

**York Road Partnership
Leadership Committee Meeting
October 14, 2020
Via Zoom**

Minutes

Attending: Chris Forrest, Phyllis Gilmore, Marie McSweeney, Nicole Battle, Carol Rice, Karen DeCamp, Nia Govan, Stephanie Geller, Donna Blackwell, Denise Blackwell

1. Retreat Planning: Leadership Retreat will be held this Sat. Oct 17 and Oct 24 9am-12noon. This week's will be at Dewees Park. More details to come.
2. Safe Streets: Phyllis reported on the meeting with new Exec. Director of Baltimore Community Mediation (BCMC), Ericka Bridgeford. BCMC operates Safe Streets Woodbourne McCabe. The community seeks a regular meeting and transparency and one was set for the third Thursday of the month. They hope to be fully staffed by December. The Safe Streets building that was hit by a truck a few months back was discussed with no clear update yet. There is still an outstanding question that the community has: How was the decision made to put Safe Streets at this location?
3. Wolves Den: This is a motorcycle club that is using the property at the former Towers Lounge at York and Cold Spring. They communicated with the community that they were primarily a service organization and would reach back to the community to have a dialogue with their leadership. They have been holding parties and charging people to drink and smoke there. There has been a disagreement with the owner of the salon next door. They were shut down for operating without proper permits. Wolves Den is now seeking a zoning change to operate as a social club. Wilson Park is asking YRP for a letter of opposition to their zoning request. The Leadership voted to write a letter of opposition to the zoning board (in support of Wilson Park's position).
4. Meetings with City Agencies: Marie reported on meetings with the Baltimore Development Corporation regarding YRP's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) letter. Stephanie volunteered to touch base with Christina Moore of BDC after each YRP Business Engagement Committee meeting. Marie also reported about the meeting with the Department of General Services (DGS) who operate 5225 York Road as well as the Yard/substation on the south end of the corridor. DGS was amenable to our requests to dialogue about programming in 5225 and about trees and other improvements at the substation.
5. YRP Committees: Chris discussed how he is thinking about committees. He is advocating for each committee to have 2 co-chairs and a secretary who will take and share notes. Marie has a document on the YRP Googledrive called YRP Leadership/Org Chart with committee rosters and possible future leaders. Chris stressed that we need to always be developing new leaders.
Committees and possible chairs are:
 - Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization: Chairs Donna Blackwell and Dan Pontious
 - Public Safety: Possible Chairs Cedric and Michael James (Radnor Winston, former police officer)
 - Business Engagement: Possible Chair, Tyler Derrith, Lisa O'Reilly
 - Public Space and Greening: Helene Barry wants to step back. Kathy DeKoven

- Public Spaces and Greening: Heleene Perry wants to step back, Kathy Bronawn
- Youth Development: Nia would like to step back and Chris has asked Andy McNeely

Stephanie suggested a Zoom open house for the committees to engage new people in the community and share the work, strategy, context and accomplishments of the committees, ask folks that attend what they would be excited for the committees to be working on.

NEXT LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING: Wednesday, November 11, 2020