

**York Road Partnership
Leadership Board Meeting
February 22, 2022
Via Zoom**

Minutes

Present: Chris Forrest, Phyllis Gilmore, Karen DeCamp, Lisa O'Reilly, Stephanie Geller, Sandi McFadden, Donna Blackwell, Marie McSweeney, Carol Rice, Helene Perry

1. **Retreat Planning:** Chris reported back from a retreat planning meeting he, Marie, Donna and Karen held. The first section of the retreat will be a facilitated session to reconnect and build our relationships. The second section will be reviewing last year's internal goals, begin looking at this year's goals and next steps for the YRP election.
2. **Candidates for Delegate:** The group agreed that in lieu of giving various candidates time to speak at general meetings, that YRP would organize a candidate forum and develop a list of questions to ask all candidates to address. The group noted that YRP cannot endorse candidates and that we will make this clear to candidates. We will also recommend that candidates attend YRP meetings to listen and learn about community priorities and issues.
3. **State Funds for Future Projects:** the group discussed the need to begin planning in the summer for possible bond and other state fund allocations. It will be important to create a list of projects and priorities as well as a clear plan for which organizations will handle the projects and funds.
4. **Loyola updates:** Loyola hiring a PT organizer who will support the campaign for a new Business Improvement District (BID) and provide supports to businesses in recovering from the pandemic. Looking to kick off the efforts in April and then hold town halls and aim for a vote of property owners to authorize the BID at the end of August. Marie also shared that they will know soon whether or not there will be funds awarded from Congressional earmark.
5. **DOT Transportation Study:** there have been several meetings about possible designs for York Road (not funded) for car/bike/transit. There is no clear agreement on the path forward (both options that MTA has given us do not have majority support from the committee members).
6. **Crematorium Update:** Karen reported that the request for judicial appeal was filed February 3 by our pro bona attorney Andrea LeWinter and that the BMZA transcript is ready today. Karen will be sending a request to all YRP member groups to donate to YRP to cover costs of the appeal process. Community Law Center has secured YRP a

second pro bono attorney, Cyreka Jacobs to handle the YRP case at the MD Department of the Environment.

7. **Invest York Road** - Stephanie reported that there is work being done to design a logo. There are 32 people who are signed up for the next financial education workshop. Most are not in our neighborhood, so Stephanie would appreciate everyone sharing the workshops out. Andrew Connor, the consultant for Invest York Road will be convening outreach to communities - individual and group meetings and surveys.

8. **Other Items:**

- Dan reported that BUILD is launching a big campaign on vacant homes to look at moving the city forward on tackling vacant properties, and revitalization without displacement. Could there be synergy with our efforts? There is a Teach-In that BUILD is holding
- Lisa raised the issue of treatment centers and the need to convene a meeting around an influx of new centers and create a strategy. There is a meeting Tuesday about the center proposed for the 4700 block of York.