**Morristown United for Healthy Living Coalition Minutes**

***September 17, 2018, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, St. Margaret’s Church***

6:00 **Welcome & Introductions**

* Welcome to our new street captain and residents, welcome back MUHL partners

**6:10 Upcoming Event/Activities**

* GPS for Parents – Navigating through the teen years – October 2nd (Spanish); October 9th, 16th & 23rd (English)
* Grow it Green Morristown: Pop-up farms –Thursdays through November 3
* Zufall Health Center Free dental for veterans – Saturday November 3rd or Sunday, November 4th
* Other events, resources shared by local partners
* MUHL open positions: interviews being held this week for the Community Organizer and Project Director positions

6:20 **Mini-grant Updates/Applications**

* Little Library location discussion – Kathleen Margiotta (Town of Morristown)
	+ Kathleen has been working with Rich (MC Habitat) on community projects, including the Morristown clean-up day (which had the most people that ever participated [290] people attend this year)
	+ Kathleen has been working on finding locations for the two mini-lending libraries.
	+ One proposal for placing the mini-library is at the Morristown Housing Authority, Manahan Village.
	+ MUHL has had trouble connecting with anyone at Morristown Housing Authority. Kathleen offered to introduce MUHL in her meeting next week with the new Executive Director, Keith Kinnard. And will ask to have a liaison from the Housing Authority to attend the MUHL coalition meetings.
	+ Kathleen asked the group what needs she should present on MUHL
		- Kathleen will introduce Keith Kinnard to Michelle Roers.
* All in Landlords workshop at Drew University in October – funding request from Morris County Fair Housing Committee, mini-grant application will be circulated via email for approval.

6:30 **Ice Breaker**

* MUHL attendees broke up into three groups and spent time discovering three things that each sub-group member had in common.

7:00 **Morristown United Overview: PowerPoint and discussion**

* Powerpoint: Linda and Maria reviewed the overview of MUHL as a committee, as well as discussed the mission/priorities of the coalition (affordable housing, improve the condition of existing homes, improve the community infrastructure).
* Discussion/Updates:
	+ Habitat for Humanity received approval to build picnic areas in Pocahontas Park, which MUHL funded through one of the mini-grants. Habitat will need volunteers to assemble the picnic areas. Rich to follow up with details regarding date/time of volunteer opportunity.
	+ Habitat for Humanity also has funds to perform home repairs, primarily for homeowners, but will address safety risks for renters, including the installation of smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

7:15 **Feedback – Community Engagement**

* Street Captains will share their findings from engaging their neighbors
	+ One street captain shared that Parking is a challenge for residents on Vail Place
		- Discussions formed around forming a committee separate from MUHL to focus on parking, as MUHL’s mission is housing.
* Feedback centered around Housing needs in Census Tract 435:
	+ Residents shared personal testimonials of challenges in renting which include increasingly high rents, landlords threatening to call immigration, withholding security deposits upon moving out, being denied for an apartment because of having a child with special needs, unfinished rooms, fire alarms not working, etc. Because of the lack of affordable housing in the census tract, some residents may be interested in affordable housing in other areas of Morris County, but not aware of those opportunities.
* General Feedback/Questions:
	+ Question: What is the difference between Habitat for Humanity and Morristown Housing Authority?
		- Habitat for Humanity provides home ownership opportunities for low income households, whereas Morristown Housing Authority is comprised of rental apartments, where tenants will pay 30% of their income towards rent to ensure that rent is affordable.
	+ Proposed to break out during coalition meetings into three groups to focus on the housing needs for the following three populations: Home Owners, Renters in subsidized housing, renters in non-subsidized housing because the needs of each group will look different.

**7:45 Resources**

* Members of the coalition are encouraged to bring information such as fliers and pamphlets to share with the Street Captains

**Next steps:**

* + Street Captains are to gather information regarding housing needs from their neighbors prior to the next meeting in order to assess the collective needs of the community.
	+ After we identify the challenges, we will need to figure out which solutions to present to the Town Council.
	+ Reschedule the previous tenant workshops held by MUHL, as residents in attendance of the September MUHL meeting would be interested in attending and inviting their neighbors. Trainings will help empower residents to advocate for their rights as tenants.

8:00 **Close**

**Next meeting: October 22nd, 2018 – 6:00 – 8:00 PM**