

Housing & Community Development Steering Committee

1st meeting by remotely by Teams

Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 2pm-3pm

*Advising the development of the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan,
and the housing update to the City's 2018 Master Plan*

Attending: **Mike King**, Battle Creek Area Habitat for Humanity; **Lori Kendall**, Kalamazoo LISC; **Elizabeth Garcia**, Truth Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT); **Jamie Schriner**, W.K. Kellogg Foundation; **Kathy Antaya**, Neighborhood Planning Council #5 and Community Volunteer; **Talia Champlin**, REMAX and the Battle Creek Area Association of Realtors; **Quinton Hay**, Calhoun County Land Bank; **Elizabeth Schultheiss**, Battle Creek Community Foundation; **Malik Goodwin & Pastor Chris McCoy**, New Level Sports

City Staff: **Vanessa Hernandez**, Community Development; **Helen Guzzo**, Community Development; **Darcy Schmitt**, Planning & Zoning

- 1. Introductions** – Land Bank is constructing four houses in the Washington Heights neighborhood next spring. Habitat for Humanity is construction five new homes in Urbandale. This is in addition to the two houses that Washington Heights United Methodist Church is building in its plan to Restore This Neighborhood by building 17 new market rate homes.
- 2. Review Slideshow** – Helen and Darcy reviewed the presentation to be made at the planned December 12 Community Conversation.
- 3. Public Survey** – due date will be extended to January 30, 2025. Asked attendees to help promote the survey.
- 4. Community Conversation, Thursday, December 12, 2024, Valentine Room, Kool Family Community Center, two sessions, 2:30pm and 5:30pm sessions**

Robust discussion about the questions for the break out groups. Group suggested adding research and a slide that documents that diversity supports the prosperity of all neighborhoods. How does diversity strengthen our neighborhoods? Our schools? What tools does the City have to create incentives for housing development?

Talia Champlin talked about how we talk about housing segregation and the historic impact of redlining on the Washington Heights neighborhood. How do we talk about opportunity hoarding and people's negative reactions to rental housing?

Elizabeth Garcia suggested: How are we economically diversifying our neighborhoods? What do you like about your current neighborhood? What would you want to see improved in your neighborhood?

Do we need more housing opportunities for workers working in the industrial park?

Vanessa Hernandez: In your opinion, are there any areas of the City with high concentrations of low-income residents who do not have the same public facilities, infrastructure, schools and safety of the rest of the City?

Discussion of the Michigan Municipal Leagues Pattern Book for home building plans to help lower the cost of building. Missing middle housing is not being built by developers, costs to build are greater than the target worker can afford and are costs to build are greater in Battle Creek than the appraised value after construction.

Kathy Antaya suggested partnering with trade schools to provide training opportunities and workers into the construction trades. Habitat for Humanity talked about the house on McKinley that they are building in partnership with the Calhoun County Career Center. It takes a long time for the construction to be completed because of the limited time classes have to work on the house.

Kathy suggested adding a slide with the locations of Battle Creek schools now and from 20 or even 10 years ago to give more information about the changing nature of our neighborhoods

5. Next meeting: ~~Wednesday, January 8, 2024 by zoom~~ Because of meeting conflicts the next meeting was moved to Thursday, January 16 at 2pm.

Please note: The survey was extended to January 30, 2025 because of the holidays in December interfering with promote of the survey participation.



City Seeks Community Input

Housing and Community Development Survey, workshops to identify 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan priorities, and inform city master plan update.

How can I take the survey?

- Take the survey **online** and submit via Polco.
- Print** the survey or **pick up a copy** at City Hall.
- Email** the completed survey, or mail or drop off at City Hall.

 www.battlecreekmi.gov/181/Community-Development

 City Hall, 10 N Division St., Room 117, c/o Darcy Schmitt

 dcschmitt@battlecreekmi.gov

When and where are the workshops?

SURVEY CLOSES DEC. 27!

Thursday, Dec. 12 

Valentine Room, Kool Family Community Center 

200 W Michigan Ave., Battle Creek

Two sessions: 2:30 – 4 p.m. | 5:30 – 7 p.m. 



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