

Long Branch Partners Meeting

1/19/21 Notes

Welcome and Introductions

Attendance: Grayce Wiggins, Victoria Hall, Febe Huezo, Maureen Malloy, John Brill, Luiz Martinez, Shawn Morris, Jenny Brown, Emily Luyo, Randi Drewry, Claudine Schwebber, Vanesa Pinto, Lisa Buttner, Maureen Larenas, Pazit Aviv, Danielle Wolfe (recorder), Bruce Baker (facilitator)

Presentation “Silver Spring Consolidated Service Hub” at Clifton Park Baptist Church Randi Drewry, Clifton Park Baptist Church: Randi Drewry with Clifton Park Baptist Church outreach.cpbc@gmail.com

-They are one of 8 hubs in the county. For example, Germantown hub is dedicated to COVID-19 patients & family. They do food distribution every Wednesday. They do well over 600 households each week through food distribution. 1100-1200 total households are getting food through all combined households and partnerships. CHEER does food distribution every Thursday. Other churches are also partnering with the Silver Spring Consolidated Service Hub. In addition, there is a Vietnamese American group that serves about 75 households. They partner with the YMCA as well to help out. There is a clothing closet that is also a part of the church. They are looking for other partnerships to branch out. They are constantly expanding. Right now, they are unable to order any more food. Their contract with the county ends in June. They have to wait and see if it will be extended. 3-5 deliveries a week are done at the Silver Spring Consolidated Service Hub. An aeroponic garden is something they are going to start doing. They are looking to expand that. Classrooms will also be converted to daycare centers. Contacts for workshops would be much appreciated.

-Emily will reach out to Randi about Priority Partners

-Maureen L wanted to clarify if they are just focusing on MOCO? Randi said she will not turn anyone away if they are from another county. For example, PG

-John Brill asks her about where she is at when it comes to childcare? Randi said they have recently gotten the classrooms up to code. She wants to renovate those. She also wants to make those more kid friendly. She is still trying to determine when she can launch that. She also wants to follow the state regulations. He also mentions that it will allow for more employment opportunities for people interested in childcare.

-Lisa is interested in the food growing process. She asks where Randi is at with this? Randi says they have the funds for the aeroponic towers and greenhouse. They need an architect. She needs someone immediately. So, if anyone knows one, please let her know. They won't get the materials for the greenhouse till 8-10 weeks. The county is funding this. The architect can be paid. Pazit says she may have networks

-Pazit asks about the referral volume and management. Randi says she has not gotten a lot of referrals. She is only getting like 1 or 2 a week. There are three people considered staff. They are the ones making the deliveries. A few people have already said they can help if referral volume grows.

For more information contact Randi Drewry with Clifton Park Baptist Church
outreach.cpbcc@gmail.com

Community Gardening in Long Branch Jenny Brown, Audubon Naturalist Society, Lisa Buttner, CHEER:

-Jenny Brown says that they have a Plant Forward grant. This grant is meant for native plants. They will provide training on native plant care and education to encourage more native plant growth in the area. Lisa also says they collaborated with CHEER with the county's emergency funds. The purpose is to grow food to address food insecurity. One way to address this is through container-based gardening. This will involve 6 training sessions (3 at the Long Branch Community Center & 3 New Hampshire Estates Elementary School) Each session will be 10 people max. Conexo members will also be participating in this. Lisa says she is looking for like-minded partners to advocate for more growing space especially because of the new Purple Line construction.

-John says they have built 8 beds for the students. The community may have access to the beds from the students. However, now it is under legal review.

-Vanessa talks about how she is excited because it allows for the community to be more directly involved in everything.

-Maureen L mentioned that the Senior program at the Long Branch Community center used to do gardening. She wants to know how we can include seniors? Right now, that center is off limits. Lisa said she is connected with Michelle Nelson to get accessible areas. Jenny also adds that once it starts & is successful, they will hopefully expand in more places such as apartment complexes.

Displacement of Long Branch Residents and Businesses John Brill, New Hampshire Estates Elementary School, MCPS:

-John created the vision committee. They were at the Long Branch Festival September 2019. At the festival, they asked people what they wanted to see in Long Branch? He wants to make sure that Long Branch is still welcoming and affordable to those who call it home now. The vision committee eventually stopped meeting. He has been thinking a lot more about that. He thinks there are things everyone can do as a community to improve while ensuring the community has a say in that. He wants more involvement in this process. He asked if anyone wants to help.

-Bruce also mentions CHEER launched the Long Branch Housing and Community Development Advisory Team. These are a group of professionals who work with the community to make sure there are developments so that everyone in the community benefits and has a voice in the development process. With this, no one will be displaced. CHEER also built a survey based on what the vision committee started to improve Long Branch. He wants to ensure that Long Branch remains a vibrant community. This process is still ongoing.

-Maureen also mentioned Park & Planning had a vision for a park. They had surveys and mapping. She is not sure what happened to that.

-Bruce says that we want to make sure we keep local businesses.

-John and Bruce emphasize that things will start picking up. We want a mix of businesses. John will recommit to the vision committee and with CHEER.

-Bruce asks if anyone wants to get more involved you can contact him at bruce@communitycheer.org

Other information Sharing or suggestions:

A. Febe & Internet to Go Service:

- Febe mentions an internet to go service. The link is on the Montgomery county public website. They must be 14 & have a valid library card. It's a device you pick up at any branch. People can borrow it for 2 weeks.

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/internet-to-go.html>

B. Claudine Emergency Preparedness Checklist:

- She has an emergency supplies checklist that she will share as a link
- She needs help to translate the checklist into Spanish. They won't be paid.
- Go on takomaparkmd.gov, and then click on covid-19. COVID-19 tests are free twice a week 10-5. Resources are also available on this site.

- <https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19/>

C. Luis & Vaccinations

- Luis mentions that a list has come out from the county about vaccinations and priorities/phases. Seniors 75+ are now eligible. He wants to send this info out. He will send this info to Bruce where we can all share. Bruce will share this to the Long Branch list.

D. John & School Start Date

- John said MCPS started with a Feb 1st date for in person instruction. However, that was moved to March 15th. 2 metrics need to be met before this. So, it may change.