

**York Road Partnership  
General Meeting September 19, 2022  
Via Zoom  
Minutes**

**Present:** Chris Forrest, Christopher Pisano, Helene Perry, Kyra McDonnell, Stephanie Geller, Carol Rice, Dan Pontious

**Absent:** Donna Blackwell, Phyllis Gilmore, Anne Lansey, Cindy Camp

President Chris Forrest called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

1. **The October General meeting** will be moved to Thursday, October 13 because the regular first Wed of the month is Yom Kippur this year. Karen agreed to contact Govans Presbyterian for space.

**2. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Public Spaces and Greening:** Helene reported that the committee needs a chair. Kyra is taking over communication for the committee until a new chair is identified.  
Upcoming Loyola volunteer days.
- b. **Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization:** Dan reported.
  - MTA is presenting about north-south transportation line concepts and there is an online survey and 2 virtual public meetings.
  - The committee is looking at identifying point people or “block captains” on target blocks that have vacant homes who would be willing to communicate with neighbors and be in touch with the committee around the issue of vacant homes and homeowner repair resources.
  - The City and GEDCO are collaborating on a public meeting to get input on the City Comprehensive Plan Oct 20.
- c. **Business Engagement Committee:**
  - Chris is working on an idea of a YRP celebration at Full Tilt that would also include an opportunity for other York Road businesses to showcase themselves. Chris is looking for volunteers to help organize this. Christopher Pisano volunteered. Kyra said Malik and Sara can help as well, especially if this ties to the Business Improvement District (BID) efforts. Karen offered to help with making sure folks get signed in, are offered opportunities to connect with YRP. The end of October was identified as a good time - either Monday or Wed.
  - Christopher Pisano reported that there will be an award of \$7500 to the Food Market at 5417 for facade improvement. The design ties into the York Road bird mural theme.
- d. **Youth Development:** Chris reported that he and Cindy Camp (co-chair) are still compiling a list of youth resources and activities as well as planning on support for Dewees Rec Center. Kyra reported that there are activities planned for the fall at Dewees and the Planning Department presented information recently to the Friends of Dewees about the tot lot project. Friends of Dewees is working on onnections between

Govans Elem and Dewees to refer children to the recreation center for the after school program.

**October Events at Dewees Park/Rec Center:**

- October 14: Fall into Dewees: Movie in the Park, hot cider, Coach will be DJing, neighborhood basketball game, pumpkin carving
  - October 22: Lights on Dewees – community engagement activity; sparkle, shine theme; paper lantern making, cooking classes. Carry on traditions for Dewees and make new ones
- Rec is open every day until 9pm

**3. Human Crematorium:** Karen reported that we are still waiting on Judge Fletcher-Hill's decision in our appeal to circuit court of the BMZA decision. Councilman Conway is working with our members of possible City legislation to limit where human crematoriums can be placed in the city.

4. Loyola has received its federal notice of disbursement for the earmark last week. Once that comes through, Kyra will not be able to support the Corresponding Secretary role as much because she will be supporting the projects funded by the Congressional earmark funds.

**5. Retreat:** Chris is proposing a facilitated retreat that focuses on what's going well and what we need to improve on. We would invite leaders past and present. Carol suggested Dave Kramer, Chris got a suggestion for Womb Work productions.