

**York Road Partnership
General Meeting September 1, 2021
Via Zoom
Minutes**

1. President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 38 participants.
2. **YRP Values statement:** Chris shared the draft of a YRP values statement. The membership voted to approved the values statement with 12 member votes for.
3. Captain Saunders of the Northern Police District introduced herself and gave an update. There is a Commanders meeting next Wednesday. Information will be shared on the YRP listserv on how to join that meeting.
4. **Winston Middle Building** - is now surplus and is being offered by the City for development. Malik Jordan of the Woda Cooper Co. shared that his organization has submitted a letter of interest for developing the building into housing and community space with some emphasis on workforce development.
5. **Committee updates:**
 - a. **Public Safety** - Chris shared that the committee is spending the next couple of meetings setting their goals looking at not just crime, but also street lights, traffic safety, etc). New members are welcomed.
 - b. **Youth Development** - Andy McNeely shared that the committee had a meeting last week to narrow down to 4 goals: 1) work on Walter P Carter and Guilford school merger and helping that process, 2) continue to advocate for more safe spaces for opportunity youth, 3) publicize job opportunities for youth in the area, and 4) bring more sports programs to the corridor. In response, the Dewees Rec director added a Karate class. Committee meets the 3rd Wed of the month at 6:30.
 - c. **Housing and Community Revitalization** - Donna Blackwell and Dan Pontious shared that the committee is meeting regularly with City DHCD to follow up on access to resources for target blocks of 500 block of Tunbridge and 5600 block of Govane. The committee is doing a housing survey to look at vacant homes, code violations. This will help the committee prioritize efforts and advocacy.
 - d. **Business Engagement** - Chris Forrest shared that the community met with the new owners of the Crown Station. They have made some positive changes there.

The committee is discussing future work including a business survey and spotlighting businesses. The committee is looking at defining rules of engagement and finding some training. Meetings are the 3rd Thurs at 7 pm. Malik Jordan offered to join a committee meeting to talk about the facade improvement program. Business owner Trudy McNair reported that she has used the program and that it was helpful and positive.

- e. **Public Spaces and Greening** - Marie Anderson reported on the Govans Urban Forest (this is the protected forest between the CVS and the Govans Boundary Methodist Church). A project is underway to increase the number of native plants there. There are 2 upcoming volunteer days Sept 11 and 18. Helene Perry reported that the committee has a goal of making the corridor as green as possible and regularly updates the tree inventory and makes sure dead trees get replaced. Marie also reported that the committee is looking at how YRP can support the Radnor Winston residents who have been maintaining the landscaping at the Post Office.
6. **Crematorium Update:** Sandi McFadden and Karen DeCamp shared that there have been two hearing sessions (Aug 10 and 24) on the proposed human crematorium for Vaughn Greene Funeral Services, 4905 York Road. There is one more hearing date Thurs Sept 16 at 1:00pm where the attorney for the funeral home will be given more time to finish his presentation. At the August 24 hearing, the community was able to present its case with the YRP being represented by Community Law Center and with testimony by five local residents (including a local resident who works for the US Army and is an expert on incinerators and air quality). The hearings can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHAAa8zfKf5XNHtT0AIGsNUHzbYTZN3cW>
7. Darnyle Wharton from the States Attorney Office introduced himself as the new community liaison.
8. **ARPA Update:** Dan Pontious reported that he and Chris are asking that committees work over the next month to identify projects that could be funded by the American Rescue Plan and that we discuss recommendations at the October 5 meeting. Projects have to be at least \$250k and the organization has to be established to handle that kind of infusion. The project has to also address economic recovery from COVID. Councilman Conway, along with other Council members have the ability to “goldstar” projects.
9. **Invest York Road Update:** Chris encouraged people to sign up for the financial education classes being offered.
10. **New Govans Elementary School:** Sandi McFadden reported that the brand new Govans Elementary opened successfully this week!

11. **Erin O’Keefe leaving Loyola** - Marie Anderson shared that Erin is leaving Loyola for a new position at the France Merrick Foundation. There will be a send-off event at the Govans Farmers Market Wed Sept 8 from 3-6 with a program at 5pm

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ALL:

Please make sure you are a member of our email listserv to get all the latest updates! Go to www.googlegroups.org and search for York Road Partnership. You may request to join the listserv

To see how to contact each committee and the meeting times, please visit the YRP Website: <https://yorkroadpartnership.org/committees>

Next Meeting Wed October 6, 2021 at 7:15 via Zoom. All are welcome.