
Bryant Nolden, City Council
Franklin Pleasant
Elizabeth Jordan, PC Rep
Linda Boose

Judy Hovey
Pamela Hawkins
Supt. Quintin Marshall
Pastor LaTrelle Holmes
Raynetta Speed

Members Not Present

Jim Richardson, Co-Chair – excused
Jackie Poplar, City Council
Phil Hagerman
Clarence Pierce
Charles Tutt

John Henry - excused
Karen Lopez
Chia Morgan – excused
Linda Thompson
Barry Williams

Staff Present

Megan Hunter, Chief Planning Officer
Matthew Williams, Assoc. Planner

Kevin Schronce, Assoc. Planner

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Bob Wesley called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. The meeting was held at the Flint Institute of Arts, 1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint MI.

PUBLIC FORUM:

Co-Chair Wesley began the meeting by reiterating that the Steering Committee meetings are true working meetings, and public comment will be limited to allow for dialogue between committee members. The public can find the meeting statement and purpose on the bottom of the meeting agenda.

Co-Chair Wesley asked if there was anyone to speak for public forum.

An unidentified attendee voiced her concerns about the property around Doyle Ryder School.

Todd Lamb voiced his concerns regarding a perceived lack of input from downtown development groups.

Consultant John Houseal noted that the director of the DDA will participate in a focus group interview.

V. Simmons-Washington voiced her concerns regarding the current city demolition process and how the money will be spent and locations will be chosen.

M. Hunter responded noting that the recent demolitions will focus on the Pierson Road corridor and neighborhoods adjacent and future demolitions will be based on the recently completed housing inventory assessment.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:

Co-Chair Wesley stated that a moratorium on a signage ordinance was issued while the commission finalizes the complete ordinance. The Planning Commission was also updated on the Master Plan. Planning Commission agendas and meeting minutes are available on the city website.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE - ADVISORY GROUP

M. Hunter announced that 5 of 6 Advisory Groups had met across the city with the final group meeting the following Monday. The initial meetings are for the group to lay down guidelines and set their meeting schedule for 2013. She noted that individuals are still encouraged to apply, specifically in the 3rd and 4th Wards. A December 8 facilitator training has been organized for chosen conveners of the Advisory Groups, and any member of the Steering Committee is encouraged to attend. M. Hunter also noted the dates of the remaining two community workshops, November 28th, December 13th and asked the Steering Committee members to distribute the marketing materials handed out by staff.

WORK PLAN – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

John Houseal, of Houseal Lavigne Associates, delivered an overview of engagement thus far and future activities, asking committee members to reference the community engagement summary they were presented. He noted that forty-five individuals attended the November 15 community workshop and that a lease with the Capitol Theater will be executed in the coming weeks for a Master Plan project studio to be operational by the end of December. J. Houseal reiterated to the committee that the goal of the Master Plan engagement process was to achieve the broadest participation possible by offering numerous opportunities and unique experiences for individuals to get involved.

E. Jordan asked what a consensus looked like? J. Houseal answered that a consensus is an “objective and reflective vision on what people agree with to move the city forward.”

J. Houseal noted that the process of the plan will be to gather a broad consensus from the workshop, DIY kits and interviews and develop this into a more narrowed focus. From this, a vision will be formed and meetings held to gauge reaction, along with input from the Advisory groups containing over 160 individuals to provide additional input and feedback. J. Houseal noted that the process is not concrete and will evolve as needed, to be responsive and respectful.

E. Jordan reiterated that the committee needs to make sure they are getting broad community input. J. Houseal mentioned that the ideas from the workshops and vision sessions will be the fundamental ideas that will decide the sub-area plans.

F. Pleasant emphasized that the committee and staff notify individuals in advance of the development of the sub-area plans. J. Houseal noted that Mr. Pleasant’s comments were extremely important, and that perhaps the committee could begin to form consensus for these plans during the large scale community workshops.

Pastor Holmes noted he was concerned about the Emergency Financial Manager and the effect on the Master Plan. J. Houseal responded by informing the group that Houseal Lavigne has previous work dealing with a state of Michigan appointed financial manager, and that the EFM would not be a factor in the development or direction of the plan.

M. Hunter noted that during the visioning process America Speaks would be leading the meetings and facilitation using real-time polling would occur to measure an immediate consensus.

A question was asked looking for clarification of the term “community stakeholder” and its meaning. J. Houseal responded by stating that a stakeholder is any resident, group, or individual that is effected by the plan. A follow up question was asked for the number of individuals reached thus far in the process? J. Houseal answered that over 300 individuals have been involved thus far.

Further discussion on the engagement summary led to committee members recommending multiple opportunities and ideas for outreach and spreading the word. Television, radio, block clubs, and videos were all mentioned as potential areas for staff to utilize. K. Schronce responded that staff had participated in multiple television interviews, a radio show, multiple newspaper advertisements, door to door outreach, and visiting around 20 Election Day polling locations to distribute materials.

Discussion took place on the best times for the large scale community visioning workshop with

the committee deciding that Saturday afternoons around 10:00 a.m./late morning would work best for widespread community participation.

J. Hovey asked when the Steering Committee will receive information from the community workshops? M. Hunter responded that it won't be available until all workshops are held, DIY kits collected, and the input portion of the outreach process completed.

Project Website, Community Involvement

J. Houseal guided the committee and public through the new project website, www.imagineflint.com. The website is now live and is being updated daily to include all content from www.steeringflintforward.com, and become fully functional. He encouraged all committee members and public to browse the site and utilize all of the interactive features for staff and consultants to gain even more public input. He demonstrated the Mind Mixer feature, and also the planning mapper as some of the site highlights.

D.I.Y. Workshop Discussion

D.I.Y. kits were distributed to all committee members present, and then led through the process on how to run a workshop. J. Houseal encouraged all in attendance to check a kit out and host their own workshop. The DIY kits are an empowering tool and can recruit others to get involved in the process. Due to high demand, it was stressed that if you check a kit out, you should complete the kit and return it.

Next Steps

Parks Master Plan

M. Hunter briefly talked about the ongoing process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that expires in December. She told the members that a minimal update will be completed to remain eligible for State funding. The Crim Foundation hosted a public workshop on November 1 to gather input and generate ideas for plan updates. A more comprehensive update will take place during the Master Plan. M. Hunter noted that the Natural Resources, Open Space, and Conservation Master Plan Advisory Group will dedicate some of their time to this matter.

Arts and Culture Plan

M. Hunter discussed a grant received by the Greater Flint Arts Coalition for an Arts and Culture Master Plan. She mentioned how she envisions this plan being coordinated into the comprehensive city Master Plan, and will possibly have its own chapter and be quite encompassing.

A Master Plan community workshop will take place on November 28 at Greater Galilee Baptist Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Next meeting is December 4, 2012 at the Flint Public Library.

Submitted by: Kevin Schronce