

**York Road Partnership
General Meeting March 2, 2022
Via Zoom
Minutes**

President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 50 participants on Zoom.

1. **Dollar Store Bill:** Senator Mary Washington presented about her bill, SB869, to limit Dollar Stores in the city. The bill limits density of “small box” dollar stores to at least a mile apart, requires new ones to enter into a community benefits agreement and asks the BMZA to consider impact on grocery stores when considering new proposals.

Dan Pontious moved that the YRP support Sen Washington’s bill, Carol Rice seconded. 14/14 YRP representatives voted to support.

2. **Facade Improvement Project:** Malik Jordan presented about the facade improvement project for the 5400-5700 block businesses. He showed some Neighborhood Design Center ideas for facade design elements. There were several people who voiced support for consistent theme and designs. There is \$15k per facade available for businesses to apply for.
3. **YRP Nominating Committee:** Karen DeCamp announced the formation of the nominating committee, which will put together the slate of people running for the YRP board, with elections in May. Members so far: Karen DeCamp, Lisa O’ Reilly, Cindy Camp, Bonita Cody, Mailk Jordan.

4. Committee Reports:

- a. **Public Spaces and Greening:** Marie Anderson presented on the upcoming volunteer greening days -York Road Community Days are on March 19 and 26 at 10:00am
https://www.facebook.com/events/1717860788545054?acontext=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D%7D
- b. **Public Safety:** Meets March 17 6 pm and will include a session with a Northern District sergeant as well as a discussion of challenging business including the proposal for 4705-4707 York Road - Therapeutic Wellness Service (TWS) substance abuse rehabilitation facility. General Discussion related to Treatment and Rehab Centers.
- c. **Business Engagement:** March 17, 7 pm and will do a deeper dive with the Neighborhood Design Center on the facade improvement project, discuss Invest York Road and the work to get to know the business owners.
- d. **Youth Engagement:** committee is dormant for the moment, but Sandi McFadden shared some information about Govans Elementary School including:

- The Govans robotics team won the citywide Lego League robotics competition for the third year and they won a Global Innovation Award. They will go to the state competition. Homeland resident and high school student Ira Geller has been providing support to the team
 - In a partnership with the Church of the Redeemer, children participated in The “Hi, Neighbor” program including a pen pal program
 - There will be an International Day at Govans Elem on May 21 from 12-3pm. There will be music, food trucks, and activities celebrating cultural diversity.
- e. **Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization:** Donna Blackwell reported the next meeting is March 28 at 8:30 am. The meeting will be a planning meeting for 2022 to build on the successes of the past year (including of the housing fair to connect residents of target blocks with home resources and work to reduce the number of vacant and blighted properties.

5. Announcements

- For a tour of Govans Elementary new school building contact Sandi McFadden- 443-691-0288 smcfadden@strongcitybaltimore.org - next formal tour is March 10 @ 9:00 am. She can arrange a personal tour too.
- Invest York Road Financial Education classes - learn more and sign up: <https://www.investyorkroad.org/free-classes.html>
- Maura Elwood announced that Councilman Conway’s next town hall meeting is the Tues March 22 at 6pm
- Chalonda Arrington AmeriCorps Project Coordinator with Rebuilding Together Baltimore, shared that Rebuilding Together is accepting applications for 2022 home repairs in Govans for east side neighborhoods. They would appreciate any referrals.
- Karen DeCamp reported that YRP reached its fundraising goal to pay for court and transcription costs for the appeal of the BMZA decision on the human crematorium. She thanked all the YRP organizations and individuals who contributed as well as Treasurer Carol Rice as well as Emily Finton, Bonita Cody and Kelly Maher for helping figure out how to do this fundraising quickly and efficiently.
- Marie Anderson is seeking partners to activate the 5104 York Road space at Loyola. There will be an expungement clinic March 19: Expungement Clinic at 5104 York Road from 11am to 3:00pm. Please share: [https://www.facebook.com/events/358889449443521?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A\[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D\]%7D](https://www.facebook.com/events/358889449443521?context=%7B%22event_action_history%22%3A[%7B%22surface%22%3A%22page%22%7D]%7D)
PNC Bank will begin having their mobile unit at 5104 York Road on March 23rd and will be on site 1-3pm every other Wednesday for the next year

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 April 6, 2022 at 7:15 via Zoom. All are welcome.