

**York Road Partnership
Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2019**

President Donna Blackwell called the meeting to order at 7:15

1. Business Spotlight: Barb Dent, Dan Pontious shared information about TGQ Cuts at York and Bellona. Dan was pleased with his haircut. Prices are on their website. They serve children and adults of all genders.

2. Capital Improvement Program Requests for YRP Area:

Donna Blackwell, Vidushani Jayalal, Sandi McFadden, Barb Dent, Lisa O'Reilly and Stephanie Geller shared details about meetings that the York Road Partnership had with City Agencies to follow up on letter sent with requests for inclusion in the City's Capital Improvement Project (CIP). YRP submitted requests for CIP funding from Rec and Parks, Dept of Transportation, Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) and Dept of Housing and Community Development.

A group of YRP members came together for many ad hoc meetings to craft the requests.

- A. Rec and Parks: Sandy McFadden shared that a small group met with Director Reginald Moore and got commitments to move forward to approve the Dewees Park Master Plan (including the memorial garden, a walking path, and to feature Dewees in its materials. We are getting new playground equipment, resurfacing and new trees and other park equipment at Dewees and Alhambra Park.
- B. DOT: Donna shared about our requests: Designated safe route between Govans Library and Govans Elementary via Lortz Lane, synchronized lights, a traffic study for York Road, increased lighting and tree pits. They also shared 77 311 requests with DOT and asked that they follow up on them. The group felt dismissed and unheard by DOT but will be following up.
- C. BDC: Donna shared that YRP requested funds for more façade improvements and for inclusion in a pilot program to help new businesses – Neighborhood Commercial Corridor Improvement program. No real commitments were gained – BDC says they have no funds this year but seemed positive about working with us in future years. Stephanie Geller shared about work to create a Community investment Fund where residents can pool funds to purchase property for community use. The Federal Reserve in Richmond has invited YRP to a pitch competition for this issue.
- D. DHCD: A small YRP group met with Michael Braverman and Bob Pipik. Ask: targeted investment and targeted code enforcement (with BPD – nuisance properties) on hypervacant blocks like 500 Tunbridge, support implementation of Healthy Neighborhoods and Vacants to Value and the Middle Neighborhood strategy. YRP asked that the burnt down vacants on 5600 Govane be demolished. DHCD committed to communicating DHCD's support of Healthy neighborhoods and targeted code enforcement. Further, they suggested that we are be in communication with Braverman and the deputies around code enforcement issues.

Note: Peter Duvall of Strong City holds a semi-annual code enforcement meeting that people are encouraged to attend to get and share information about vacant and blighted houses with the DHCD code enforcement attorney. Email pduvall@strongcitybaltimore.org for more information.

E. There will be a follow up meeting with Mayor Young this month to push for the following priorities:

Rec and Parks: Dewees updated playground, fitness trail and

DHCD: Mid Govans – designate as Healthy Neighborhood

BDC – implementation dollars for the YRP Commercial Vision Plan

DOT – improve pedestrian level lighting on corridor

Notes: This important work to hold the city accountable is powered by YRP volunteers!

Everyone is encourage to attend:

YRP Committee meetings: Housing, Youth Development, Public Safety and Business Engagement.

Nov 13 – there will be a meeting Nov 13 6 pm to develop a state agenda. Dinner provided.

Several announcements were shared.