

**York Road Partnership
General Meeting July 6, 2022
Via Zoom
Minutes**

President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. There were 45 participants on Zoom.

1. Gia Grier McGinnis, the new director of Loyola's CCSJ introduced herself.
2. **Report from Interim Northern District Police Commander** Captain Keira Saunders presented. She shared that the new district maps will be made public soon for comment. She also presented crime statistics and will share with Chris to share with the membership.
3. **Business Improvement District** - Sarah Ceponis presented on the proposed Business Improvement District (BID). The BID would be an improvement organization focused on business interests and providing cleaning, greening and business promotion and development services. It would be funded by a property tax surcharge and would cover the all parcels bordering the corridor from Northern Parkway to 43rd St. Operations would be managed by a volunteer board of directors and an eventual executive director. The goal is to have a visible presence on the corridor, drive sales because business will be able to show their best selves. The enabling legislation has been introduced in City Council, Sarah has been hired as the organizer. In Sept/Oct, there will be "Corridor Conversation" and we anticipate Council and Mayor approval. In Nov/Dec, there will be a 30 day voting period for property owners
People can help by asking businesses if they've heard of the BID and are they attending a "Corridor Conversation". The presentation slides will be shared. There is a new website BIDyork.org.
4. **Proposed Human Crematorium** - Chris, Karen DeCamp, Cindy Camp presented about the proposed human crematorium - there is a hearing in Circuit Court Tuesday, July 12 at 9 am. Karen will send around information about how people can access the hearing. Cindy Camp has been canvassing the streets around the funeral home and is organizing a respectful picket line at Vaughn Greene the day of the hearing.
5. **Committee Reports**
Public Spaces and Greening Committee – Helene shared that Tuesday July 12 7:30 am is the committee's next tree walk to assess condition of corridor trees and decide on action.

Housing/Neighborhood Revitalization Committee - Donna Blackwell shared that the group, for the 4th year, is applying for BRNI funds for various capital projects and is

collaborating with various organizations to leverage those funds through GEDCO, the nonprofit designated to submit all the applications. Dan shared that the committee and YRP, working with GEDCO has leveraged over \$2.5 million since 2019 for corridor capital projects. This year, they are asking for \$50k for Rebuilding Together, \$300k for GEDCO to develop their new building at 401 Woodbourne and \$_____. In addition, the committee is applying for \$16-20k in funds to retain the services of Peter Duvall, to reduce the number of vacant properties on the corridor. On June 4, the committee collaborated with Kingdom Worship Center for a housing resource fair to spread the word about resources for neighbors who may need assistance. The committee is also collaborating with GEDCO and the Planning Department to gather input for the next City Consolidated Plan. More information about the comprehensive planning process: <https://www.planourbaltimore.com>

Public Safety Committee - Chris reported that Sgt Veney will join to strategize on crime issues on the corridor. A Safe Streets rep will join. The Public Safety and Business Engagement Committee

Business Engagement Committee – Sarah Ceponis will join to talk in more detail about the BID. Malik Jordan will join to discuss the facade improvement projects.

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.

Please “Like” us on Facebook!

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

If there is a meeting, event, or resource that you would like highlighted please email yorkroadpartnership@gmail.com or you can post directly to the YRP listserv by emailing yrpartnership@googlegroups.com

Next Meeting Wednesday, August 3, 2022 at 7:15 in person with a hybrid option. Location TBD. All are welcome.