

## TOLEDO RECOVERY PLAN CITY WIDE MEETING 08/04/2021 NOTES

### YOUTH, PARKS, AND RECREATION

- a. Universal Pre-k for 4-year olds
- b. Can the “summary job opportunities” for youth be employed by the city, cleaning up neighborhoods, cutting grass, working at pools and parks, etc.

Nothing else prompted for this section

### SAFE AND LIVEABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

- a. Wants to strongly underscore the importance of early childhood education and supporting the delivery of high-quality pre-k services. Have a comprehensive community-based approach to early education. Must support our community-based providers.
- b. Increase programs to reduce gun violence
- c. Need more help with children with learning disabilities
- d. Targeted goal of improving taxes directed to improving our schools
- e. Like to see TPS purposely being the extension of early childhood education
- f. Make sure efforts to address domestic violence in Toledo should be made priority. This is a kids’ issue as well as community safe issue.
- g. Want to see new houses built in place of vacant lots. Rebuilding our Neighborhoods
- h. Clean up the vacant and abandoned factories in the central community
- i. How do we also provide assistance to homeowners to maintain their property and take pride in their ownership? Is there potential for grants for home owners for repairs and improvements
- j. Allowing and encouraging residents to take care of the vacant lots and grow their own food would also help encourage economic sustainability and improve health in the “food desert” in some neighborhoods
- k. Allocate funds for community gardens on vacant lots
- l. Look at fixing up the various empty vacant commercial buildings around town. If we can fix Summit St. Downtown, surely, we should start looking at Sylvania, Lagrange, etc.

### JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a. Support Services, programming, coaching and capital for Entrepreneurs. Programs to get more students, young people into tech-oriented skills and job training
- b. I would also like to make a brief comment for input.  
I lift and support Rachel and John's comments. To reinforce this, I would strongly encourage use of the ARPA monies towards expansion of support for

Schools as Community Hubs. The work we do is evidence based, focused on inclusion, diversity, and equity in Academics, Health & Wellness and Economics. Schools are demonstrated anchors of neighborhoods, and can thrive when collaborating partners and resources are adequate to serve the families.

- c. Address the soft skills that are need to start businesses, and/or earn a living wage. These jobs should also focus on addressing basic need gaps in communities
- d. Revitalize neighborhoods by giving job opportunities for youth mowing and cleaning vacant and abandoned lots. Also, would be great to have programs, assistance, and whatever necessary law changes to help people turn these vacant lots into spaces young people can use to play sports or do small scale farming
- e. Community Center Hubs
- f. I want to bring attention to the needs and lack of services in our community that are designed to help and foster safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ community. This is especially evident with the lack of a community center that serves those that are LGBTQ+. Additionally, we lack safe and affirming recovery environments that can foster healing from addiction and mental health issues. Studies have shown that LGBTQ+ affirming services is vital and we lack this within our community. I am suggesting that we support the development of a LGBTQ+ community center and recovery housing that is designed to serve LGBTQ+ individuals.

### **GREEN AND HEALTHY HOUSING**

- a. Let's focus on lead water lines and get extra chemicals out of our water. Let's jump start this project. This has not been a priority in the past.
- b. Make it easier for small and new contractors and vendors in state and out of state to do business and obtain licenses to get some much-needed work done in the community and modernizing the housing inventory public and private
- c. Invest in community engagement builders in each neighborhood in central city communities to brings residents together for the following years so residents are heard and trained to be collective leaders and plan community development initiatives in the areas identified in the categories earlier of this presentation. Building short- and long-term initiatives needs to have buy in for sustainability and long-term community engagement. Community engagement builders can make that happen because you are building grassroots relationships
- d. Affordable multi-family housing; we're seeing a lot of fair market development as of late but this could be an unprecedented opportunity to catch up on the lack of affordable housing/stock; would also align with the City's comprehensive plan. Shelter and support services need assistance in preparation for forthcoming evictions but we need a more robust pipeline with available units at the end for folks to exit shelter to.

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## **COMMENTS**

- a. I support the Code compliance grants or loans to improve homes. Some homeowners may not have the additional funds to timely or properly fix their units to meet housing codes. In the end, renters may be subject to unsafe housing.
- b. It is important that any plan or program that is started has a plan for sustainability.
- c. Add all of the attractions that younger adults want near the docs like the strip in Las Vegas
- d. Neighborhood Leadership Development should occur in each identified Priority area. This will help the community move toward a more equitable decision-making process when discussing both short and long strategies for community development.
- e. Recalling City employees affected by the Reduction in Force lay-offs during the pandemic would greatly improve City services.
- f. See monies set aside for reaching those youth in the community, considered to be problematic. If they are causing much of the violence, that group should not be out of the conversation
- g. Multi-purpose recreational facilities for youth and adults. Indoor and outdoor swimming, recreational events, etc.
- h. Homeless is a big concern. Take some of this money and add warming places in all areas, and provide the homeless with a safe place to live
- i. Would grants for college for youth, and young adults be permitted? Allowing youth to access higher education and allowing adults to go back to school to acquire credentials to get better jobs would be a great program
- j. I would like to see money dedicated to support citizens returning to our community from prison. Housing, transportation, and workforce development are just some of the major barriers for these individuals that they cannot always overcome on their own. A lot of the work done to assist them is done by community volunteers, but we could be more efficient and effective with dedicated staff and dollars.
- k. Target preparing the youth for careers, as opposed to preparing them for jobs that won't provide them with adequate funds to raise a family
- l. A lot of kids want to be in the Arts, acting, singing, etc. There's not a lot of schools to address that

m. Two ideas:

1. Innovation incubator (s): Some of the funds could be used for an internship, fellowship, or experiential opportunity for residents to work on how we can sustain the programs beyond the ARPA expenditure.

n. Plant trees and clean the lake water

o. Would love to see the Libbey Outlet building turned into a small business retail shopping center. Allow small businesses to rent spaces by the week/month to assist in small business revitalization. The farmers market already kind of does this, but you have to be able to setup/take-down your business in one day. Inside space allows them to set up for a longer length of time. Think Maker's Mart, but permanent.

p. Build middle class villas at Detwiler Park instead of giving 100% to the Metro Parks

q. We must use fund to help address the violence in our city. Because if this is not change then it hinder city growth