**CGIC Quality of Life Team Meeting**

**Wednesday June 30th @ 9 a. m.**

**Go to meeting**

**Attendance:** Armand Turner, Healthy Savannah/YMCA of Coastal Georgia; Coco Papy, Deep

Center; James Aberson, Chatham County, Ashley Rainge, Healthy Savannah, Nichele Hoskins, Healthy Savannah; Ruby Hallam, YMCA/Healthy Savannah; Denise Grabowski, Symbioscity; Anne Robinson, Front Porch; Austin Rojas, United Way; Paula Kreissler, Healthy Savannah; Caila Brown, Bike Walk Savannah; Larson Asford, Healthy Savannah; Lizann Roberts, CGIC; Rachel McConathy, CGIC; Natalie Premus, CGIC; Corey Spivey, CGIC

**Review of Meeting Notes:** No changes needed.

**Tide to Town Update:**

**Armand Turner** gave the Tide to Town update. This past Saturday and Monday we met with the Edgemere/Sackville community to host our neighborhood safety audit, and we feel like it went really well. Between us, various community members and volunteers from Rotary, we had about 20 people on the first day and maybe about six on the weekend day. We were able to walk the neighborhood. Over the next few weeks, Denise and Laura will sort of review all the data that got input, and then get back to us with the next steps for the Edgemere/Sackville committee. We're still looking into the other neighborhoods, and we also have possible volunteers from Georgia Southern who are interested in working with us, especially in the southern neighborhoods. **Cailia Brown** gave an update on the strategic planning of Tide to Town. We did have a strategic meeting for the Tide to Town board. At that meeting we retooled our mission and vision. Our new mission for friends of Tide to Town Inc. is to lead the community-based engagement, implementation and stewardship of the Tide to Town urban trail system through the lens of health and equity. Our vision is activity friendly routes to everyday destinations are easily accessible to all people in Savannah and Chatham County. That's kind of our new path moving forward, and we did identify some strategic plans including the audits or strategic priorities, which includes the audit and storytelling collections, so if you're out on the trim and linear park trail anytime in the next month, you may see a Tide to Town board member or participant, doing some interviews on along the trail. If you want to share your story of not only the Truman Linear Park Trail but how Tide to Town might impact your daily life, feel free to reach out. We'll be using those both for internal planning, on how we can better serve some neighborhoods and also marketing. We want to effectively tell people's stories so we can encourage the city, the county, and other planning organizations to really prioritize building, the trail system. **Paula Kreissler** also gave a Tide to Town update. Part of the data piece that is driving that is as many of you know, Healthy Savannah does an annual survey that’s five pages six pages. We've got a lot of things that all of us are working on collectively and Armand pointed out at the board retreat, the Tide to Town trail is the one that people know least about when compared to things like Farm Truck and HERO. We really need to step forward into that space so it would be greatly appreciated to just talk about Tide to Town, and help our community know what we understand what we need to do as a board, but everyone else can come in and help out as well.

**Coco Papy** gave a Deep Center update. We are expanding our staff which is great. Of the five different positions that we are hiring for, we will likely be adding on to other positions closer to the fall. But if you or anyone you know is interested in those positions or know someone who would be an ideal fit, please I encourage you to send them our way. Specifically, Louise and I are trying to hire a youth community organizer and we are looking for someone who has had direct experience being justice impacted or someone who has been very close to the justice system. The other updates that we have right now on the policy side of things, we feel that we've been making some kind of process as far as trying to push forward a few efforts as well as some ordinances that were really invested in. Recently at the state level specifically, some stuff that is coming out of the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee. This upcoming state session is going to be, I feel as I always say this, the state session will be a particularly brutal one, but we feel pretty confident that this one will be extremely brutal given that it's so close to election season. Some of the stuff we're seeing, coming out of those conversations are stuff on bail reform rollbacks, expanding sort of funding restrictions for mental health, and policing, and what that looks like, as well as a few other things that have kind of caught our eye and have brought some concerns to work that is being pushed locally. Other than that, I think the biggest thing is just that we are hiring and again we just want to encourage anyone and everyone who might be interested to please apply.

**Lizann Roberts** gave an update on behalf of the Front Porch. The front porch hired an executive director, her name is Anne Robinson, a lot of folks know her, she has worked, supporting not the nonprofit sector over the last few years doing grant writing and strategic planning that kind of thing. She's already making some changes and I'm moving forward with making connections in the community. I think that we'll see a lot of good organizational development kind of work, come out of her leadership. I know that they've got a couple of events coming up that are about back school drives so please keep your eyes peeled for those and I'll text her and see if she can come back on in just a moment. I know the convenience of how we meet right now is really great, right, and so you can pop on and pop off as needed. I'm wondering, and I'd love for you guys to let us know what your thoughts are about meeting safely in person, maybe at the front porch every other time or something like that so that we get to see each other and have some sort of camaraderie built. We were, for those of you who are relatively new, meeting pre-pandemic at the front porch. I think it certainly gave us some opportunity to really think about the future and work that we may want to do together, and how we may support each other so I want to put that out there as a thought to ponder and pray for the next time.

