

Civic Park Meeting Outcomes

On December 12, 2013 the Genesee County Land Bank in partnership with the City of Flint and Joy Tabernacle hosted a community meeting to share the outcomes of the Civic Park Historic District Study to determine if the historic neighborhood still met the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Two meetings were held at 1:30 and 5:30 pm at each meeting the Land Bank, City of Flint and Joy Tabernacle gave a presentation on the Civic Park report and discussed the recommendations and the proposal to shrink the boundaries of the historic district what was submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for review and approval.

54 people attended the session from 1:30 – 3:00 pm

37 people attended the session from 5:30 – 7:00 pm, some of these were the same persons who attended the first session coming back with spouses, friends and neighbors to share the changes proposed for Civic Park.

Overall, the majority of attendees supported the shrinking of the Civic Park Historic District National Register boundaries. Concerns were voiced from individuals whom had a background in Historic Preservation but did not live in the vicinity of the neighborhood. Residents and the vast majority of community members present agreed that over the years, not enough was done to stop the abandonment and blight in Civic Park and that this new boundary change would help facilitate the removal of blight and aid in healing the scars of urban decay present throughout the neighborhood.

GCLBA asked for written comments as well as signatures on the petition to support the change. 31 signatures were gathered.

A few participants left written comments after the meeting. Written comments:

- Interesting meeting! Why a historical district site? This is Flint, Michigan. Let's keep it moving... Things come and they go. Things get old and it's time to rebuild.
- 1) Interest in going to Lansing in May 2014. 2) I live on Hamilton and Dupont, am I in the Historic District?
- I would like to see investment in existing homeowners/businesses for home improvement.
- Concern that the Dayton Place Plaza (1313 W Dayton) is included in the new historic district, and property across the street from Civic Park school. The historic sign is in our front door (Dayton Place Plaza).
- I feel that the money that they are using to destroy the houses can go on them fixes the houses for people who do not have homes or who cannot afford high rent. Or all the good material on these houses could be used on other people houses that can't afford the material.

Next Steps

It became evident that there needs to be more discussion around Historic Districts and neighborhood needs with the neighborhood residents. We should have additional meetings in the winter/spring to get more resident input on the proposed changes and encourage residents to perhaps mobilize into an active neighborhood association where they can have a platform to advocate for their needs.