

**Summit Lake Choice Neighborhoods
People Task Force Meeting – 5.19.2021
Notes**

Attendees:

- Akron Children’s Hospital – Courtney, Shawn
- AMHA - Christina, Erin, Katie, Al, Debbie, Tina, Kellie, Myia
- Akron Summit Public Library – Pam
- Students With a Goal (SWAG) – Eric
- Summit Education Initiative (SEI) – Diana
- Goodwill – Nan
- YMCA – Helena, Tony
- South Street Ministries – Joe
- Summit Lake CDC + Summit Lake Residents – Grace, Sandy
- Stark State – Drew, Greg
- Open M – Christine, LaDonna
- Community Health Worker + Summit Lake Resident – Jamara
- ConexusNEO – Sue
- Summit County Public Health – Carla
- ADM Board – Holly
- Project Learn – Marquita
- Boys and Girls Club – Aretha
- City of Akron - Dylan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of Choice Activities to Date
- History of Summit Lake, changes over time and current conditions
 - Industry brought growth and pollution to SL and the lake itself
 - Was not safe to swim in
 - Now is safe
 - Highway construction, loss of industry, and urban renewal contributed to neighborhood’s decline
 - SL is isolated from rest of the city
 - It is a tight-knit community
 - Since 1940 SL has lost 70% of population (Akron 19% decrease)
 - 46% of land is vacant
 - 83 acres, 54 vacant buildings of which 44 are residential
 - Majority land uses is single family residential
 - Services are limited in the neighborhood
 - Just one supermarket but 5 corner stores
 - Houses are old and large
 - 26% good
 - 57% minor repairs
 - 16% major repairs
 - 1% unsafe
 - Most of neighborhood is disconnected from the lake
 - Only 4 access points to the lake

- Most sidewalks are in need of repair
 - A lot of people walk in streets due to poor sidewalk conditions
- Positive developments are happening
- *Questions:*
 - *Will you be extending the boundaries to the City's boundaries for the Land Use Plan? – No. geographies between Choice and Land Use work are similar but not identical. Are coordinating with the City on data points*
 - *Sidewalks – is the city planning on fixing them? – It may be the property owner's responsibility*
 - *City receiving \$153 million in American Rescue Act Funds and \$40 million going to fix streets around Akron*
 - *On Princeton Street, Open M got letter asking if needed assistance to repair sidewalks, so mailings are going out to residents – however, not all residents have received such a letter*
 - *City to roll out plan in June/July*
 - *Follow up to understand what infrastructure dollars are coming to Summit Lake*
- Summit Lake Resident Survey
 - HUD preference is 50% response rate
 - We are aiming for about 65% to get more information
 - 30 surveys completed thus far
 - To achieve response rate, will be circling back with partners to see if anyone can assist with direct outreach to residents
 - *Questions*
 - *Any feedback on resident surveys from the residents thus far? – haven't heard much of anything, did hear from resident that she has a technical degree but it isn't an option*
- Neighborhood Survey
 - To be deployed by May 27th
 - Mirror neighborhood questions in the resident survey
- Partner interviews
 - Policy decisions impacts resident lives
 - How to shift and better change the community
 - Open to doing something different
- Resident interviews
 - How can we better serve residents of the community?
 - Conducting interview with 15 Summit Lake Apartment residents through Friday
 - Attending other neighborhood meet and greets
- Next Steps
 - More interviews
 - Completing surveys
 - Analyzing additional community indicators/data
 - Community workshop during the summer (sometime July or August)