



7801 S. State Street, 2nd FL  
Chicago, IL 60619  
773.644.1451  
Greaterchathaminitiative.org

**Greater Chatham Initiative  
Youth and Support Services Committee Meeting  
Held at the Urban Partnership Bank  
7801 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60619  
Friday, May 4, 2018 – 10:00-11:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by GCI Program Coordinator Ashley Casiello. Individuals in attendance introduced themselves:

Valerie Lyons, Greater Grand Crossing Park  
Derris Cameron, GAGDC  
Ernest Sanders, Solve Smart Cities  
Nedra Sims Fears, Executive Director of GCI

**Previous Minutes**

Ratification of April 6 minutes has been tabled until the June meeting.

Because of low attendance, the agenda was forgone and replaced with open discussion.

**Greater Grand Crossing Park**

Valerie Lyons of the Greater Grand Crossing informed the Greater Chatham Initiative that her park served as a communication hub for the community, with residents asking for information about everything from park programs to where they should vote. This occasionally poses a problem for Lyons because she is not equipped to assist residents in all of these areas. Particularly, she noted that she could use more resources around sexual and mental health, apprenticeship programs, and educational supports outside of school. She also noted that while children and youth frequent the space, adults often do not. For the space to be adequately utilized, parent engagement is critical. GCI would like to both support Lyons as much as possible by providing information in any topic that she currently does not have, as well as take some of the pressure off Lyons and the park by disseminating information about resources and the community through its own portal.

**Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation**

Derris Cameron from the Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation discussed his work with the Auburn Gresham Gold Program, which focuses on improving schools within Auburn Gresham. This program provides wrap-around supports to schools, including health services, to help students and their families succeed. Two schools, Cook and Perspectives, serve as health hubs, and buses are provided for children at the other schools, so they can also access the hubs. Cameron stated that even though these hubs give families access to free health care, they are underutilized because families have difficulty understanding and completing the forms necessary to participate.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

The next Youth and Support Service meeting is July 6, 2018.