



FLINT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE
Meeting Notes
February 5, 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

John Henry
 Judy Hovey
 Supt. Quintin Marshall
 Clarence Pierce
 Franklin Pleasant
 Raynetta Speed
 Charles Tutt
 Barry Williams

Members Not Present

Linda Boose
 Phil Hagerman

Pastor LaTrelle Holmes
 Karen Lopez
 Linda Thompson

Staff Present

Megan Hunter, Chief Planning Officer
 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 5:38 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 Mayor and Ms. Hunter did a great job at the January 22, 2013 Flint Area Public Affairs Forum panel session - *Flint's Master Plan: Our Assets and Challenges*. The panel consists of Megan Hunter, Councilman Bryant Nolden, Victoria Morckel, UM-Flint, and Jim Richardson with Mayor Walling as the moderator.

Jack Minore stated he will provide Houseal, Lavigne corrections and additions to the existing conditions report in regards to information about the Flint River.

Quincy Murphy stated that he hopes that when the planning is done there will be development and upgrades to the north end of Flint if funding and resources are available.

It was noted that the meeting minutes at the Library kiosk reference section are up to date. Also, meeting dates are not easy to find on the Master Plan website and it needs to be more user friendly.

It was relayed that main drain system for Pierson Road floods for 4 blocks between Fleming Road and Dupont Street.

PLANNING COMMISISON UPDATE:

Co-Chair Bob Wesley stated the Planning Commission has not had a meeting since the last Steering Committee meeting. Some members of the Team did a great presentation on the master plan process at the Rotary Club. He encouraged people to keep involved as this is an exciting

process.

It was suggested and agreed that a brief synopsis of where each advisory group is at in the process be submitted at the next Steering Committee meeting.

STEERING COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION

Co-Chair Jim Richardson reminded the members that it is critical that everyone becomes engaged and how important this activity is at this point. He also stated that some members are having difficulty attending the Steering Committee meetings and they will be contacted to address if they are able to continue the meetings.

DISCUSSION – EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Co-Chair Jim Richardson expressed that the report accomplishes where Flint is now. Some data may need to be edited and he felt there should be more attention to health conditions. It shows the impact of disinvestment due to economic conditions and flight of middle class from the city. Councilwoman Poplar stated her concern of the blight problem in the city. Master Plan consultants, Houseal Lavigne, reiterated that the report establishes current information and data. The vacant property and housing conditions map indicate the blight. When they get to the development of the plan, they will address how to tackle the blight with a strategy of how to address it. Currently a demolition plan is being developed. There are approximately 6,000 structures on the current demolition list and the need has been identified for 10,000 structures.

Elizabeth Jordan also noted there needs to be attention to health conditions and some type of baseline data in order to reduce carbon footprints. J. Houseal explained that environmental master plans need benchmarks. They are difficult to get from utility companies although they will obtain what is available. Sustainability and social equity will be a theme that runs through every component.

Ms. Hunter explained that Chapter 9 of the Existing Conditions Report is a framework for each Advisory Group component: Housing, Economic Development & Education, Transportation, Natural Resources/Open Space, Public Infrastructure/Community Facilities, Public Safety, Health, & Welfare.

Committee members discussed issues and problems that need to be addressed such as code enforcement, health disparities, fair housing, sign pollution, property values, lack of tax revenue, renewable energy, scrapping, maintenance of roads and bridges. Members were encouraged to bring all issues and concerns to Ms. Hunter. The report is a resource document to use as a baseline and it will be updated.

DISCUSSION – VISION AND GOALS WORKSHOP - MARCH 9, 2013

The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Mott Community College Ballenger Field House, 1401 E. Court St. from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. The goal is to have 300-500 people in attendance. The room will be set up with 50 tables of 10 people for small group dialog. Each table will have a computer for information and ideas to be input and all the data will be fed into a main computer. The session will be highly interactive. Ms. Hunter distributed a handout of examples of other City's meetings to get an idea of what takes place along with the purpose and outcomes.

The purpose of the workshop is to develop the key components of a vision statement and main guiding principles for the basis of the master plan. The vision is a statement of what Flint wants to be and look like in 20 years. A presentation was shown from America Speaks as an example of this type of workshop. Discussions will focus on 3 items: Effectively manage as a "smaller" city; Ensure quality of life in our neighborhoods; Transform Flint's economy.

Ms. Hunter stressed that they want people to register for the workshop. Volunteers are needed to assist for the following positions: Theme Team (2-3 from Steering Committee), Facilitator Recruiter (3-4 volunteers), Table Facilitators (35-50 volunteers), Ushers (5-8 volunteers), Special Services (2 volunteers), Issue Experts (3-4 volunteers).

All feed back on the Existing Conditions Report should be submitted by Friday for final revisions. Members and public were highly encouraged to take registration forms and spread the word about the March 9, 2013 Vision & Goals Workshop.

J. Houseal distributed a handout describing characteristics of a subarea for planning purposes. They will do 8 subarea plans in the city. Most master plans do 4 subareas although they have done a master plan with 5 subareas. The reason they are doing 8 is because this is what was written in the HUD grant and is in the contract. The geographic area cannot be too large as these are concentrated areas with detailed plans. The committee members were asked to bring suggestions for subareas to the next Steering Committee meeting and the consultants will also have some suggested areas for consideration and discussion.

Members expressed that this may be the most contested item with the public and they should get input from the community. Put the information on the website and let the public know they are discussing it. Mayor Walling explained that this is not picking places to be developed. It is illustrating how places can be changed. The first statement describing what subarea plans are states subarea plans can be used to showcase a vision for key areas and assets of the city. It is not picking one area over another. The plan can be used as an example for another area.

NEXT STEPS

Co-Chairman Jim Richardson encouraged members to register and get the word out for the March 9, 2013 Flint vision and Goals Workshop event. Input on the Existing Conditions Report and Community Data Profile is due for final revisions. He encouraged the use of the "mind mixer" website program to publicize the subarea suggestions.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Submitted by: Sheree J. Pierce