



FLINT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
May 7, 2013



Members Present

Jim Richardson, Co-Chair
Bob Wesley, Co-Chair
Bryant Nolden, City Council
Jackie Poplar, City Council
Elizabeth Jordan, PC Rep
Everett Cole
Pamela Hawkins

Linda Boose
Judy Hovey
Supt. Quintin Marshall
Charles Tutt
Raynetta Speed
Barry Williams
Karen Lopez

Members Not Present

Phil Hagerman
Clarence Pierce

John Henry
Franklin Pleasant
Pastor LaTrelle Holmes

Staff Present

Sheree Pierce, Real Estate/Zoning Coordinator

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

CALL TO ORDER:

Co-Chair Richardson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. The meeting was held at the GCCARD, 601 N. Saginaw St., Suite 1B, 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.

Diana Phillips, 510 Dougherty Place, owns a potential rental house in Knob Hill subdivision near Miller Rd. and W. Court St. The house is empty and is deteriorated. She is interested in turning it into a facility for a Bed & Breakfast business. The property is zoned "A-2" Residential Single Family and allows a resident to have no more than 2 roomers or boarders. A Bed & Breakfast business use would be allowed in the multi-family zoning districts.

Jack Minor requested permission to pass out literature from the Friends of the Flint River Trail regarding rides they host and various others in the area.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE:

Co-Chair Bob Wesley stated the Planning Commission adopted the Vision & Guiding Principles at their April 23, 2013 meeting and encouraged people to submit any comments to the Planning Commission. He also asked everyone to keep Ms. Hunter in their prayers as her father had a massive heart attack.

UPDATE - ADVISORY GROUPS

Each group gave a summary report of their activities. Also, each group listed some sample goals they have been discussing. They are as follows:

Housing:

1. Preserve good and "tipping point" neighborhoods
2. Provide support for existing homeowners and housing stock
3. Create new housing for the future needs of the population

Public Safety:

1. Create safer neighborhoods
2. Improve communication between the city and the public

Health & Welfare:

1. Establish a central clearing house for all public health related information
2. Ensure that all residents have equitable access to quality of life and health
3. Plan and construct a built environment that encourages regular physical activity for people of all abilities

Natural Resources, Open Space, Conservation:

1. Encourage Health Lifestyles
2. Create adaptable natural systems/supporting existing natural systems
3. Foster a sense of community ownership of resources

Transportation & Mobility:

1. Multi-modal transportation system supported by complete streets, creating a more walkable community
 - a. Complete streets on all major roads & neighborhood streets
 - b. Complete street ordinance
2. Interconnected regional trail system for Flint-Genesee County
 - a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, including connections to transit

Infrastructure & Community Facilities:

1. Community centers in all neighborhoods
2. Design of schools and buildings that reflects and promotes healthy environments
3. Alternative for infrastructure

Education:

1. Encourage the development of a 21st century educations for youth and adults
 - a. Repurpose vacant schools into 21st century learning labs
 - b. Support existing learning centers
2. Reduce the dropout rate
 - a. Increase parental involvement and provide family supporting services

Economic Development:

1. Increase employment rate
 - a. Teach employable skills in abandoned school buildings
2. Increase income
3. Help build neighborhood capacity
 - a. Create tool kits that help neighborhoods to develop (technical assistance to residents)

Mayor Walling relayed that the Flint Community Schools (FCS) have been supportive and represented from the beginning and they agree the school system is a critical component of the master plan in regards to the school building locations and their facilities, supporting infrastructure as well as city services and maintenance. The Planning Commission is leading an effort to join the representatives of the schools and form a strategy group. A MOU document was drafted formalizing a strategy group between FCS and the City of Flint (COF). The document is being reviewed by the FCS. J. Richardson added that Interim Superintendent Larry Watkins had been invited to serve on the Steering Committee to represent the FCS as well as others vacancies being filled.

Discussion ensued regarding "tipping point" neighborhoods, criteria to assess neighborhood stability, spreading out resources, and consolidating resources.

Devon Lavigne, of Houseal Lavigne, noted that there is a need to figure out what are the criteria for tipping point areas and viable neighborhoods, and what is too far gone. Flint is a city of many different areas and different characteristics of neighborhoods.

LAND USE DISCUSSION - PRESENTATION

Brandon Nolin, of Houseal Lavigne, provided an overview of land use planning noting there is not enough time to cover the complete topic. A Placemaking Toolkit Workshop Series discussion guide was distributed. He reviewed various plans developed by their firm, particularly Muskogee, Oklahoma (population 50,000). A Placemaking Toolkit will be developed identifying about 14 different place types. As with the sub-area plans, the toolkit typologies will be used to service multiple areas throughout the city.

The various types of places will be vetted with the staff and Steering Committee and then the Planning Commission.

An example of a place type is a typology called "Green Neighborhood." The typology would consist of a worded description, a visual graphic description, and character images. The toolkit place type will be the typologies developed with input from the staff and also the Steering Committee.

A series of land use workshops will be hosted for community input. 6 - 9 large maps identifying different sections of the city will be used to place typologies on areas of the city where people would like to see that type of use. From this input various land use maps will be created. A summary map will then be developed along with maps showing alternative scenarios.

Discussion regarding outreach strategies for the community workshops ensued. K. Schronce relayed that staff with the help of interns will use the outreach strategy and methods from the March 9, 2013 workshop as a model as this drew excellent attendance. There were suggestions to use several different types of radio stations and television coverage. K. Schronce also explained kicking off the use of the service "Textizen" a texting and social media outreach method as a way to reach youth and others. The Committee also suggested having up to 4 community workshops.

NEXT STEPS

Dates, times, and locations for the land use workshops and sub-area workshops will be coordinated.

The next Master Plan Steering Committee meeting will be held on June 4, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at the Flint Public Library, Basement Level.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Submitted by: Sheree J. Pierce

