



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Charter Township of Flint

Draft: January 16, 2019

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Objectives

Flint Township will continue to involve the entire community as “key stakeholders” in the future development of our Township.

Flint Township evaluates each project on an individual basis to determine project scope, stakeholders, project limitations, approving body, points of community impact during the decision making process, internal and external resources, and level of appropriate community involvement.

The Township makes information available in a timely manner to enable interested parties to be involved in decisions at various stages of the review and approval process.

The Township engages citizens in a transparent manner, making information easy to access for all interested members of the community.

The Township seeks public participation for matters involving future development of the Township, such as the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance update process.

The Township seeks creative ways to involve a diverse set of community stakeholders in planning, land use, and development decisions.

The Township uses comments and information received from interested members of the community to make decisions regarding planning, land use, and future development.

The Township tracks and analyzes the results of all public participation to the extent feasible and provide summaries back to the public.

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

State & Local Regulations

Flint Township Charter
Charter Township of Flint Code of Ordinances
Charter Township Act (PA 359 of 1947)
Michigan Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976)
Michigan Zoning Enabling Act (PA 110 of 2006)
Michigan Planning Enabling Act (PA 33 of 2008)
Brownfield Redevelopment Financing Act (PA 381 of 1996)
Recodified Tax Increment Financing Act (PA 57 of 2018)
Plant Rehabilitation and Industrial Development Districts Act (PA 198 of 1974)
Personal Property Exemption Act (PA 328 of 1998)
Other applicable local, state, and federal regulation

Key Stakeholders in Flint Township

In the Flint Township, each project will be evaluated on an individual basis to ensure inclusion for all stakeholders in the community. Each will vary according to the project being reviewed. Possible key stakeholders include, but are not limited to

