

## York Road Partnership General Meeting

October 7, 2020

### Minutes

1. President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and attendees all introduced themselves.

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2. Marie Anderson, Nia Govan, Donna Blackwell and Dan Pontious shared about the work done by a group of YRP leaders and staffed by Marie to recommend Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects to City Agencies. The group met and decided to focus this year on possible capital projects in the neighborhoods surrounding Walter P. Carter Elem/Middle, which is being reconstructed. The idea is to leverage this investment to bring additional investment by the City to the area.

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Letters advocating projects were sent to following agencies:

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--DGS: YRP is recommending repair of the salt building at the rear of the property on York Rd

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--Public Works and Rec and Parks - YRP is advocating for a recreation facility along with stormwater management

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--Dept of Transportation: YRP is recommending investment in crosswalks and other infrastructure for safe

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--Dept of Housing and Community Development: YRP is asking for \$1m for homeowner repairs and for DHCD to focus its middle neighborhood strategy on the east side of York. YRP is also highlighting the development sites at the old bowling alley and at the Guilford Elementary.

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--Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC): YRP is urging BDC to focus business development, and facade improvement on the Southern end of York Road as well as commercial corridor funds.

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Another letter was sent to Council President and likely new Mayor Brandon Scott summarizing the agency asks. The group has requested meetings with agencies as well as with Council Pres. Scott.

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3. Dan Pontious presented about the Baltimore Regional Neighborhood Initiative (BRNI - pronounced "Bernie") - state funding for mostly capital projects. A group of YRP leaders worked with Erin O'Keefe to analyze local organizations' application for this state funding. The team included Sandi McFadden, Donna Blackwell, Phyllis Gilmore, Chris Forrest. Any organizations applying for funding were excluded from the scoring group.

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The group devised an application scoring method and is recommending the following projects:

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--funding for the new GEDCO HQ at 5207 York Rd

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--funding for Rebuilding Together to do home repairs for 40 seniors in our area

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--funding for Peter Duvall at Strong City Baltimore to work with neighborhoods to drive down the number of vacant properties

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--funding for Habitat for Humanity for rehabbing Woodbourne McCabe properties for homeownership

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4. Community Investment Trust Concept; Chris Forrest shared a video about the Portland, OR effort and the idea to pursue this concept for the York Rd area. The initial work is to bring financial education to area residents. Stephanie Geller of Community Wealth Builders is the staff leader of this project. The idea is to build an organization that can acquire real estate that will be controlled by the community.

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5. Karen DeCamp shared that the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home has applied to the Maryland Department of the Environment for an air quality permit to install a human crematorium at its site on York Road. The next step is a DOE informational meeting - scheduled for Monday November 2 7pm (virtual) and an in-person meeting at Vaughn Greene Monday November 2, 7pm (limited number of people can be accommodated). Notices will be shared by DOE soon. Karen DeCamp will share details once she gets them with the YRP listserv. She is also organizing a virtual pre-meeting with interested people and inviting elected officials.
6. Several announcements were shared.