**CGIC Quality of Life Meeting**

**May 19, 2021 @ 9am**

**Go to Meeting**

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

*Center*; James Aberson, *Chatham County*, Ashley Rainge, *Healthy Savannah*, Tara Jennings, *Chatham County Strategic Planning*; Nichele Hoskins, *Healthy Savannah*; Paula Kreissler, *Healthy Savannah*; Stephanie Ritzert, *Front Porch*; Caila Brown, *Bike Walk Savannah*; Larson Asford, *Healthy Savannah*; Patsy Kraeger, *Georgia Southern University*; Sheryl Jones, *Family Justice Center*; Lizann Roberts, *CGIC*; Rachel McConathy, *CGIC*; Corey Spivey, *CGIC*

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

**Tide to Town Update:**

Armand Turner gave the Tide to Town update. The status of the thirty-mile walking and biking trail that will encircle the Savannah area was updated. During the past month five communities were reached out to, to discuss how Tide to Town can better serve their communities. The Edgemere/Sackville community, the Eastside neighborhood alliance, and others were met with, and we received some good feedback. The process for identifying team captains from those communities is currently on-going. The captains will help with leading our active routes to destination initiative which will involve audits of those communities to figure out what barriers exist to keep people in those neighborhoods from walking, biking and so forth. Over the next couple of weeks or months we will continue with our efforts and give updates on the information we collected from the audits.

An update was given Caila Brown. A trail clean-up is scheduled for early June.

Paula Kreissler gave another update regarding the trail clean-up. One of our new sponsors that attended the meeting on yesterday expressed interest in being involved with the clean-up on June 6th. Also, renovations on the Police Memorial Trail are expected to be completed by the end of the summer. We are still working with the city on access to that section of Police Memorial. There are a lot of concern about state of Carry St and how it functions. There aren’t any sidewalks or parking at the trail head. There is concern about people accessing it, so we are working on some solutions for that.

**Deep Center Update:**

Coco Papy gave a Deep Center Update: We have a few policy wins that we are excited about. As of, three weeks ago we worked with the juvenile court, and the Berkeley Law policy advocacy clinic to sign an internal memo to suspend fines and fees at juvenile court, and we're really excited about that. It is not public yet, we are talking with the judges next week about how we will be rolling this policy out, and just like how we'll be publicly talking about it. This is a huge win for juvenile court, it's a huge win for us, and we're just we're really thrilled to be working with judges who really are prioritizing that. We also had the city of Savannah approve, the Fair Housing Policy this week, through the work of the arcs committee. We are also working with the DHS office and the county on a cash bail ordinance. Currently, we are doing a lot of education specifically in communities that have perhaps heard of cash bail but have negative perceptions of what a cash bail ordinance would be. We are excited about the progress on that.

 We're also starting round two of work with the Vera Institute of Justice and Southern Center for Human Rights, to get further data on what criminal justice reform looks like in Chatham County and in Savannah. Georgia will specifically be taking a deeper look into what the local jail turn looks like in a year, and more so how many young people who have been in juvenile court are now in superior court to determine any trends in Chatham County. We'll also be doing a lot of storytelling collecting and that will sort of be driving the way we push our policy recommendations for the next year or so.

The last thing is the past year we have been working with Vera and with Southern center, and we wanted to examine what a year in the jail turn in Chatham County looks like. We've just put out this brief it's called the problem that's the problem and it breaks down the data that we found things that we feel like are either aggravating policies or policies that we feel could be implemented that might be that could help the problem. It's a small snapshot of what I think is a much larger thing but one that nevertheless can help us figure out how to move forward. There's only one thing in here that is not completely up to date. We made a recommendation to the county that they pass a sister ordinance to the city of Savannah is 2018 Marijuana one ounce ordinance, where you just get a ticket as opposed to going to the local jail. The county has passed an ordinance on that but passed it very quietly, but regardless, we really want to commend Chatham County for passing a piece of policy like that I think is a really a great step forward.

**Front Porch Update:**

Stephanie Ritzert gave an update: There is a new director coming in that will start in June 1st and her name is Ann Robinson. The summer is coming, and things are slowing down. Deep has been holding their workshops here on Thursday afternoons and have been well attended, so we are hoping things are returning to pre-pandemic.

**2021 Focus Update**

Lizann Roberts gave an update: The overarching goal was reformatted and agreed upon.

The overall look of the blueprint was changed also, two columns were removed (barriers and status). Strategies 1.1 ad 1.2 were also adjusted. It was decided that in the essence of time the blueprint would be sent out to everyone for feedback and the deadline for returning feedback would be the close of business the following Tuesday.

**Partner Highlights**

Patsy Kraeger gave a highlight: I'm on the board of the community indicators consortium and I'm the education and communication chair, and the virtual summit which I can put in the chat box is in November with calls for presentations in by June 18. It would be great if CGIC or the quality-of-life team to think about either putting in a panel or presentation.

Cailia Brown gave a highlight: So, one was planned in 2014 with the MPC MPO the draft chapters, some draft chapters are now available for comment, including transportation in Chatham Savannah So highly recommend submitting comments on those. We do still have a few remaining bike and pedestrian count ships these counts help us plan for projects and policies and improve mobility options for people around the city.

We do have a bike and pedestrian friendly driver webinar this Thursday at 6pm that will be live streamed on Facebook, but you can also register directly on Zoom, and on our Facebook page is the live stream video from yesterday's Savannah City Cycling webinars so if you're interested in either one of those.