

Flint Neighborhoods United Meeting
September 9, 2023
Gloria Coles Flint Public Library
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Flint Neighborhoods United (FNU) is a coalition of neighborhood groups and residents who come together on the first Saturday of each month to share information and leverage their resources to create positive change in the Greater Flint community.

Taskforce 2.0 | Clarion Call: Patrick McNeal of North Flint Neighborhood Action Council / Community Roots

- Carma introduced concept of Taskforce 2.0:
 - Came about at the outset of the Flint Water Crisis, formed a coalition of POC-led nonprofits/organizations to support the needs of the community (led to water distribution, vaccination sites, etc.). The taskforce is now coming out into the community to ask “What’s next?”
- Patrick McNeal shared more on what the Clarion Call series means. Clarion means “clear/loud” so a Clarion Call is a “clear/loud call” around disparities in our community, asked for FNU members to share their thoughts and concerns.
- Todd Womack gave the Clarion Call series’ origins, which he said began in response to the Genesee County Board of Health declaring racism a public health emergency in 2020. The Community Foundation reached out to Community Roots who, along with other organizations, came up with a list of major concerns for the community in relation to racism. Now they are hoping to narrow in on the most pressing with the help of community dialogue and bring that back to the CFGF:
 - Racism/Discrimination
 - Drugs/Alcohol Abuse
 - Safe Water
 - Education
 - Blight/Abandoned Buildings
 - Economic Development/Employment/Financial
 - Violence/Crime/Public Safety
 - Access to Services
- Results of conversations: Group 1 chose Economic Development/Employment/Financial and Group 2 chose Education. The conversations will be incorporated into an overall report that Community Roots will also come back to share with FNU.
- Community Roots asked that FNU members complete the following survey regarding their experience with the conversation: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V7FC7M3>

Community Organizations:

- **Gloria Coles Flint Public Library**
 - “Walk with Amal” event on Tuesday Sept. 26 – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event will see a 12 ft marionette puppet (Amal) walk from Central High School to the Gloria Coles Flint Public Library as part of [a countrywide tour](#). Event is a collaboration between Tunde Olaniran, Lisa Waud, Talicia Campbell, Magic Wheel Creative,

U-M Arts Initiative, U-M Flint Arts & Culture Research Cluster, U-M Flint and Office of the Provost, Flint Institute of Arts and Gloria Coles Flint Public Library.

- **City of Flint** - no attendee/update
- **Genesee County** - no attendee/update
- **State of Michigan** - no attendee/update
- **Flint Community Schools**
 - Renovations going well at Holmes, expecting renovations to conclude within the next year
 - Chris Del Morone, former school board member, passed away. Services were held Sept. 9, 2023.
 - *Flint Board of Ed. has a meeting Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Accelerated Learning Academy*
 - Board will be discussing school closures, including Pierce Elementary
- **Flint MTA**
 - Going through some changes, including conducting a primary [route study](#). MTA is working with consultants to set up a community engagement plan and will return with dates/times for those feedback sessions. The study is meant to support potential changes to routes (frequency, location, etc.) that would best support residents.
 - The MTA now has an app, called Moovit, that offers trip-planning and real-time route information. The MTA has also updated its routes on Google and Apple maps to support trip-planning through those services as well.
 - MTA fare payment options are also set to expand soon. The MTA is moving away from Flash Passes/cash and on to mobile apps and tap cards. This will allow for fare-capping.
- **Genesee County Land Bank Authority**
 - Demolition update: the [GCLBA's website](#) will be updated in the next few weeks with current demolition statuses. The tracker currently lists the below numbers as of July 14, 2023. Faith Finholm will be invited to the next FNU meeting to give a fuller update.
 - 1,910 demolitions are fully-funded
 - 251 demolished
 - 345 in-process
 - 74 out to bid/being prepared for bid
 - Property portal should also be updated as demolitions occur at each property

Neighborhood Updates, Events & Projects:

- The deadline for the *Climate Resilient Flint Cool Lot program* has been extended to **Monday, September 11th**. The program provides neighborhoods \$4k to improve vacant lots with trees to provide cooling through shade or plants to address local flooding. This year, the grant opportunity is focused on wards 1-3. The online application form is available [here](#), and full details can be found on the ETM Flint and NEH Facebook pages.

- The *Flint Housing Commission* in partnership with the *City of Flint* is starting a community planning process to create the Northeast Flint Community Plan. With support from a consulting team, they'll be organizing community meetings in the coming months.
 - The NE Community Plan will address the need to rebuild River Park housing, create affordable and mixed-income housing and invest in NE Flint.
 - PowerPoint presentations and other informational resources on this initiative will be posted at: <https://flinthc.org/ne-flint-community-plan/>
 - THERE IS A 10-QUESTION SURVEY FOR NE FLINT RESIDENTS available now at the website above. Please lift your voice.
- **North Flint Neighborhood Action Council**
 - The NAC is conducting a North Flint resident satisfaction survey. Paper copies are currently available from Geri Clark: 810-836-4155 or geri_clark@yahoo.com.
 - Boundaries considered as North Flint for the survey: Pierson Rd to the south, Clio Rd to the west, Carpenter to the north and the river to the east.
- **Neighbor updates:**
 - Jeanette Edwards of the *Brownell Holmes Neighborhood Association* invites the community out to Southwestern Classical Academy for a "Champion of Excellence" event on **Sept. 29 at 11 a.m.** The event is to celebrate learning support children in Flint Community Schools.
 - Claire McClinton encouraged residents to come out to *Flint City Council* meetings to speak about Flint's American Rescue Act funding going toward home repairs for residents. The next council meeting is **Monday, Sept. 11 at 5:30 p.m.**
 - Joyce McNeal is working with the Juvenile Justice Center to reunite young people with their parents. She is looking for other partnerships/resource providers to partner with, and plans to share more on this project in the future.
 - Jane Richardson encouraged people to come out to the MLK Peace Garden
 - Chris Frye asked members to recognize the passing of Roberta Ray, who was a very involved member of his neighborhood group.
- **Greater Flint Health Coalition (GFHC)**
 - Offering a Financial Literacy Workshop on **Thursday, Sept. 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Workshop will include planning for 2024 tax season, household and tax-saving strategies, and a \$5 voucher redeemable at the Flint Farmers' Market.
 - For more info: contact Doron Pratt, Outreach Coordinator for GFHC | 810-232-2228 or dpratt@flint.org
- **Communities First, Inc.**
 - Step Up, Pick Up, a neighborhood clean-up competition, will run from **Sept. 22 to Oct. 2**. First place prize is \$1k, second place is \$500, third is \$250. To register [click here](#), or for more information call 810-422-5358 x 1007.
 - Community Candor event will take place on Friday, **Sept. 22 from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.** at Factory One. The event includes breakfast and a panel discussion on economic development and housing with representatives from CFI, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, CEDAM and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

- A Regional Housing Plan - Open House Session on **Tuesday Sept. 19, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at the Flint Farmers' Market. The session will cover our region's draft action plan for Michigan's first statewide housing plan, which is meant to address access to safe, accessible and affordable housing.