Members Present: Gary Ashley (UM-Flint staff), Kye Bright (AmeriCorps member), Crystal Cordes (UM-Flint Staff), Cameron Haskins (UM-Flint Student/Student Government), Keshanda Jones (UM-Flint staff), Collette Kelly (UM-Flint Student/BNCP intern), Victoria Morckel (UM-Flint faculty), Mona Munroe-Younis (UM-Flint staff), DeWaan Robinson (Urban Renaissance Center), Vincent Slocum (Habitat 4 Humanity/BNCP NAC Member), and Todd Womack (UM-Flint faculty).

Members introduced themselves to the group. Minutes from September 11, 2015 meeting were reviewed and no changes were made.

 Updates/Announcements

Collette gave an announcement about a community event called Community Connect, formerly called the Homeless Lunch & Learn, scheduled for October 16 from 11 am – 4 pm at the Flint Odyssey House.

Victoria announced that there was a change to her service-learning project for neighborhood planning in Civic Park. Initially she planned the project for her RPL 311 class and will instead embed it in her RPL 411 class in Winter 2016.

Vince Slocum shared that the purpose for the City of Flint neighborhood planning toolkit was different from what was originally described. Rather than being a how-to guide for neighborhoods to make sure their planning efforts align with the Imagine Flint Master Plan, it is about readiness/capacity to steward and implement the plan and showing the City that a neighborhood is ready to begin planning. In other words, the toolkit is about demonstrating capacity for planning/implementation and commitment to aligning with the Master Plan up front before the City commits staffing and resources to a given neighborhood’s neighborhood-level planning efforts.

Cloth Bag Event Debrief

The group discussed what went well about the event and lessons learned to improve such events in the future.

The purpose of September 30th cloth bag event was to tell more faculty and staff about the Impact Circle via a panel of community partners, faculty and a student, and invite more University faculty and staff to join in. Mona reported that twenty-seven people were in attendance: thirteen faculty, four community
members, eight University staff and two students. The turnout was considered successful as was the fact that three faculty filled out and submitted Impact Circle Project Interest forms on the spot. Victoria expressed being happy to see new faces. She thought the conversation would have been more useful with more panel discussion of the project and how to implement them (i.e. nuts and bolts in a course).

Tom heard from junior faculty that talking about research opportunities would have been more applicable for them since they already had their hands full with teaching for the first time.

Kye suggested having Impact Circle members placed at each discussion table during the dialogue portion in order to provide more context about the Impact Circle for new faculty members. She also suggested finding ways to encourage junior faculty to think more abstractly about possible connections between their research and the Master Plan rather than focusing on the six projects in the Impact Circle Collective Action Framework.

Going back to the original goal of the Impact Circle, Todd thought the event was successful in generating dialogue about the Impact Circle and noted that now we have more to do to follow up on recruitment.

**Cloth Bag Event Participant Evaluation Questions**

Mona presented a list of proposed cloth bag evaluation questions to be used to follow up with cloth bag attendees about their interest and gain their feedback on the event. Through the discussion the group decided to ask just two questions, rather than the five originally proposed and two more thought of during the discussion. The two questions are:

1. Do you see any possibilities for one of your future classes, a research project or a student internship tying with the Imagine Flint Master Plan or Impact Circle goals?

2. Would you like a follow up conversation with a contact from the Impact Circle?

Victoria pointed out that we need high level University leaders (Chancellor or Provost) to say to other faculty that we need to focus on the two neighborhoods that comprise the geographic focus areas of the Impact Circle (Civic Park and BNCP region across northern Flint) for the next five years. Gary suggested that we go through the Provost first since University Outreach reported to him. Mona suggested that we ask the Provost how he wants to support this rather than asking whether he does since he is already aware of the Impact Circle and its focus areas. The group agreed to invite him to the November Impact Circle meeting along with the deans (Sapna Thwaite as a backup if Bob Barnett could not make it) and Roy Barnes.

**Student Connections**
Gary shared that he reached out to Sara, Paul and Stacey in Student Affairs to work with them on organizing an event similar to the cloth bag, but informal and geared for a student audience. They have not had a chance to have a full conversation yet. Gary reported that Paul was in favor and Gary was trying to find a time to get everyone in the room to discuss it further.

Cameron shared that student clubs and organizations want to get involved but need to figure out how. He will reach out to clubs and organizations to see who is interested.

Also, Gary and Cameron agreed to work together to figure out how to reach more students.

**NAC/Impact Circle Mixer**

At the last meeting, there had been discussion about the need for BNCP Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) members and Impact Circle members to get to know each other so that the Impact Circle could do more to achieve the BNCP-identified projects/goals outlined in the Impact Circle Collective Action Framework.

With regard to organizing a mixer or some other sort of event to get people to know each other, Victoria voiced concern about setting expectations too high and calling the event a “mixer” (i.e. need to have more concrete ideas). As a NAC member, Vince suggested addressing that concern by being clear about what the Impact Circle can do and having an idea of a clear product that could result from each project.

Todd asked Collette to go to the next NAC meeting, explain that we want a relationship and ask the NAC how we should approach it (i.e. don’t assume it will look like a mixer). Vince suggested sitting down with BNCP staff (Tryphena, Collette and Bethany), before moving forward with an event, in order to talk about what UM-Flint can bring to the table. Also, he recommended having a conversation with the City of Flint about Hasselbring Park to know their priorities for the park before talking with residents about UM-Flint’s interest in possibly creating a plan for park improvement with residents.

Vince asked if the Impact Circle’s commitment is to the neighborhood or to the anchor partnering organizations, because there are other community organizations that will need to be part of planning conversations. Consensus was that partnering with anchor organizations is important and that ultimately the commitment is to the neighborhoods because organizations come and go and the geographic focus areas are about the neighborhoods. Collette pointed out that when we talk about commitment to neighborhoods we are talking about commitment to residents in the neighborhoods.

**Next Steps/November Meeting Agenda**

The group agreed that next steps should be:

- University Outreach will invite UM-Flint leadership (Provost and deans, etc.) to the November meeting, with the December meeting as a back-up date. Mona will also reach out to cloth bag attendees regarding the two questions listed above.
- Gary and Cameron would follow up on student engagement.
- Plan how to build a relationship between the Impact Circle and people in Wards 1 & 3.
- Plan a design thinking session for the December meeting in order to identify metrics of success and specific outcomes for projects in the Impact Circle Collective Action Framework.

The meeting was adjourned.