Members Present: Tryphena Clarke (BNCP Community Partner), Gary Ashley (UM-Flint Staff), Mona Munroe-Younis (UM-Flint Staff), Collette Kelly (UM-Flint Student/BNCP Intern), Tina Nies, Annette Patterson (UM-Flint Staff), Tracy Wacker (UM-Flint Staff), Kye Bright (AmeriCorps member), Keshanda Jones (UM-Flint staff) and Todd Womack (UM-Flint Faculty).

Members introduced themselves to the group.

Minutes from August 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed and submitted. Mona provided a recap of the previous meeting and the Impact Circle’s need to add more interested people to the group and how best to track the impact of programs. She pointed out that the Collective Action Framework Project Framework was updated to include connections to broad disciplinary categories and Imagine Flint Master Plan chapters.

Updates

Tryphena shared that a resident near Hasselbring Park has adopted the park.

Course Connections: Victoria Morckel met with Todd Womack and Vince Slocum from Habitat for Humanity regarding RPL311. The class will use the City of Flint Neighborhood Planning Toolkit for Winter 2016 courses. If the toolkit is not available in time, a smaller project in the neighborhood will be considered. Vince has agreed to keep track of potential projects should the need arise. School of Management professor Amy Gresock is looking for a business owner to be a community partner for her Strategic Management (MGT 589) service learning course; Outreach is working through BNCP to hopefully connect with 1-2 interested business owners in the BNCP region.

Mona shared that CAS Associate Dean Roy Barnes will be presenting at a conference of deans through the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) in November, about UM-Flint as a community engaged campus with the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement. As part of the presentation, he will discuss the Impact Circle work on collective impact. He and CAS Communications Specialist Amy Hartwig are developing a UM-Flint webpage to highlight the CAS faculty and students who have been part of the impact circle and have linked tangible projects to it as well as our community partners. Our hope is to have mirror webpages on the other UM-Flint school websites to highlight Impact Circle connections in those areas.
Promotion for Cloth Bag and/or Mixer Events

The group reviewed a draft promotion email for the September 30th cloth bag event and sought feedback. ERS Student Collette Kelly agreed to join the panel of speakers to talk about why community engagement activity made a difference to her as a student. Tracy suggested sending the promotion to departments in the form of a flyer and handing out “Are You Interested?” postcards at the event where people could indicate their interesting the specific Impact Circle goals. It was recommended to send out the email promotion on Monday to the faculty listserv.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed evening mixer event, for which few faculty could attend based on the Doodle poll results. Todd suggested to focus on the cloth bag event and promotion for that event and table the mixer until a later date.

There was a question regarding whether the information could be send to student groups and clubs. The group agreed that student representation was important to hear their voices regarding how civically engaged classes and club involvement has changed their lives. It was determined that a separate student-gearerd event should be organized to bring the Impact Circle information to students since the cloth bag event was geared for students. Gary indicated he would reach out to Paul who will be having an event September 17th to see if we could present then or at another time.

It was recommended that the target group be faculty who are civically engaged as well as Jessica Camp, Vicki Dawson, the Social Work Chair as well as copy the email to Department heads and Deans. Tracy indicated she would be willing to send the list out to department chairs and deans. Staff will also contact Becky Pettengill to send out information to the internship coordinator working group.

Update on Hasselbrink Park: A few clean ups have been done at the park. Additional dates for clean-up plans can be added.

Revisit Success/Efficacy Metrics for 2015-2016 Goals and Documenting Impacts

Discussion ensued regarding how success and impact will be measured. Just using number of participants, partners, university support may not be sufficient in measuring the impact of the project. It was suggested to identify a few (possibly 3) mini goals to measure the success/impact. It was suggested that perhaps to include civic engagement as part of the student evaluations. But this would entail changing the evaluations and only providing this evaluation to those courses that are using CE components.

Success/efficacy measures depend on the audience. Based on the Literacy Network’s recent Results-Based Accountability Training, Mona suggested looking at quality/quantity of impact for community, students, faculty and staff; quantity of participation by community, students, faculty and staff; and relationships built. Evaluating impact should be our greatest emphasis.
It was also recommended to break projects into groups to develop specific committees who would take the lead in ensuring goals are met. This could be discussed in more depth on September 30th at the cloth bag event.

**Next Steps**

Next Steps: Mona questioned the group as to:
1. What role should the group play?
2. What can we accomplish in the monthly meetings?
3. How do we draw more individuals into Civic Engagement and Community involvement?

Todd suggested the group be committed to the framework goals and the accomplishment of these goals. Establishing committees for each goal could help with this.

It was recommended to contact alumni to lead up committees for specific goals. They would likely be more interested if they lived/worked in the target neighborhoods.

UM-Flint members should speak to peers in their individual departments to invite them to meetings. Meetings are held the second Friday of every month. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 9th.

Tracy recommended video documentation of meetings and events to help spread the word about Civic Engagement, Impact Circle and how they can get involved. The Communications department has students who are required to do a final project and one or two students could be asked if they want to volunteer to film events and meetings.

In order to increase the exposure Tracy also recommended creating posters which can be displayed, advertising on the student t.v’s as well as having a banner displayed in the UCEN. It was also suggested that perhaps Janet would be willing to create a logo for the group.

It was recommended that at the next meeting in November to use some meeting time to have a Design Thinking session. Tracy indicated she would be willing to help facilitate this discussion.