

Prince George's Community  
Collaborative Resolution  
Center's vision is to build a  
more peaceful and resilient  
Prince George's County.

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CONNECT. DISCOVER. RESOLVE.

11/23/ 2021

## Berwyn Heights Community Dialogue

### Description:

Prince George's Community Collaborative Resolution Center is Prince George's County's local community mediation center providing approaches to collaborative decision making and free meditation services to residents. The center supported the Town of Berwyn in three facilitated strategic planning meetings around the town's annual budget, longer range planning for strategic purposes as well as federal COVID-relief funding. The facilitation resulted in residents selecting 11 focus areas and developing 200 suggestions. This document will provide Berwyn Heights residents suggestions gathered during the meeting

# Berwyn Heights Group Facilitation

## Agenda for In-person Meeting

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
7:00-7:30	Food, Welcome from the Mayor, Presentation from the Town manager	Share council priorities
7:30-8:15	Preview, Agenda and Gathering	Share the plan for the evening, get buy-in from participants, establish culture of collaboration
8:20- 9ci:10	Small Group work- Ask the three questions (Should the Town spend the ARPA funding on one or two projects or on several smaller ones? Should the Town donate money to nonprofit organizations or use the funding for direct services to the community? How can the Town spend the money to create resilience against a future pandemic?)- approximately 10 minutes/question Have residents weigh in on the Budget Priorities	Get community input in a more intimate setting to allow for more voices to be heard and get more details
9:10-9:20	Break	Eat, drink and go to the restroom
9:20-9:50	Large group report out- Hear from each small group and significant things that came up and update participants on the tallies from the budget priorities	Share next steps for this budget process
9:50-10:00	Raffle and closing	Thank everyone for their participation

## Agenda for Zoom Meeting

Time	Activity	Purpose
7:00-7:30	Welcome from the Mayor, Presentation from the Town manager <i>(Is this happening on Zoom?)</i>	Share council priorities
7:30-8:15	Preview, Agenda and Gathering	Share the plan for the evening, get buy-in from participants, establish culture of collaboration
8:20- 9:10	Small Group work- Ask the three questions (Should the Town spend the ARPA funding on one or two projects or on several smaller ones? Should the Town donate money to nonprofit organizations or use the funding for direct services to the community? How can the Town spend the money to create resilience against a future pandemic?)- approximately 10 minutes/question  Have residents weigh in on the Budget Priorities	Get community input in a more intimate setting to allow for more voices to be heard and get more details
9:10-9:20	Break	Rest eyes from Zoom/Bathroom break
9:20-9:50	Large group report out- Hear from each small group and significant things that came up and update participants on the tallies from the budget priorities	Share next steps for this budget process
9:50-10:00	Closing	Respond to any unanswered questions. Thank everyone for their participation

**Event Dates** : 11/4/2021 , 11/8/2021 & 11/15/2021 via zoom

## **Areas of Focus from the Survey Responses**

- a) Social networking
- b) Mental health assistance
- c) Child Care
- d) Vaccine access
- e) Online training for Seniors
- f) Stormwater/drainage
- g) Hazardous duty pay for eligible employees
- h) Rental and housing financial assistance
- i) Utility financial assistance
- j) Welcoming and inclusive community
- k) Small business assistance
- l) Addressing education loss
- m) Climate change
- n) Recreation
- o) Communication from Town government

Areas of Focus/Number of Votes

Storm water/Drainage	16 votes
Climate Change	13 Votes
Mental Health Assistance	11 votes
Hazardous Duty Pay for Eligible Employees	8 votes
Welcoming and Inclusive Community	7 votes
Addressing Education Loss	7 votes
Recreation	7 votes
Childcare	6 votes
Social Networking	3 votes
Communication from Town Government	3 votes
Rental and Housing Financial Assistance	3 votes

## Brainstorm Ideas Per Area of Focus

### Storm water/Drainage

- More rain gardens
- Litter pick-up/dirt removal
- Everyone needs pipes connected to street pipes to drain water
- Cut all the trees down to prevent leaves from blocking the storm drains
- Clean out storm drains with a leaf sweeper
- Pervious surfaces
- Education programs on impervious surfaces and rain gardens
- Improve drainage at entrance to Lake A
- Rain barrels
- More storm drains
- Get WSSC to access the problem
- Establish grant program for homeowners for rain gardens etc.
- Grants for permeable areas
- Indian Creek being clean and safe for people to go into
- Install barriers and rain gardens to capture dirt
- Communication link to contact when something happens regarding flooding etc.
- Have education program in different languages about drainage
- Communicating issue between townspeople
- Set up emergency fund for persons affected by flooding
- County comes out and looks at water/flooding conditions
- WSSC , PG County needs to take care of flooding
- Call subcontractor to clean drains when collecting leaves every 4-5 months
- Invest in storm water drainage systems
- Bring in an expert to inform what needs to happen
- Improve environmental conditions
- Stop taking everything to Indian Creek
- Use rain gardens to improve flow and stop back ups

- Do infrastructure repairs
- Reduce storm water outflow
- Neighbor mediation to address the dumping of water
- Create a fund for homeowner improvements
- Create opportunities for neighbors to work together to address flooding

## Climate Change

- Reduce Carbon footprint
- Plant trees
- Solar/ Information for alternative energy
- Solar power for community
- Walk to school vs. driving ( sidewalks)
- Energy bills / energy efficient
- Flooding / rain gardens
- Water conservation
- Long term solar without long term cost
- Have tree watch for dead trees and tree branches to have them picked up and removed
- Renewable energy for town facilities
- Renewable energy for homes in town
- Get Pepco involved in using renewable energy
- Establish a solar farm on empty lot
- Solar panels on top of schools , community buildings, etc
- Rebate solar program on smaller scale for community and EV charging stations
- Berwyn Heights Solar co-op
- Electric vehicles charging stations in more locations
- Updating drive-ways to eco friendly materials
- Encourage residents to use solar panels with tax credit
- Hybrid vehicles
- Encourage public transportation
- More bus routes
- Bus shelters

