



**York Road Partnership
Leadership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 11, 2020
6:30-8:00pm**

Present: Chris Forrest, Phyllis Gilmore, Carol Rice, Karen DeCamp, Stephanie Geller, Andy McNeely, Lisa O'Reilly, Donna Blackwell, Sandi McFadden, Carolyn Anewich, Cedric Crump, Nichole Battle, Vidushani Jayalal, Leila Kohler-Freuh, Dan Pontious

1. Chris Forrest welcomed attendees.
2. Carol Rice and Chris gave an update on Fiscal Sponsorship. The decision has been made to move to a new fiscal sponsor, which will likely be GEDCO or the Baltimore Civic Fund. Vidushani shared that the Civic Fund may not be taking new clients.
3. Proposed Human Crematorium at Vaughn Greene (VG): upcoming activities will include a meeting with VG reps, a meeting with 43rd delegation to strategize, flyering of the east side neighborhoods closest to VG so that they are aware of the proposed crematorium/invite them to be involved, a YRP informational meeting with neighbors, then a large turnout meeting with VG. Lisa O'Reilly offered to develop a crematorium FAQ.
4. Marie and Vidushani Jayalal (from Councilman Conway's office) gave DOT updates: small group met with Jed Weeks of Bikemore about the idea of not installing new medians in York Road so that it leaves open the possibility of future Bus Rapid Transit in the middle lane. The York Road traffic study will be happening and a group is being assembled by Marie McSweeney to work on this. The Streetscaping south of 43rd is delayed with a 2022 completion date and there are efforts to move medians out of that project too (since it was designed before the city's Complete Street initiative). INSPIRE project is moving to close/improving Lortz Lane as a safe route for Govans Elem students to get to/from the Govans Library. Heritage Smokehouse has signed a support letter.

Vidushani is continuing to work with DOT to get crosswalks and other pedestrian improvements. Baltimore Development Corporation will be granting funds to a local artist to do a decorative crosswalk at Benninghaus. This will benefit pedestrians generally, businesses and Govans Elem students.

5. Marie, Nichole Battle, Chris, Karen and Erin O’Keefe will be meeting next week to draft a YRP strategic plan and 2021 calendar for the leadership to review.
6. Committees: Chris is working on solidifying committee leadership and hoping each committee can have 2 co-chairs and a secretary.
7. There is a proposal to open a rental/party hall in the property between Full Tilt and MAACO. Nichole Battle met with the business owner and Lisa and Chris will be meeting with her to find out more about the business and ask her to sign an MOU with YRP to be sure they are good neighbors.
8. Safe Streets update: Vidushani shared that she and Mark Conway are urging the city to move on the vacant building notice so that the process of getting the building (that was hit by a car) can be fixed or put into a receivership. There is a delay in contracting from the city for Baltimore Community Mediation Center’s Safe Streets program so that is causing a delay in hiring staff.
9. There was discussion about "design for distance" structure in front of Full Tilt which is creating access issues for persons with mobility concerns. Recommended action is for people to bring concerns to Vidushani.