

**York Road Partnership
Leadership Board Meeting
March 22, 2021
Via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Chris Forrest, Phyllis Gilmore, Marie Anderson, Karen DeCamp, Carol Rice, Andy McNeely, Dan Pontious, Donna Blackwell, Lisa O'Reilly, Stephanie Geller, Nichole Battle, Helene Perry, Cedric Crump, Marie Anderson, Sandi McFadden

1. **Election:** A nominating committee consisting of Marie Anderson, Carol Rice and Donna Blackwell has formed. The current board have all agreed to stay on another year. Slate will be announced at the April meeting and nominations will be taken from the floor. The election will take place in May. The board reviewed the list of organizational members who have returned their updated member form. Karen and Marie will reach out after the April meeting to any organizations that have not returned their form designating a representative and alternate.

2. **Committee Updates**
 - a. **Youth Development:** Andy reported that Phyllis Gilmore is now a co-chair. There is interest from several entities in use of the surplus Winston and Guilford school buildings. We are monitoring and need to come up with a process by which YRP determines what entity to support.
 - b. **Housing and Neighborhood Development:** Donna reported that the committee is planning a housing workshop with resources for their "target" blocks of 500 Tunbridge and 5600 Govane - to help residents connect to services the city offers like HUBS, the Light program, etc.
 - c. **Public Spaces and Greening:** 1st volunteer cleanup day was this past Saturday. April 17 and May 1 are the next ones -- there are about 50 Loyola students signed up and we need group leaders. The DOT York Road Study group has formed and has put together a survey to get feedback to inform the study. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeV0hRbjj7qeyJUPF-hdzPLGRxSFntOJw3b5oDOjaW7WnxzKw/viewform>
Please call 311 on businesses to report trash on business properties, especially national chains: CVS, Family Dollar, Precision Tune, Advanced Auto. Save the service request number and share with Councilman's office: Mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov. Family Dollar and CVS have been getting cited by the city for trash on their properties.
 - d. **Public Safety:** Cedric shared that Defender Technologies presented their system of 360 degree cameras like the Eastern Ave system (funded by Abell). Cedric shared that it would be difficult to have YRP owning cameras. The next steps are to talk to the Abell Foundation as well as get information from Southeast CDC on

the Eastern Ave camera system. In addition, we need to get more lighting on York Road.

- e. **Business Engagement:** Lisa shared about the financial education through Community Wealth Builders, the group that is partnering with YRP on this initiative called Invest York Road - it will be 5 sessions led by local people who have applied. Dan shared a concern that there is real risk in real estate investment and that there had not been enough transparency in sharing the numbers on feasibility. Nichole is asking who is monitoring the grant? Who will be receiving the grants? Stephanie and Chris clarified that the first grant for the Financial Education class was \$10,500 and was run through Community Wealth Builders. The second grant will come to YRP directly once we move to a new fiscal sponsor.

Lisa reported that Carroll Fuels has regained control of the Crown Station on the corner of Winston and York, They anticipate putting \$300,000 into the station. There is a new operator who is open to meeting with YRP. It will be at least 8 weeks before they can re-open again under a new name.

3. **Fiscal Sponsorship:** Chris reported that there have been conversations with Banner Neighborhoods, MD Philanthropy Network, GEDCO and The Progressive Fund about possibly becoming our fiscal sponsor. The goal is to have this completed by the end of April

4. **Crematorium Update:** Karen reported that she will be organizing a core group meeting and is seeking to get all the signs out in the community. She asked to be reimbursed for the lawn signs and the application fee for representation by the Community Law Center. Chris will send out a request for approval to the board by email.

5. **Shining Willow Charter School request for a letter of support** - the board decided to defer any support letters until we have a defined process and more information on uses that are compatible with the Guilford covenants.