



Master Plan Advisory Group Report May 7, 2013

1. **Housing**

- 4 meetings held – Attendance averaging 15-17 individuals/meeting
- Group has reviewed and discussed multiple Neighborhood and Housing components of master plans: Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Camden, NJ and received a presentation regarding the Youngstown, OH master plan
- Small group discussions were held analyzing the housing assessment data
- Group has begun brainstorming some sample goals:
 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**
- Common themes from meetings:
 1. More variety of housing is needed
 2. More programs are needed for residents to improve their houses
 3. Blight control in neighborhoods is a major issues – Lack of Code Enforcement
 4. Alternatives to demolition are needed. (eg. Deconstruction, targeted rehabs)
 5. Better relationships between landlords, relators, and city officials
- ***Any other comments on process**

2. **Public Safety, Health, & Welfare**

- 5 meetings held – Attendance averaging 12-15 individuals
- Group has analyzed crime mapping data leading to discussions about types of crime occurring in Flint, and by whom.
- Groups have split for discussion purposes (Safety, Health/Welfare) to provide feedback on existing conditions report and identify potential missing data.
- Group has reviewed and discussed crime studies from Camden, NJ and youth-focused master plan from Pamona, CA
- Group has begun brainstorming some sample goals:
 - **Public Safety Brainstorme Goals:**
 - **Create safer neighborhoods**
 - **Improve communication between the city and the public**
 - Public Safety Common Themes:
 - More police/resident involvement is needed (eg. Community policing)
 - Neighborhood/Crime watch groups need more interaction with Flint police
 - Code enforcement is key to curbing crime
 - Lack of youth activities are leading to high crime
 - Re-activation of Mini-Stations as “neighborhood hubs”
 - Ex-offenders are struggling to make it. Lack of assistance when returned to society



- **Health/Welfare Brainstorm Goals:**
 - **Establish a central clearing house for all public health related information**
 - **Ensure that all residents have equitable access to quality of life and health**
 - **Plan and construct a built environment that encourages regular walking, biking, public transportation use, and other forms of physical activity for people of all abilities.**
- Health/Welfare Common Themes:
 - More coordination/consolidation is needed between organizations to streamline services (There are too many duplication organizations in Flint)
 - Closed school buildings are key assets to providing youth opportunities (joint-use agreements)
 - Religious organizations need to be more involved with the welfare of residents
 - Access to health care is essential. (Coordination with MTA)
- ***Any other comments on process**

3. **Natural Resources, Open Space, Conservation**

- 5 meetings held – Attendance averaging 12-15 individuals.
- Group has reviewed and discussed Design Lansing Comprehensive plan for open spaces (Group was impressed and liked a lot of the sustainability components from plan)
- 2 meetings have been dedicated to the development of the Parks and Recreation master plan.
 - Group reviewed and revised vision and goals for plan and offered comments to incorporated into new plan
 - Plan was approved by State of Michigan on April 8.
- Group offered feedback on missing data from existing conditions report and data needed to inform March 9 discussions.
- Group has begun brainstorming sample goals:
 - **Encourage Healthy Lifestyles**
 - **Create adaptable natural systems/ supporting existing natural systems**
 - **Foster a sense of community ownership of resources**
 - Connecting green and blue assets and people
 - Vacant spaces used to connect green spaces
 - Revitalize existing resources (Flint River, creeks, tree canopy)
 - Create a “template” citizen toolkit that outlines best practices to re-use vacant spaces/open spaces within neighborhoods
- Common themes from meetings:
 - Group has reviewed Design Lansing plan multiple times and agree many of goals/objectives outlined in plan are good fits for Flint
 - All resources and access to them should be equitable
 - Better connectivity/organization between City and residents
 - Utilize Flint resources to create a 4-season activities
 - Incorporation Green leadership policies/ green jobs technology



4. Transportation & Mobility

- 5 meetings held – Attendance averaging 10 individuals
- Group has heard updates and a city perspective from Kay Muhammad, Transportation Director for the City of Flint, on current and future transportation projects
- Group has heard updates from Jason Hoff, Planning Coordinator with the Mass Transit Authority.
- Group has reviewed the Genesee County Long Range Transportation Plan 2035, Community Data Profile and Existing Conditions Report.
- Group had an opportunity to provide input into the Transportation Improvement Plan that the city submits to the county and the county submits to the State for fiscal years 2014 – 2017.
- Group has stressed the importance of walkable communities, public transportation serving the underserved, bike lines, complete streets, trails and
- Sample goals and strategies
 - i.* Multi – modal transportation system supported by complete streets, creating a more walkable community
 - 1. Complete streets on all major roads and neighborhood streets
 - 2. Complete street ordinance
 - ii.* Interconnected regional trail system for Flint-Genesee County
 - 1. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, including connections to transit.
- **Any other comments on process***

5. Infrastructure & Community Facilities

- 5 meetings held – Attendance averaging 10 – 12 individuals
- Group is working with the National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) Grant with the Artist in Residency.
- Held meetings at Hasselbring, Flint Water Department and Doyle Ryder Elementary school as part of a “touring” of the community facilities for the group
- Group has received updates from Daughtery Johnson, Utilities Director, for the City of Flint
- Group has had presentations on the water lines and infrastructure in the City as well as from the Flint Community Schools.
- Group has reviewed Flint Community Schools report, Community Data Profile, Existing Conditions Report, various case studies and examples community facilities in various Master Plans
- Group has stressed the importance of repurposing of closed school buildings
- Sample goals and strategies
 - i.* Community centers in all neighborhoods
 - ii.* Design of schools and buildings that reflects and promotes healthy environments
 - iii.* Alternative for infrastructure
- **Any other comments on process***



5. Education & Economic Development

- 5 meetings held – Attendance averaging 18 – 21 individuals
- Group has agreed to split into two separate groups during some meeting times to get more specific into content
- Group receives updates from Tracy Atkinson, Chief Department of Community and Economic Development Officer, from the City of Flint
- Group has reviewed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), Community Data Profile, Existing Conditions Report, Workforce Development related materials, various case studies and examples of economic development and education in various Master Plans.
- Economic Development same goals
 - i. Increase employment rate
 - 1. Teach employable skills in abandoned school buildings
 - ii. Increase income
 - iii. Help build neighborhood capacity
 - 1. Create tool kits that help neighborhoods to develop (technical assistance to residents)
- Sample education goals
 - i. Encourage the development of a 21st century education for youth and adults
 - 1. Repurpose vacant schools into 21st century learning labs
 - 2. Support existing learning centers
 - ii. Reduce the dropout rate
 - 1. Increase parental involvement and provide family supporting services
- **Any other comments on process***