

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

1. President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were about 45 participants.
2. **Member Votes:**
 - a. Marjorie Lane Apartments: Marie McSweeney Anderson relayed that the Evesham Park neighborhood has asked York Road Partnership to join them in opposing a proposal to the Board of Municipal Zoning Appeals (BMZA) to turn an apartment building on Marjorie Lane into a 32-bed (two per bedroom) residential drug treatment facility, generally staffed by one person. After some questions and discussion, two voting members said they would abstain because of not yet feeling informed enough on the issue. Three voting members voted to support Evesham Park, short of the four required given attendance. As BMZA will not consider the proposal for months, YRP will consider the issue at a future meeting.
 - b. ARPA letters of support: Two entities, Loyola University and Invest York Road, are asking for YRP support for proposals to Baltimore City for American Rescue Plan funds. Loyola is seeking \$676,486 to fund public art programming, corridor clean & green programming, and increased commercial pedestrian lighting. Invest York Road is seeking \$667,700 to establish a rotating purchase fund to start buying property on the commercial corridor. 11 voting members supported YRP letters of support for the proposals.
3. **YRP Updates:**
 - a. Crematorium: Karen DeCamp shared that the BMZA approved the proposed crematorium at the Vaughn Greene Funeral Home with only three conditions -- that it will follow all applicable laws, will only take bodies from Vaughn Greene Funeral Homes, and that it will burn only human remains. They would not limit it only to the York Road location, require a website to disclose required operating temperature and pollution information, or restrict it to "Type 4" waste, which would truly restrict it to human tissue. BMZA will next issue a written decision, and then YRP will have 30 days to appeal that decision to District Court.
 - b. YRP 2022 Legislative Agenda: Brian Davis shared that he has asked YRP committee chairs to submit their proposed 2022 State legislative priorities before the upcoming December 13 YRP Leadership meeting so they can be discussed there.
4. **YRP's 2021 Year in Review**: Marie showed a delightful video of YRP's significant 2021 highlights and accomplishments!

5. YRP Committee Awards:

- a. Public Safety: Chris Forrest presented this award to the Northern District and Sgt. Amy Streett for their leadership on public safety in the corridor.
- b. Youth Development: Chris presented this award to committee co-chair Andy McNeely for his commitment and passion to our corridor's youth.
- c. Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization: Co-chairs Donna Blackwell and Dan Pontious presented this award to committee member Sandi McFadden for her commitment to tackling vacant homes and home repair in the corridor's neighborhoods.
- d. Business Engagement: Stephanie Geller and Lisa O'Reilly presented this award to committee member Tyler Derreth for his diligent work on Invest York Road.
- e. Public Spaces and Greening: Co-Chairs Marie McSweeney Anderson and Helene Perry presented this award to Rebuilding Together Americorps VISTA Andrea Franchini for her work on the Govans Urban Forest.
- f. Local Business Award: Marie presented this award jointly to Illicit Rag, Full Tilt, Clark Burger, and Real Deal Jamaican & American Carryout.
- g. President's Award: Chris Forrest presented this award to Marie McSweeney Anderson for her ten years of above-and-beyond commitment to the corridor.

6. Announcements:

- a. Dorothy Stokes highlighted her organization, Tomorrow's Promise, at 5900 York Road and an upcoming Christmas Giveaway at the Govans Library.
- b. Trudy McNair said that Therapeutic Wellness Center has purchased 4705-4707 York Road for use as a treatment program. A number of people expressed interest in meeting in the coming week to discuss possible action at the State level in 2022.
- c. Phyllis Gilmore said that 609 Woodbourne Ave. has been purchased for an assisted living facility.

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 Wednesday January 5, 2022 at 7:15 via Zoom. All are welcome.