



SoWe Lead Board Meeting

September 24, 2018 5:30 PM
St. Joseph's Church- St. Francis Room
440 St. Joseph St. Lancaster, PA 17603

Minutes

Board Members Present: Peter Barber, Susannah Bartlett, Jason Busz, Bianca Cordova, Christina DiCola, Ole Hongvanthong, Carole Kirchner, Marie King Linares, Willonda McCloud, Stu Meltzer, Martha Montes, Luis Ortega, Karen Schloer, Jeff Tischer, Nathan Roach

Board Members Excused: Vashti Dominquez-Acosta, Gene Duncan, Rachel Eck, Christina Ortega, Vicente Ramos, Lt. Glenn Stoltzfus, Sgt. Dorsey Sumrall, Abby Tucker

1. Call to Order

Stu Meltzer called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

2. Public Comments

Mr. Meltzer invited public comments from the audience.

3. Approval of Minutes: August 27, 2018

Jeff Tischer made a motion to approve the August 27th meeting minutes. Martha Montes seconded the motion.

4. South West Neighborhood Collaborative Report

Jake Thorsen reported that collaborative discussed how as a community, we could measure displacement of residents and gentrification in the neighborhood. Mr. Thorsen stated that there will be analysis completed in coming weeks and he will update the board on its findings. Mr. Thorsen stated the Collaborative discussed the Boys and Girls Club's Lead Agency Proposal for Price Elementary School.

5. Committee Discussion/Action Items

Minutes of Committee Meetings distributed prior to tonight's meeting

▪ SoWe Community Forums-Communications

Nate Roach stated that the communication committee discussed how it could promote the SoWe programs that are working to prevent resident displacement. Mr. Roach stated that the communication committee recommends holding community forums in which the neighborhood can discuss issues in a safe and productive forum. These forums would be held once a quarter and organized by a SoWe committee. This would provide a different setting for public



interaction outside of board and committee meetings. The communications committee will continue to develop this idea. Peter Barber recommended having a facilitator to host these discussions.

- Coffee with A Cop - Community Safety

Mr. Dick Hecker informed the board that Coffee with a Cop will be held on October 3rd 9-11am at McDonalds on W. King St. Mr. Hecker stated the Safety Committee discussed sponsoring another Coffee with a Cop event in SoWe. Mr. Hecker stated that the committee is looking to be creative in ways to build police-community relations since the sector meetings have held little attendance.

Jeff Tischer recommended that the community forum proposed by the communications committee could serve as a venue to hold a police sector meeting. Willonda McCloud stated the Bright Side will host Coffee with a Cop and Painting with the Police.

Mr. Hecker informed the board that another accident occurred at the corner of W. Vine and Water St. He stated that he brought this intersection up with the traffic commission previously.

- Lancaster ArtWalk - Economic Opportunity

Ole Hongvanthong informed the board that SoWe is part of the Lancaster ArtWalk and will host a gallery at 7 New Dorwart St. Michael Manthei has donated a vacant unit he owns to be used as an art gallery. Mr. Hongvanthong stated that it is the intension of the committee to promote the space for rent and help fill a vacant unit. Mr. Hongvanthong also stated that the gallery is off the beaten path for the Lancaster ArtWalk and will encourage people to walk down Manor St and see SoWe. The gallery will have an interactive paint by numbers exhibit. Mr. Hongvanthong stated that the committee is in of volunteers to staff the gallery.

The board suggested artists that may be willing to participate in the event.

- New School Year at Price- Education

Bianca Cordova informed the board that 56 parents came to Price's open house. Many of the parents came to Price's new Parent Resource Room. Ms. Cordova explained that this room is part of the community school model and serves to answer any question a parent may have. There were 16 attendees for donuts for dads. Ms. Cordova stated that Millersville graduate student provided mental health screening for students.

Muffins with moms is scheduled for the October 10th.