- Discount fare card
- Encourage kids to walk to school
- Improve walkability / walkways
- Expanding tree programs
- Pervious surfaces / walkways
- overlap between climate change and storm water drainage
- Designing our roads and infrastructure with climate change in mind
- Investing in impermeable roads and asphalt
- Design drainage systems that don't get as clogged up
- Reevaluate town's fleet of vehicles - have a few police cars that are electric
- More efficient vehicles
- Have a better warning system for major storms - more information shared with residents about what to do to prepare for those situations
- Remind residents where the charging stations are located

## Welcoming and Inclusive Community

- Welcome Packet
- Welcome Committee
- Have more inclusive events
- Boys and Girls Club / playground
- Berwyn Heights Day
- Plant exchange / craft fair
- Surveying
- Provide new residents with welcome packet including tote bag
- Realtors provide welcome packet
- Include bulletin in welcome packet
- Provide welcome materials in multiple languages
- Look at census data to determine languages in community
- Social hour once a month
- Meet your neighbors social gathering
- Christmas tree lighting
- Adding signs
- National night out
- Make social media more active



## Hazardous Duty Pay for Eligible Employees

- They all get it
- Not office employees
- Police and public works department , and only those who were present at the start of the crisis

## Childcare

- Availability ; Only knows about 2 childcare services in community
- Get input from parents with children
- Town sponsored network for activities for children
- Flexibility
- Babysitting services
- Include teens in recreation
- Childcare geared towards pre-k and younger children
- Playgroups were discontinued due to COVID-19
- Resource hub; a place to go for information about services
- Indoor play area
- Rainy day activities for children
- Transportation support for children
- Reestablish play group
- Subsidy childcare

## Addressing Education Loss

- Gap from at-home schooling
- Recourses and activities to that address youth trauma
- Activates for Socialization during and post pandemic
- Supplemental ( Coordinator)

- Tutoring
  - After school
  - Summer programs
  - Book groups (small groups)
    - incentives
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- Advertise resource thorough online platforms
  - More counselors in school
  - Activities in the classroom that support students resilience and emotional health
  - Teacher training in how to respond to students' emotions
  - Advocating for better pay for jobs that go into being out of school
  - Paying people more money to do difficult jobs at school
  - Extracurricular after school
  - Bus drivers should be paid more

## Recreation

- Maryland day parties
- Bus trips to Maryland Live Casino
- Have a pickle ball court
- Berwyn Heights Day
- Ice cream socials
- National night out
- Workout equipment
- Pull up bars
- Balance beams , parallel bars
- Workout stations throughout the neighborhood
- Bus trips
- Regular events in person
- Maintain parks
- Purchase items to make events more enjoyable and comfortable ex. Heaters for outside events
- Convert unused tennis court into pickle ball court

- More community building events
- Have make your own valentines for kids on Valentines Day
- Activities that reach various age groups and generations
- Activities that make people more welcome and included
- Find ways to create events that culturally reach other people
- Put out flyers in Spanish that have to do with composting
- Celebrate Spanish holidays
- Reach other ethnic groups to compost
- Create Spanish version of the paper
- Announcing events on multiple platforms ( social media – Facebook, twitter, website ect)
- Engage Latino culture
- Engage with someone who has more expertise on different types of events
- Reach out to neighbors and asking what holidays they're celebrating
- Being neighborly and respectful of cultures
- Other social media engagement to highlight events
- Have the town connect with people on a daily or weekly basis
- Have a standalone platform to advertise events that's is accessible
- Website - more accessible, more well known
- Make the website easier to use
- Use Facebook to reach out to older generations - different platforms reach different audiences
- Having information that is around the appropriate platforms that specific generations use
- Non-emergency text system to fix things
- Make the police station more accessible

## Social Networking

- Create a singles club
- Create more events for social networking
- Computer classes
- Fix computers in senior center
- Give classes on how to fix computers
- Create a Pickle ball team

- Have classes for seniors to learn how to use laptop and phone
- Have more cookouts

## **Communication from Town Government**

- Bulletin provided in multiple languages
- Make website user friendly
- Get more people signed up for town communication
- More locations for permanent signs / maybe town office or fire department
- Upgrade audio visual in counsel and upstairs when having meetings to increase amount of people who can attend
- Language access; follow federal law
- Urgent communication in multiple languages
- Phone based alert system (call alert)
- Text Based Alert System (text alert)
- Update Website
- Home button on website blends in with background and makes it hard to find
- Bulletin gets redone , no real interaction
- Community sign or bulletin board ( electric or regular ) where people can give news
- Way of opening communication with public officials
- More data on communication on social media analytics
- Hybrid meetings
- Clearer recordings of meetings
- Clarity in communication from town government
- Better the bulletin accessibility

## **Mental Health Assistance**

- Town-wide Meditation- Look at attendance rates
- Finding health care providers that are close and accepting new patients
- Share information about a network of support and care providers

- Partnership with community outreach center within the Dept. of Mental Health services at University of Maryland -income based sliding scales for fees and services
- Publicizing mental health services that already exist and having it in multiple languages
- Creating a website that publicizing mental health services - multiple languages

## Rental and Financial Assistance

- Making resources available to residence in need
- New and different ways to engage residents in need
- Make sure Landlords are given the information and share it with their renters.
- Create a one page English/Spanish flyer to circulate to residents
- Have materials for assistance at other programs that provide support for residents in need including the food bank