

**York Road Partnership
General Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2018**

St. Mary's of the Assumption Church Hall – 5502 York Road

Meeting was called to order at 7:23 pm by President Donna Blackwell after a community pot luck dinner.

First order of business: YRP Annual Elections

- Last call for Membership Forms
- Maria McSweeney Anderson announced that there were 4 new member organizations
- Slate was read by Curt Schwartz:
 - Officers
 - President- Donna Blackwell, Winston Govans
 - Vice President- Francesco Legaluppi, Villages of Homeland East
 - Treasurer- Curt Schwartz, Richnor Springs
 - Corresponding Secretary- Leila Kohler-Frueh, Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake
 - Recording Secretary- Kristie Hazard, Homeland
 - At-Large Members
 - Carol Rice, Guilford
 - Nia Govan, Wilson Park North
 - Phyllis Gilmore, Woodbourne-McCabe
 - Poonam Mukherjee, Govans Library
- Voting Members asked to stand
 - Aye- Approx. 15
 - Nay- 1

June 6th meeting will be a Candidates Forum

- Emails will be sent out inviting candidates for the following offices to attend the forum
 - State Senator
 - States Attorney
 - State Delegates
 - Clerk of Court
 - Sheriff
- Candidates will be required to submit a written response to one question
 - Candidates and proxies will NOT be allowed to attend if response is not submitted
 - Responses will be printed and distributed to attendees
- Candidates will not have the opportunity to address the attendees as a group
- Tables will be setup along the perimeter of the room to allow attendees to personally meet candidates and ask questions
- Also noted:
 - League for Women Voters hosting forum on May 23
 - Early voting begins Thursday, June 14, 2018 through Thursday, June 21, 2018
 - Primary June 26

Council Bill Henry then spoke about his and others efforts over the last 2-3 years to make York Road a Business Improvement District

- Currently have a Retail Business District License which has been in place since the 1980s
- Fees are minimal and charged to the business operator
 - Fees generate \$45,000-50,000 annually and funds are managed by Govanstowne Business Association
 - Funds are not sufficient to make significant changes to York Road
- Changing to a Business Improvement District will provide more income than an RBDL
 - Taxes all commercial properties on the corridor and 400 feet east and west off the corridor regardless of whether or not a business is actually operating at the property
 - Property owner could pass on to tenant
 - Non-profits would be exempt BUT could donate to the fund
- All revenue generated will be managed by a board made up of property owners that is elected by property owners
- Example of what funds could be used for
 - Cleaning and trash removal
 - Facade updates
 - Marketing materials
 - Security
- Councilman Henry is working on initial Board as well as legislation
- Property owners will need to ratify the legislation
 - Will need slightly more than a majority (52-58%) of RESPONDENTS to approve to ratify
- Councilman Henry will most likely attend the July meeting with an update
- Hopes to have wrapped up by end of year

Various community event announcements were made.

Meeting was adjourned by President Donna Blackwell at approximately 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Kristie Hazard, Recording Secretary

All meetings are open to the public.