**Resilient Springfield Council**

**June 16, 2021**

**Desired Outcomes**:

By the end of the meeting:   
Shared understanding of Disaster Recovery Programs   
Celebration of process, outcomes and next steps  
Shared understanding of Neighborhood council handouts and how to use them

**Attendees**

Samantha Hamilton, Sarita Hudson, Audrey Jenkins, Robert Hassett, Catherine Ratte, Tina Quagliato Sullivan, Megan Freedman, Awilda Sanchez, Jacinta Williams, Emily Thibault, Bea Dewberry, Karon Tyler, Antonio Delesline, Zulmalee Rivera, Ernesto Cruz, Chrismery Gonzalez, Tanisha Arena

Tina shared an update from Tina on the Office of Disaster Recovery’s funding and programs. (see attached). One resident asked about how information was shared since they had not heard of the program. Tina shared that for the Healthy Homes program they sent letters to the property owners, talked to ward councilors, neighborhood councils and attended some of the community meeting and spoke at churches.

Responding to a question about the Baystate Health co-generation plant, Tina shared it was developed by Baystate Health, who planned it before and went to the state for funding and then was included in this grant in 2015, so it had to be planned before 2015. A question was raised on how the community can provide input for future projects and Tina noted she would share with the Facilities Department the request for community to provide input in future.

Tina provided links to the projects in the slides and in the chat. There was discussion of how the information is shared on the website. The Bloom Works report includes recommendations for the website and the City will review and work to realign with those recommendations.

There were questions about whether the City would be amendable to a long term advisory committee to share and get feedback from residents as this group has done for 6 months. Tina noted that she is having discussions with the Chief Development officer and the City staff on how to implement the report recommendations. Tina will be giving updates in 3-6 months through Live Well Springfield and some of the partner organizations that have regular meetings.

Sam and the team reflected on the great momentum so far and the relationships developed among residents and City staff and the important information that was shared.

Chrismery Gonzalez shared that her office is forming an Advisory Committee on Racial Equity and shared her contact information for any residents interested in learning more: Chrismery Gonzalez; cgonzalez@springfieldcityhall.com; 413-784-4822

Catherine and Jacinta have put together handouts and are doing presentations for the Neighborhood councils about the City’s Strong, Healthy Just plan. She shared the handouts and asked for feedback. Recommendations included:

* Larger font, more contrast between font and background color, don’t use all caps
* One image was missing a legend
* Recommendation to use more images, clear pictures that show a point of reference (ie Watershops pond)
* Limit to one page per topic to provide more detail and context
* Hard to read

**Plus/delta and Appreciations:**

There were shoutouts to the facilitation team, the City Staff, the residents, the Bloom works team.

“The 6 months has been eye opening. These kind of things are so helpful for residents and all involved to move the community in terms of having a voice at the table. Thank you!

“It helped me to get the info- and the rest of the community would want to know—it has an impact on their lives… we want to figure out how to pull in people, how to connect with others another to advocate for the community…”

There were shoutouts to the Resident Advisors for attending and sharing their voices; to city staffers for their interactive presentations; to the facilitators for the work and commitment to get folks to share, to BloomWorks for their work.

**Key webpages:**

Office of Disaster Recovery: https://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=cdbg-dr

Watershops pond: https://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=634

Resilient Springfield council project: https://www.springfield-ma.gov/planning/index.php?id=636

City healthy homes: https://www.springfield-ma.gov/housing/index.php?id=121

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