Enterprise Sustainability Exchange – Detroit
Resiliency & Disaster Preparedness Workshop
Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Participants
- Audra D. Carsen – Izzie LLC
- Andrei Nichols – EcoWorks
- Tim Skrotzki – Elevate Energy
- Alison Figliomeni – EcoWorks/ EcoD
- Kitty Yarbrough – Grandmont Rosedale Development Corporation
- Tommie Obioha – Detroit Block Works
- Kendal Kuneman – Energy Sciences
- Felicia Turner – Amandla Community Development Corporation
- Oren Brandvain – Develop Detroit

Discussion

Why are we here/What are your topics of interest?
- Energy conservations, resiliency and disaster preparedness as it related to the beautification of the city
- Struggles and challenges our neighborhoods face directly
- Information to share with our residents and local business owners as it relates to natural disasters and long-term construction in order to be more proactive
- Natural disasters that we may not have experienced before such as “sink holes” - understanding what these are and what to do when we encounter these natural disasters, including on a neighborhood level to prepare our buildings and residents, and knowing how to respond to flooding that causes damage to our infrastructure

Juan Sebastion: This discussion does not have to just be about environmental or climate resiliency but also cultural resiliency as well. We want to understand on a neighborhood level the individual experiences you all have with disaster preparedness; what are some of the key issues that your neighborhood faces?

- Cultural resiliency, how to maintain culture in a community while propelling the economic development
- Aging out of neighborhoods – how to do we help the aging population age in place. The aging neighborhoods are targets for crime; maintenance has become too much of a burden.
Training/Discussion with Laurie Schoemann

Laurie Schoemann: It takes 30 years just to build a community, and one disaster can undo all of the work of building affordable housing. Typically out of 100 low-income neighborhoods only 10 will have a plan in place for any sort of disaster.

5 tips to building resilient community engagement:
1) Research risks and plan to plan
2) Set up advisory group of community leaders and CDCs in advance of event
3) Link advisory group to jurisdiction agencies and partners
4) Create physical and operational community infrastructure
5) Honor community member time and commitment
   - If a community member comes to participate and offer assistance by engaging in the process, consider paying them a stipend for their time

Top 10 items to be ready to respond
1) Set expectations
   - Identify what you are actually able to do within communities that we serve. Work with social service providers so we can know what we can count on them for. Set expectations with your board.
2) Identify accountable staff
   - Have staff appointed as an accountable agent so that there is always someone present who can carry the plan out and incorporate it into their work plan.
3) Develop business continuity
   - Practice and exercise it to figure out where the gaps are.
4) Check your insurance
5) Check your reserve
6) Check in with your jurisdiction
   - NOTE: There is currently no emergency plan in place for the city of Detroit. Health department has stepped into resiliency role. Is there opportunity with the Office of Sustainability?
7) Build your community
   - Do you know your current police and fire captain? Get to know your community beyond who you normally meet with. Get to know your council and speak up.
8) Your residents are your partners
   - Have people who are living in housing participate in things like “walk throughs.” People living there will know things others will not. Establish resident leadership committees and have floor captains (for multi-family)
9) Set up your vendors in advance
10) Work with your CBO partners
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Top Tools
1) Go bag checklist
2) Upload critical information to the cloud so you can work offline
   a. Digital divide → take picture on your phone because some areas don’t have broadband; North End community has solar home hubs and the coalition is purchasing rocketfiber and repackaging it for LMI families
3) Electronic banking
4) Insurance coverage worksheet

Discussion & Closing
- 1st question to consider: what are Detroit’s shocks?
  • Detroit may not experience a lot of environmental shock, but we have economic shock and we need to plan for that.
  • The shock may also be that the grid is failing, and the solution may be solar.
  • Water shutoffs are also a shock that is currently taking place.
  • Rare tornados
  • Snow storms
  • Power outages. DTE is among worst in the state for getting power back online even though we rarely have any natural disasters. They have also made a public statement of not supporting solar energy.

- How do we define disasters? Are all disasters unexpected? Not all shocks are natural (i.e. housing crash was a disaster but poverty is a systemic issue not a disaster)

- How do we get residents or community members to stay focused on discussing a long-term sustainability plan when they are so focused on the short term needs that are not met?

- What is the local infrastructure on information sharing or even messaging alerts?

- Is there an opportunity to have an advisory committee for a city resiliency plan?

Laurie: there are two classifications of disasters: economic and non climate; you can create hubs for everyone and come up with single location “street sheet” for everyone to meet.

Melinda: we need to have hubs for when we have severe flooding or power outages; where do we store medicine that has to be refrigerated, where can we find fresh food and who do we call after we have contacted our insurance company?
Laurie: federal grant dollars are given every year to Community block grant funding and that would be a great resource for doing this work and putting together a resiliency plan.

Melinda: This is the last scheduled training, so we need to figure out where we go from here. Please send follow up questions or ideas to continue this work/conversation to jarias@enterprisecommunity.org.

Adjourn