- LHOP Home Buyer Assistance Program - Housing

Jake Thorsen stated that the housing committee has recommended guidelines for the LHOP Home Buyer Assistance program in SoWe. Mr. Thorsen stated that participants may be eligible



to up \$7,500 in down payment assistance for purchasing a home in the SoWe neighborhood. Mr. Thorsen stated that this program will follow the existing LHOP guidelines. He continued to state that SoWe and LHOP intend to market this program heavily to SoWe residents. Mr. Thorsen stated that there is funding to complete four loans this fiscal year.

Karen Schloer made a motion to approve funding for four down payment assistance loans up to \$7,500 through LHOP's Down Payment Assistance Program. Dick Hecker seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

- Block Captains- Neighborhood Connections

Willonda McCloud stated that the Neighborhood Connections committee discussed developing a block captain program. She stated that the committee will look to mimic existing block captains throughout the city.

Derek Smith asked the board how interested citizens could get involved in the discussion of block captains. Ms. McCloud invited Mr. Smith to attend the next Neighborhood Connections Committee.

Mr. Thorsen stated that the hope is to create a communications network, so information can be transferred to and from residents more readily. Martha Montes recommended that a job description be created.

- Trick-or-Treat Halloween Event -Parks and Public Realm

Jake Thorsen stated that the parks committee has begun to plan a Trick-or-Treat Halloween Event 10/31 6pm-8pm in Culliton Park. Mr. Thorsen stated they are looking for candy donations. Stu Metzler stated that the neighborhood connections committee discussed having a costume contest or parade during the event.

- City Council Liaison

Jeff Tischer briefed the board on City Council meetings from the past month. The City of Lancaster's Love Your Block Vista's introduced themselves to the board and discussed their project on Howard Ave. Mr. Thorsen stated that SoWe resident Sarah Sedano will be honored by the Mayor as Neighbor of the Month.

6. New Business

- Board Training – October 27th

Jake Thorsen informed the board that the SoWe Lead Board training will be held on October 27th from 8:30 to 12. Location is to be determined. Mr. Thorsen stated that the training will focus on building effective boards, organizational leadership, and diversity.

- Boys and Girls Club Lead Agency Proposal at Price Elementary



Mr. Thorsen introduced a proposal from the Boys and Girls Club to be a lead agency for a community school at Price Elementary. Mr. Thorsen stated that Boys and Girls club has requested \$35,000 to fund a part-time community school director. Karen Schloer explained the specific details of the proposal and what they hope to accomplish at Price. Ms. Schloer stated that the Community School Director will be part of the leadership team at Price and will work with parents to connect them with resources. The director will complete a needs assessment. Ms. Schloer reminded the board that there are other schools that serve the kids of the SoWe neighborhood.

Nathan Roach made a motion to approve \$35,000 to fund the Boys and Girls Club to provide a part-time community school director at Price Elementary School. Willonda McCloud seconded the motion. Karen Schloer and Bianca Cordova abstained from the vote. The board approved the motion.

7. Community Updates

- Milagro House

Christina Duncan of Milagro House, stated that Milagro House has purchased 134 S. Prince St. Milagro House plans to renovate the building for its new location. Ms. Duncan stated that she is excited for Milagro House to join the SoWe neighborhood and get involved.

- Parking Study Update

Mr. Thorsen informed the board that the contracts for the parking consultant has been signed. There will be a kick off meeting 9/26 to discuss timeline and expectations. There will be a public meeting in late October. Mr. Thorsen encouraged all to attend.

- Police Use of Force Policy Forum

Mr. Metzler announced Police Use of Force Policy Oct 3rd 6:30 City Hall.

- Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block

Mr. Metzler announced Habitat for Humanity's Rock the Block on Oct 13th 9-12. Mr. Thorsen stated that Habitat is looking for volunteers for the event.

- Brightside Fall Fest

Mr. Metzler stated that Bright Side Opportunity Center's Fall Fest will be help on Oct 13th 12-6pm. Ms. McCloud encouraged all to attend. SoWe is looking for board members to volunteer to staff the SoWe info table.

8. Adjournment

Karen Schloer made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Tischer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.