



SoWe Board Meeting

June 25, 2018 5:30 PM
St. Francis Room of St. Joseph Church
440 St. Joseph St. Lancaster, PA 17603

Minutes:

Attendees: Susannah Bartlett, Bianca Cordova, Gene Duncan, Dick Hecker, Ole Hongvanthong, Marie King Linares, Carole Kirchner, Stu Metzler, Martha Montes, Luis Ortega, Emerson Sampaio, Audrey Skilton, Abby Tucker, Esq.

Excused: Peter Barber, Jason Busz, Christina Di Cola, Rachel Eck, Willonda McCloud, Glen Stoltzfus

Staff: Jake Thorsen, Jeremy Young

Guests: Melissa Wardell, Karl Graybill, Julia Pelinski, Kaitlyn Degan, Matt Johnson

I. Call to order:

- a. Chairperson Duncan called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. Public Comments

- a. Matt Johnson, Chief of Staff for the Mayor, reported that the porchlight program entails a \$65.00 fee for the permitting. The city cannot revoke the entire fee, and City Council will have to grant dispensation to waive all but \$5.00 of the fee.
- b. Mayor has been canvassing in neighborhoods about smoke detectors on Beaver and S Ann. She would like to be the Ambassador of the Porch Light program by going door to door on Strawberry and St Joseph and encouraging residents to participate.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Karen Schloer moved, and Stu Metzler seconded to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2018.
- b. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. South West Neighborhood Collaborative Report

- a. Jake Thorsen reported that the SoWe Lancaster Neighborhood Collaborative, a group that was formed with the Wells Fargo money and includes LHOP as the lead, Lancaster City Allegiance, Lancaster Safety Coalition, Lancaster-Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Brightside



Opportunity Center, Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster and Lancaster Equity CDC. These organizations will meet once a month and go over the back end of the Grant reporting and everything that has been going on in SoWe. The Board will be updated on a regular basis for the sake of transparency

- b. The past month the Collaborative met with Community Wealth Partners, a consultant firm assigned by Wells Fargo to work on this idea of a collaborative.
 - c. As was the case last year, SoWe attended the Wells Fargo Foundation Regional Conference. Three Board member were invited and the Wells Fargo Foundation gifted every organization attending \$1000. The Conference gives SoWe an opportunity to interact with other communities going through some of the same processes.
 - d. Ray D'Agostino and Dan Jurman from Lancaster Equity CDC are working to purchase and renovate scattered site housing units in the SoWe neighborhood.
 - e. The participant survey was discussed last month to decide how we move forward
 - f. The SoWe bylaws were also discussed at length. The sub-committee hopes to have the by-laws document to be voted on next month or soon thereafter.
- V. **Committee Reports**
- a. Communications
 - i. Jeff Tischer shared the idea of a story bank, which would collect stories of residents and people of interest in the neighborhood to give a human angle to SoWe.
 - ii. Jeff Tischer also noted that the committee is working to empower board members to give a 30 second elevator pitch about SoWe.
 - iii. The website is moving forward.
 - iv. The bulletin board project is also moving ahead.
 - b. Community Safety
 - i. Dick Hecker reported on the June 11 police meeting, which had a relatively low attendance. Suggestions included providing childcare, food, etc. The porchlight campaign continues, and the entire neighborhood is now eligible; three more have been installed.
 - ii. Jake Thorsen and Dick Hecker met with the Lancaster Parking Authority to discuss potential contractors moving forwarded, and interviews will commence later this summer.
 - c. Economic Opportunity
 - i. Ole Hongvanthong reported that the committee met and discussed the façade improvement project. Jake Thorsen and Jeremy Young



participated in a walk on the 400 block of Manor Street to discuss upcoming projects. The committee would like to prioritize owner-occupied properties for the project. The committee would like to focus on some concentrated blocks to maximize the visual impact of the project.

