SoWe Lead Board Meeting
Minutes
July 22, 2019 5:30 PM
St. Joseph Church, St. Francis Room
418 St. Joseph St
Lancaster, PA 17603

(Audio from meetings are recorded to establish accurate meeting minutes)

1. Meeting called to order by Martha Montes at 5:32 PM

2. **Board Members Present:** Susannah Bartlett, Christina DiCola, Bianca Cordova, Rachel Eck, Dick Hecker, Ole Hongvanthong, Carole Kirchner, Marie King Linares, Stu Metzler, Martha Montes, Nate Roach, Emerson Sampaio, Audrey Skilton, Jeff Tischer

   Board Members Absent: Vasthi Dominguez-Acosta, Peter Barber, Gene Duncan, Willonda McCloud, Christina Ortega, Luis Ortega, Vicente Ramos, Karen Schloer, Sgt. Dorsey Sumrall, Abby Tucker

3. **Public Comments:** Limited to items not on tonight's agenda; limited to 3 minutes per speaker; limited to 2-3 people per topic
   No public comments

4. **SoWe Director Report**
   New fiscal year started July 1, 2019. Jake Thorsen gave a short report on SoWe accomplishments as listed on his report.

   Wells Fargo did a site visit. Discussion was based on things that are working and things that are causing struggles. The representatives went on a short tour of the neighborhood including, Culliton Park and discussed Salina Almanzar's work in the park, LHOP's renovations and some of the Façade projects. Good feedback and interest in continuing the conversation. Recognized that SoWe is setting an example for other recipient and hope that we can serve as role models to other grantees.

   Jake is meeting with each of the Board Member individually to check-in and discuss the upcoming year. Mr. Thorsen stated the yearly participant survey is open has been sent out to the board.

5. **Committee Updates:**
   - Communications – SoWe Talk: Neighborhood Conflict

Nate Roach stated the Communication committee is organizing another panel discussions with experts and residents. The topic will focus on how to be a good neighbor and how to handle

neighborhood conflict. The committee is securing a location and panelists. Other committees were invited to participate in the planning of the event.

Emerson Sampaio made a correction to the July communications meeting minutes.

- Education- Price Community School SDoL Funding

Bianca Cordova announced, Price Elementary officially has fully support from the School District of Lancaster. Price is officially a community school with a full-time community school director. Ms. Cordova introduced Natasha Ortiz, an AmeriCorps VISTA, who will be working to scale up the community school and grow the partnership with Millersville University.

- Community Safety – SoWe Walks

Dick Hecker announced that several members of the Community Safety Committee and Sgt. Donald Morant walked the neighborhood to engage neighbors. The group engaged neighbors to discuss SoWe and invite them to participate. Board members were invited to lead a walk on their block.

6. **Approval of May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

The board reached a quorum and Dick Hecker made a motion to approve the May 20, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes. Jeff Tischer seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

7. **Committee Updates Continued:**

- Economic Opportunity – Cultivate Lancaster and Manor St Celebration

Ole Hongvanthong stated that the committee did not meet in July. The Economic Opportunity committee has sponsored 10 tickets for Cultivate Lancaster, and seven are still available to SoWe residents, business owners, and/or entrepreneurs.

Dick Hecker announced that Lt. Glenn Stoltzfus has resigned from the board due to all his changing role. Police will still be represented on the board.

Mr. Hongvanthong stated the Economic Opportunity Committee is planning to host an event to celebrate the new lighting along Manor St. The committee is working out details for the event but is looking in early October.

Mr. Hongvanthong suggested that SoWe develop event sub-committees when it is hosting events. The event committees would have specific roles including an event lead and donor lead. The board discussed creating an organization-wide donor list of businesses who have donated to events in the past so all committees can share. Stu Metzler volunteered to lead the development efforts.

- Housing – Neighborhood Assistance Program Grant

Jake Thorsen announced that LHOP/SoWe are actively meeting with local businesses to secure business contributions for tax credits to support the Neighborhood Assistance Program grant. LHOP recently had a positive discussion with the state and learned that tax credits would be

awarded if contributions were secured. LHOP's applications includes funding to support Habitat's Affordable Home Repair program and pilot funding for a rental rehab program.

- Neighborhood Connections – National Night Out

Marie King Linares stated that National Night Out will be held August 6 at St. Joseph St, 4-7. The event is partnering with St. Joseph Church to host the event and provide blessing for first responders. This event is an all-hands on deck event for SoWe and board members were encouraged to volunteer.

- Parks and Public Realm – Culliton Park Partners Meeting

Rachel Eck stated that the parks committee is organizing a Culliton Park partners meeting with park stakeholders, the police, and the city. The propose of the meeting to get everyone on the same page for the renovation and timeline as well as brainstorm strategies to change the culture of the park when it reopens. The board brainstormed ideas to bring to the meeting. Ms. Eck updated the group on the timeline for the renovation.

8. New Business

a. Tool Library

Jake Thorsen stated the Neighborhood Connections Committee has been discussing the development of a tool library for the neighborhood. A sub-committee has been formed with SoWe residents, property owners, contractors and trades people to help develop the library. Mr. Thorsen stated that this idea is in the preliminary stages and its feasibility is being explored.

9. Old Business

a. SoWe Mini-Grants

Jake Thorsen stated that two mini grants have been awarded by the Neighborhood Connections Committee. Both applicants will be hosting a block party on their respected blocks. Mr. Thorsen will share the dates and times for the events.

10.Community Updates

Martha Montes announced the following upcoming community events:

a. Cultivate Lancaster 7/25/2019 Zoetropolis Cinema
b. National Night Out 8/6/2019 St. Joseph Church 4-7pm
c. Movie Night @ Culliton Park 9/12 8pm

11. Adjournment

Marie King Linares made a motion to adjourn. Jeff Tischer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 pm.