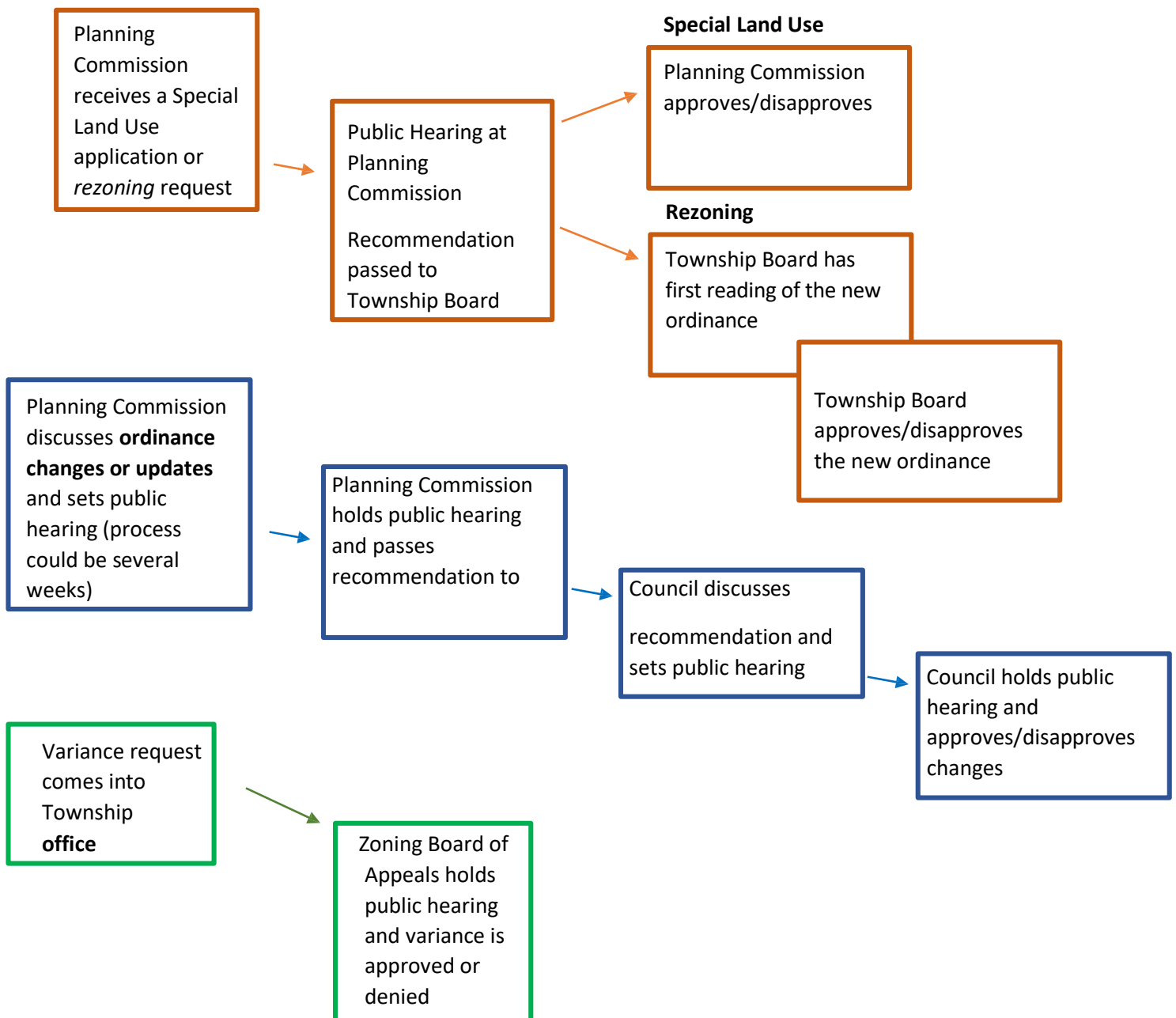
Local residents
Neighboring jurisdictions
Michigan Department of Transportation
Genesee County Road Commission
Municipal employees
Emergency personnel
Flint Township DDA
Bristol Road CIA
Beecher Road CIA
Flint Township Economic Development Corporation
Commercial business owners and their employees
McLaren Hospital
Industrial facilities located in the Township
Neighborhood groups
Real estate professionals
Township's boards and commissions
Churches
Schools
Senior groups
Community visitors and tourists
Utility providers

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Processes for Development

There are various times in the planning process when the Township Board, the Planning Commission, and/or the Zoning Board of Appeals request public input. These processes include public hearings for rezoning of land, development of the Zoning or Sign Ordinances, the Master Plan, requested variances and Special Land Uses. The flowchart below outlines the time limits for these processes:



Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Development Review Bodies

The Township encourages citizen participation in local government planning and policy decisions. All residents are invited to apply for appointments to Township boards and commissions. Vacant positions are advertised on the Township's Website at: www.flinttownship.org

Township Board

The Charter Township of Flint Board of Trustees is composed of 7 members. The supervisor, the clerk, the treasurer and 4 trustees.

All Township Board positions are voted in by the citizens of Flint Township. For many processes (excluding site plan, special land uses and variances) the Township Board is the final approving body.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is a 9 member body which includes 1 Township Board member. All members are nominated by the Supervisor and approved by the Township Board for 3 year terms, except the Township Board member (term of office). Planning Commissioners deal with development issues in the Township such as rezoning, special land uses, and site plans. Often times, they are the recommending body to Township Board. They are also responsible for writing the zoning and sign ordinance and updating the Township's Master Plan.

ZBA

The Zoning Board of Appeals has 5 full members, including 1 Township Board member, the Chairman of the Planning Commission and 2 alternate members. Each member is appointed by the Township Board for 3 year terms, except the Township Board member (term of office) and the Planning Commission Chair (term of position). When a resident of the Township cannot meet the zoning or sign ordinance requirements, an application for variance is filed with this body.

There are many other boards and committees throughout the Township. Agendas, minutes and dates/times of the meetings can be found on the front page of Flint Township's website at: www.flinttownship.org.