- ii. Jeremy Young reported that the City put out projects on Manor Street and King Street for bid, and the bids all came back over budget.

d. Education

- i. Jake Thorsen reported that the adult education subcommittee would like to do a resource and career fair early in the fall to discuss resources that are available. Bianca Cordova reported that the Kindergarten Orientation at Price Elementary will be August 14-16 and will include student volunteers from Millersville University. The children's education committee is also planning an ice cream social later in the summer. Bianca Cordova also reported that school staff members will conduct community walks later in the summer and will distribute some school supplies, for which donations are requested. Jeff Tischer will help share information via the newsletter.

e. Housing

- i. Abby Tucker reported that the committee began discussing ideas to spend the \$250,000 Steinman Foundation grant and would like to prioritize shorter-term projects that are visible and will build excitement in the community. Habitat for Humanity will conduct a Rock the Block event later this fall that will include home repairs. The Land Bank is getting up and running. The Housing Committee also aims to hit the metrics of the plan and to allocate resources efficiently.

f. Neighborhood Connections

- i. Emerson Sampaio reported that the block party was held on Saturday, June 23 and was a success and estimates that between 300 and 400 people attended. Jeff Tischer led a round of applause for Emerson Sampaio to thank him for his leadership and planning of the event. Emerson Sampaio recognized Lapp Electric, the Boys and Girls Club, and Two Dudes Painting for their support of the event.
- ii. Emerson Sampaio also reported that National Night Out is in the planning phase and that the city is working on a neighborhood engagement strategy that will include block captains; the committee invites feedback on how that should work.



- iii. Celebrate Lancaster will be held June 29 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Binns Park.
 - iv. A block party will be held on the 600 block of St. Joseph's Street on August 11 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. conducted by that block.
 - g. Parks & Public Realm
 - i. Jake Thorsen reported that the committee discussed Art for Open Streets and Parks. The Lancaster Temporary Art Project (TAP) is discussing a project on the back of Water Street Rescue Mission.
 - ii. Jake Thorsen reported that the Clean Crew needs members after previous candidates were not able to move forward.
 - h. City Council Liaison
 - i. Martha Montes reported that City Council met on May 22 and discussed slum landlords and the context of the city's increased enforcement.
 - ii. On June 12, City Council met again and unanimously voted to approve an RCAP funding application.
 - iii. The council also held a first reading on the Roberto Clemente Park and the Southeast community is not pleased as this would take away green space for children to play.
 - iv. First reading of a resolution on fireworks near houses within the city given the fact that the State relaxed the fireworks laws.
 - v. Mayor's Report strategic planning continues to move forward.
- VI. New Business
- a. Participant Survey
 - i. Jake Thorsen provided an update on the results of the participant survey, which had a 64% response rate of people on the board and non-profit organizations which work with SoWe. Surveys will be done annually.
 - b. TreeVitalize Grant Proposal
 - i. SoWe is considering applying for a TreeVitalize Grant through the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide street trees. There is a matching funds requirement in both, in-kind and cash. and the matching requirements. Karl Graybill from Public Works said that the City submitted two letters of intent to apply for the grant, but that DCNR said that a different organization should apply because the City has gotten it a few times. The City would like SoWe to consider applying.



- ii. Motion made by Martha Montes to move forward with the grant application seconded and passed with one nay vote by Ole.
 - c. Celebrate Lancaster
 - i. SoWe participation in this event. Monies from bartender's tips coming to SoWe.
 - d. Presentation by Julia Pelsinski
 - i. Discussion of W Strawberry Block Party was selected as the Mayor's pick for one of the block parties sponsored by the Mayor. The block party tentative date is Sept 15th, 3 to 7. The event will also be sponsored by Giant. Money is donated from the Mayor's campaign funding. More information to come and help from SoWe is welcomed
 - e. A seven year, Deklan Cahill, has adopted the 500 block of St Joseph St. He has been picking up litter since he started walking. He is ecstatic over seeing his name on the sign. Youngest block adopter in the City. picking up litter since he started walking. He is ecstatic over seeing his name on the sign. Youngest block adopter in the City.
 - f. Community Days starting at Price this week. Volunteers needed.
 - g. SACA and the Southeast have received the same planning grant from the Wells Fargo Foundation as SoWe did and they are now starting the process. SoWe has offered to help mentor them as much as we can. Jack Howe is spearheading this effort. Jake Thorsen will share his contact information.
 - h. Reminders: Porch Lights, for home owner or tenant with permission of landlord. Rec. Center is story collecting. Creative Works of Lancaster is a theater group that does live theater presentation. They would like to do it at Culliton Park this year about people who live in SoWe.
- VII. Adjournment
 - a. Motion to adjourn by Dick Hecker seconded by Martha Montes.
 - b. Meeting adjourned 7:45 pm.