**Anne Robinson** gave a Front Porch update. We are extending our hours, we just started doing that last week actually two weeks ago, so that our families and youth have more of an opportunity to come into CS, and they're going to be Wednesday and Thursday. We're going to open it up at eight o'clock, per usual, and then we're going to be shutting down at 7pm. We've extended our hours by our work week by four hours for the convenience of our families and youth. This will allow us to conduct assessments, so that we can review some of our future plans so that we can also start planning for some of the events that we have coming up here. Speaking of which, to segway into our back-to-school Block Rock which is going to be a lot of fun. It's going to be on July 31 from four to seven. When looking at the number of assessments that we do and where we come from, most come from, area code 31404. This is where we get the majority of our assessments from, so we are trying to host this as close to the far east side as possible. We came up with W.W Law Community Center at 900 E. Bolton, and we're going to be giving away school supplies and the clothes that we've been collecting this summer. If you know an organization or an individual that you know that has lots of khakis, we're looking for those school outfits. I did do a grant, check at the United Way at their foundation directory which is an awesome tool. I looked for grants for our organization for bands for case management software, and for incentives to families to work completing our program.

Parent University has become a partner, recently, about a month ago Parent University signed on with us and we do have a parent university representative Jonathan Wimbush with us here at the Front Porch. We had a sort of a celebration of that. Two weeks ago, it was called pizza at the porch, we had parents from the front porch program come in and we talked to them about Parent University and the services they provide. We are also, trying to make sure that we are able to brand and identify ourselves in the community as the Front Porch. We went over our services, as well, and we also went over the curfew. The new curfew and parental responsibility ordinance with them by turning it into a family feud game. So, that's what I have for now.

**Lizann Roberts** gave a 2021 focus update. I think one of our logical next steps would be to do a deeper dive around the blueprint. The timeframes that we have with the blueprint and what we may want to focus our energies on support as a group. There are parts of it that, that we may need to be continually looked at and amended for where we are. I would love to hear what your thoughts are about that. We know that this is a strategic planning document for the county. The city certainly is starting to take a stronger look at it, and it will be a lot of what we have all given input on will also be in plan 2040. I would love to hear what your thoughts are about what do we focus on for the remainder of 2021 and how we might we look at the blueprint and really pick out some strategies that we want to support, move forward with and bring more people to the table and so on. I'm going to pause there.

**Partner Highlights**

**Paula Kreissler** gave a highlight. As many of you know the, we have supplemental funding from the CDC for COVID vaccine access acceptance, and to make a long story short, we've been doing some surveys, and what we learn from where we do these very short surveys is that most of the people have been vaccinated. We're looking to do a focus group with folks that we know and that trusts us to maybe join in a confidential focus group to talk about. So, folks that haven't been vaccinated, to talk about why so we can learn things to do our job better with that supplemental funding on if you want to add anything to that. **Nichele Hoskins** added to the highlight. Our plan is to hold a third listening session and we've already done two one online and one in person. We plan to hold one exclusively for those who have not and will not, or don't plan to get vaccinated. We learned a great deal from our small focus groups in early June. We think that if we organize one that is basically a no judgment zone. We realize that not everybody wants to or needs to get or shouldn't take the COVID vaccine, and we want to know. We want to hear from you and understand your why's, and without, you know proselytizing about the COVID vaccine. That is one of the things we have ahead of us and one of the, the successes have been holding those focus groups and learning so much from them. One of the things just as an example, of something that we hadn't really thought about was that some folks notice that advertisements and marketing materials, don't always say that the vaccine is free. That may not be a big deal to some of us because some of us already know, but if you were a person who doesn't know it's free and have no idea how much it is, walks up and expects that they might be embarrassed if they said it was a $200 vaccine. That is certainly a deterrent, and I also understand that health departments to private entities don't necessitate. They don't say that it is free because they want to, sometimes check your health insurance to see if it will pay for some of the costs. I think those who don't know what's free, and those who don't want to advertise that it's free, because it may not be entirely free. We can find a middle ground and make sure that we get access.

**Caila Brown** gave a highlight. Our bike and pedestrian friendly driver webinar will be on July 17, which will feature an overview on the new updated language for the free seat to pass law and updates to the law. This clarifies drivers are allowed to cross the double yellow line in order to pass cyclists on the road, and a few other provisions. The law actually takes place or takes effect tomorrow, so there has been a real quick turnaround and not a lot of publicizing about, so we'll do that overview on the 17th and then we have the savannah City Cycling webinar on July, 22. These will both be live streams over zoom as well as on our Facebook page and you don't have to register but if you want to participate in the comments or Q&A registering is the best way.