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Open Meetings

All meetings of the Township Board, and its various boards and commissions, shall be open to the public in accordance with the “Open Meetings Act,” PA 267 of 1976 as amended, except closed session meetings as provided for in the Act. Public notices for these meetings are printed in the paper and hung at Township Hall and on the Township’s website (as required by the Act). The following processes require that neighbors within 300 feet of a property are personally notified:

- Rezoning of property
- Special Land Use
- Variance requests

Statutes require these processes be noticed in a newspaper of general distribution in the Township (The View/Flint Journal) as well as mailed to neighbors within 300 feet at least 15 days prior to the meeting. All meetings are held in a facility accessible to persons with disabilities, and The Township provides and will provide reasonable accommodations. Individuals with disabilities requiring reasonable accommodations or services should contact the Township Clerk’s Office.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact the Township Clerk or to check the Township’s Website at: www.flinttownship.org in order to be kept informed of any meeting schedule, agendas, variations, or location changes. Meeting agendas and packets are available on the Township’s website in advance of the meeting.

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Methods for Community Participation

Each project's initial evaluation will determine the necessary level of involvement for the project. The following are methods that may be used to reach appropriate level of public participation when taking action on land use or development applications. Flint Township will always attempt to use more than one tool or method, depending on the specific project and target audience. This list is flexible and can change based on each project's needs and circumstance.

Inform – provide information and assist public understanding

Website: www.flinttownship.org announces meetings, posts packets and agendas, minutes, and sometimes will contain pages or links for topics of major interest.

Newspaper: The View and/or the Flint Journal are Flint Township's newspapers. New editions of the View are available on Thursdays and the Flint Journal is available on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Cable: Township Board meetings are televised on the local Comcast cable station, Channel 17.

Printed postings: Available for viewing at the Township Hall posting board.

Announcements: Announcements during meetings of the Township Board, Planning Commission and other boards and commissions.

Press releases and Articles: At various times, the Township will issue press releases and information for articles to various newspapers and TV stations (including channels 12, 5, 25, and 66).

Radio Show: Once per month, the Township Economic Development Authorities are on a local radio show, the Fox Lounge (103.9 FM). During that time, they announce community events, meetings and other topics of interest.

Email or postal mail: Interested parties may request to the Township Clerk that they be notified personally of meetings/topics for discussion and postal mailings to neighbors within 300 feet, according to statute.

Consult – obtain public feedback

Social Media: The Township currently uses Facebook to announce community events, meetings, etc.

Surveys: Utilizing online and paper surveys allows for the collection of large amounts of data and opinions from the public.

Public Hearings: Public attendance at meetings is strongly supported and allows for an appropriate venue for public input.

Involve – work directly with public throughout the process

Open Houses: In order to create two-way communication, the Township will hold open house events for projects and initiatives as needed.

Community workshops: Issues that require community feedback can benefit from a noticed workshop.

Charter Township of Flint

Community Engagement Statement

Charrettes: Multiple day design charrettes and information gathering sessions allow a larger group of people to participate in the community engagement activity.

Collaborate – partner with public in each aspect of decision making

Advisory Committees: The Township uses advisory committees for specialized aspects of our community to enhance collaboration between city staff and the public.

Focus Groups: Bringing together stakeholders to discuss and brainstorm decision making options.

Communicating Results

Flint Township will publicly communicate all results of community input on planning and development issues. The Township will utilize one or more of the “Inform” methods to relay results back to the public.

Updating the Community Engagement Plan

Like all documents, Flint Township understands that the Community Engagement Plan will need to be reviewed and updated on a routine basis. This plan will be updated as needed, at a minimum of every 5 years, in conjunction with the Township’s Master Plan. Updates to this plan will be drafted by staff, reviewed and recommended by Planning Commission, and approved through Township Board. At least one public hearing will be held during the process to gather community input and to generate new ideas.

