

Summit Lake Choice Neighborhoods People Task Force Meeting No. 4

January 19, 2022 - 10:00am

Attendees: GSI – Riana Pogue; AMHA – Katie Jakubcin, Erin Myers, Christina Hodgkinson, Al Thomas; The Liou Choice – Nina Liou; Akron’s Children Hospital – Courtney Hudson, Shawn Cordes; REACH – Greg Guarneri; Project Learn – Marquita Mitchell; Open M – Christine Curry; SLA Resident & Summit Lake CDC – Grace Hudson; ConxusNEO – Sue Lacy; Boys & Girls Club – Colette Taylor, Aretha Valentin; Jobs Plus – Kellie Morehouse; South Street Ministries – Joe Tucker; Summit Education Initiative – Diana Kingsbury; City of Akron – Dylan Garritano; Stark State – Gregory Freeman; ADM Board - Holly Cundiff; Direct Home – Susan Sigmon; Interface Studio – Stacey Chen; Crystal Neloms; Summit Lake Nature Center - Meghan Doran

Notes

Annotated Outline + Draft Data Book

- Request by some attendees to receive copy of the draft data book – AMHA to send out
- AMHA also to post data book to the Choice Neighborhoods website on Akron Civic Commons

Draft Vision Statement – “Summit Lake is a safe and thriving community with quality housing, local businesses, spaces that support active and healthy lifestyles, and residents who take pride in their community and work together to improve the neighborhood.”

- How do you feel about this draft vision?
- Is anything missing?
 - Add a comment about a welcoming or friendly community.
 - Do we need to be more explicit that it’s for residents of all ages?
 - Include something about families e.g. family friendly
 - Longevity, remaining in the neighborhood, a place where you can be and continue to afford to live here
 - Consider active, healthy, and thriving lifestyles – so it’s not just physical.

Early Start Potential Projects

These projects are intended to support smaller scale improvements that can be done now. – To improve the confidence of long-term residents and exemplify the seriousness of Choice & the city of Akron to make changes.

- Summit Lake Community Clean Ups – Partnered with Summit Lake CDC (SLCDC), Akron Civic Commons (ACC), and City of Akron
 - SLCDC is developing a program with the aim to distribute applications in February 2022.
 - SLCDC will work to provide the residents with materials to orchestrate clean-ups but will be solely led by residents. – Materials include resources and contacts to maintain clean-ups.
 - Suggestion that service providers could partner with residents to adopt a block or a street to support clean-ups
 - Boys and Girls Club is always looking for community projects for their teens

- Could potentially be grants available to aid with neighborhood clean-ups from Keep Akron Beautiful.
- Improvements to slow down traffic – Partnered with the City of Akron
 - Working with the city traffic engineer to explore possibilities.
- Pilot greenway on vacant land – Partnered with City of Akron
 - Working with city to identify location and partners which will possibly begin in summer 2022.
- Exterior home renovations – Partnered with City of Akron
 - For existing homeowners in the community, potentially as part of city rehab program.
- Informational kiosk off Towpath Trail @ Lewis Street – Kenmore Neighborhood Alliance and ACC
 - South end of Summit Lake
 - Includes wayfinding and map for Summit Lake and Kenmore destinations

People Update

- Reopened Summit Lake Apartments resident survey with the goal to achieve 65% response rate. – Currently at 55%.
 - Seven more surveys, out of the 24 total, required to exceed 65%.
- Upcoming follow-up meeting with residents regarding housing market study.
 - With apartment and neighborhood residents so they have a better understanding of how the housing market study fits into the overall choice planning effort.
- Discussion with Akron Air Quality regarding ProPublica environmental report
 - Coordinating a follow-up meeting with residents/community to help understand what the report said, what monitoring is being done now, and what they can do if they smell an odor, etc.
 - Akron Air Quality also open to doing follow-up meeting with other stakeholders like the PTF
- Planning for focus groups in February – Summit Lake Apartment residents and service providers
 - Are people comfortable with meeting in person? Shall we do a hybrid meeting? Or all virtual? Concern with virtual is resident comfort and participation
 - Distribute high end masks (N95/ KN95) for public community health if attempt to meet in-person.
 - How many people would attend? – Reach multipurpose can hold 30 and classroom 15 with appropriate distancing.
 - A few people would only be comfortable with virtual options. – If we do hybrid, will need to ensure we have the equipment to have a successful hybrid meeting.
 - May be some challenges with hybrid meetings to integrate those participating virtually with the overall discussion.
 - Suggestion to do separate in-person and another only virtual – challenge would be getting residents to participate in both when have same topic of discussion

Next steps

- Suggestion to provide a flyer about what happens after the planning work is done that community leaders and residents can have to understand the process.