Present: Mary Black (UM-Flint Staff), Tryphena Clarke (BNCP Community Partner), Thomas Henthorn (UM-Flint Faculty), Collette Kelly (UM-Flint Student/BNCP Intern), Victoria Morckel (UM-Flint Faculty), Mona Munroe-Younis (UM-Flint Staff), Kurt Neiswender (UM-Flint Faculty), Tina Nies (UM-Flint Alumni Society), Richard Russell (UM-Flint Staff)

Updates

Mona shared several updates.

- The City of Flint task groups were in the process of wrapping up their terms and a few may opt to continue if they focus on a specific, achievable project approved by the City of Flint. Given their workloads, City of Flint staff do not have capacity to support so many task groups going forward, so they will focus on supporting those that are still committed and energized to meet. Victoria shared that the Infrastructure & Community Facilities Task Group’s rain garden project would be launched on June 27th (9 am, 2920 Lewis Street) and everyone is welcome to come and support the planting; Gary agreed to share this information with the Commitment to Service student community service list.

- According to the UM-Flint Human Resources Department, review of Innovative Impact Award proposals is still underway and news of selected projects will be announced soon. Victoria suggested that University Outreach ask to see the unawarded innovative Impact Award proposals to see if we can support them.

- The public input period is still open for feedback on the City of Flint’s draft revised zoning code and interested individuals should get involved with the zoning revision while they can. The City of Flint will soon be holding zoning sessions on special topics of high interest, such as on signage.

Master Plan-Related Project Opportunities in Civic Park and BNCP Neighborhoods

The group reviewed a draft Master Plan Collective Action Framework that connects Master Plan chapters/strategies with project ideas identified by the Impact Circle’s key neighborhood-level partners, Metro Community Development’s Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) and the Civic Park-based Urban Renaissance Center (URC). Fields still to be filled in are for Assets UM-Flint May Contribute and UM-Flint Interdisciplinary Contacts/Connections, which will help University Outreach and the Impact Circle determine the appropriate university connections.

Tryphena explained that the City of Flint is supporting neighborhoods in doing Neighborhood Enhancement Plan surveys administered via Habitat 4 Humanity. The City of Flint has funds available for it and providing the funding upon request rather than issuing a formal request for proposals.

The group discussed the document and how to make it appealing for the audiences we are trying to reach, such as faculty who can provide university support for the given projects. Tom pointed out that faculty think within their disciplines and suggested that the document be reformatted for a faculty audience according to broad disciplinary categories: highlight and categorize projects according to arts, business/entrepreneurship, education
and human services, health, humanities, social science, and STEM. Victoria suggested having an internal version of the document for the group with the Master Plan connections and an external document focusing on the projects.

The group discussed how to reach faculty using the updated document. Tom pointed out that classes scheduled within an academic school year are set the prior October. Therefore, it is important to get projects in front of people now and ask two questions: 1) What projects align with 2015-2016 classes? 2) What projects could work in 2016-2017? The group determined that the best ways to reach faculty and students are to:

- Organize 2 lunch gatherings with food in the fall semester to communicate about project opportunities face-to-face and have an opportunity to connect with our community partners face to face. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to be able to reach people who come to campus on different days, with 2 sessions for faculty/staff and 2 sessions geared for students.
- Direct approach faculty we know to be interested in service-learning opportunities and/or civic engagement in general.
- Send information to academic department chairs, present at the CAS Council of Chairs, etc.

Tina asked how the university can maximize impact by not starting with small projects. Instead, Tina suggested unifying and connecting organizations doing great work by connecting and support them in collaborating for more reaching initiatives. Tom asked what the incentive for researchers/educators to take on the role of unifying and connecting organizations in that way. Tom shared that the geographic focus of the Impact Circle’s work was attractive to him because it is manageable within the scope his classes can tackle. It allows the group to have a success and showcase it as an example of what can be done across Flint. Mona shared background information on the role and purposes of the Impact Circle. She suggested that what we can do is reach out to organizations that are doing similar projects to improve communication between groups and inform the university-involved projects taking place within the community.

The conversation shifted to how to present the connections between the proposed projects and ties to the Master Plan. Tom pointed out that faculty and community folks don’t care about the tie of projects to the Master Plan strategies and recommended removing them from the framework document. Mona suggested moving the Master Plan chapters/strategies columns to the end because they are important for articulating to the City of Flint and other stakeholders how we are making the tie. The group suggested having a master list with the strategies listed as an internal document for the Impact Circle and have a version with just the chapter listed to send out.

Tom suggested framing more projects as applied research opportunities. Tina suggested using applied research to get to the sustainability and larger impact. Richard talked about how most people in the room have a vest interest in making community change happen and how we can have a ripple effect by changing minds in the neighborhoods. For example, we could empower residents by organizing a beautification contest for Chevrolet Avenue. The group discussed that we need to frame the projects for an academic audience in terms of:

- Teaching projects (service-learning)
- Applied Research projects
- Internships

Victoria pointed out that the real incentives for doing applied research are money and course release, which could attract more faculty participation.
**Next Steps**

The group determined the following action items to be collective next steps:

- (Victoria) Establish goals (e.g. recruitment of new faculty to the Impact Circle, tackle 3 larger projects)

- (Tom and Victoria) Figure out how to package the information for different audiences (e.g. LEO faculty, junior faculty, senior faculty, alumni, students)

- (Collette) Frame messaging for faculty as “local applications for applied research”

- Collectively agreed agenda for the July meeting: messaging, goals for 2015-2016, collective impact

Attendees suggested other important connections to be made:

- Victoria suggested that asset mapping could connect would the SEC 200 fall course that Danielle De La Mare may be teaching. We could create a database of asset maps as a way to unify and connect groups on a larger scale.

- Richard shared that John Rhymes, Terry Thompson and Pastor McCathern were planning to meet. Richard is on the board of the New Standard Academy Charter School in the BNCP area, on Carpenter Rd. next to Flint Northwestern High School

- Tina will reach out to Brent Nickola to get a list of alumni who live or have a business in the BNCP and Civic Park areas.

The meeting was adjourned.