SoWe Lead Board Meeting
Agenda
June 22, 2020 5:30 PM
ZOOM Call

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of May 18th, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Committee Reports
    - Economic Opportunity – business survey
    - Education – Price Book Drive
    - Parks and Public Realm – Clean Crew
    - Neighborhood Connections
    - Housing – Homeowner Cohort
    - Reports from other chairs
4. Discussion
    - SoWe's Commitment to Equity
5. Announcements
    - Boys and Girls Club Reopening
    - Price Book Drive
        - Bag packing Monday 6/29 Volunteers needed
        - Book Drive 7/15
    - Other announcements
6. Adjournment

SoWe Lead Board Meeting
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May 18, 2020 5:30 PM
Zoom

Board Members Present: Peter Barber**,** Bianca Cordova, Christina DiCola, Gene Duncan, Rachel Eck, Dick Hecker, Ole Hongvanthong, Carole Kirchner, Marie King Linares, Stu Metzler, Willonda McCloud, Martha Montes, Donnie Morant, Cristina Ortega, Luis Ortega, Nate Roach, Emerson Sampaio, Karen Schloer, Audrey Skilton, Susannah Thorsen, Jeff Tischer, Abby Tucker

Board Members Absent: Vicente Ramos,

1. Call to Order

Willonda McCloud called the meeting to order at 5:35

2. Approval of April 27th, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Susannah Thorsen made the motion, Dick Hecker seconded the motion

3. Discussion
    a. Committee Reports

Community Safety: Sgt Donnie Morant – Recent SoWe Shootings

Shootings have been from groups of teens (15 to 17 yrs. old) that are known to each other. These are not random shootings. There are concern as to where these firearms are being accessed. Most people involved with shootings have been arrested. Drugs are involved. This is an ongoing investigation

Neighborhood Connections: Marie King Linares

Is there a way to support care givers from SoWe? Care packages, thank you cards were discussed. Committee will continue organizing and discussing idea.

Parks and Public Realm: Rachel Eck-Campbell
Gardening initiative through the Poplar Place and a Community Food stand once we are in the Yellow Phase. Bright Side has two garden boxes to farm that the group could use. Price Elementary also has raised beds available for use. Audrey Skilton volunteered post about this initiative on Facebook.

b. Community Needs

The board discussed needs they are seeing in the neighborhood:

- Litter concerns
- Food needs
- Parents needing a break from isolation
- Boys and Girls Club, youth organizations are collaborating to ensure community needs are met
- Cabbage Hill Club transitioning to a teen center

Price Book Distribution
School District of Lancaster students will be giving back their iPads on 6/1. SoWe is coordinating with Price Elementary to organize a book distribution for SoWe kids.

c. Director's Report

Jake Thorsen reported, 98 signs have been delivered and posted, 20 litter kits have been delivered to volunteers

City door hangers: Many Board members were concerned about labeling people infected with the virus. As with other communicable diseases privacy may be bridged. This was a Lancaster City project and SoWe was asked to help distribute.

Participant survey is open

Community Foundation Grant – LHOP submitted a community foundation grant to support the Affordable home repair program in SoWe

4. Open discussion:

The board discussed adding additional funds to the Façade Program perhaps.

Re-start of street cleaning and ticketing

5. Motion to adjourn made by Willonda McCloud, seconded by Dick Hecker. Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.

Community Safety Committee

June 9th, 2020
1:30 PM
Zoom

Minutes:

Attendees: David Aichele, Adrian Garcia, Dr. Mary Glazier, Dick Hecker, Dr. Wes Farmer, Audrey Skilton, Jake Thorsen

1. **SoWe programs update**

    a. Porch Lighting Program – program is back out, first round of quotes since shut down occurring on Thursday.
    b. Summer Camps- discussions with summer camps programing occurring. Sounds like most camps this year are free or have scholarships available.
    c. Ambassadors – will begin in the green phase.

2. **Racial Inequities Protests Discussion**

The Committee discussed race, equity, justice and SoWe role in promoting equity. Committee suggested hosting an educational forum on this topic, revising SoWe mission state to better align with a mission of equity, ensure representation from people of color on board and committee levels.

Economic Opportunity Committee

June 3rd, 2020
8:30 AM
Zoom
Minutes:

Attendees: Christina DiCola, Ole Hongvanthong, JJ Gammache, Luis Ortega, Jake Thorsen, Jeremy Young

1. **Developing a SoWe Business Survey**

The committee discussed creating a survey to gather business information and assess needs. The survey results could be utilized to guide the committee's priorities. Distribution to include Chamber of Commerce business resources.

2. **Façade Improvement Program**

The committee discussed the roll out and marketing of the façade improvement program

3. **Discussion on Equity and Racism**

Committee discussed race, racism, equity, and justice. The committee discussed how it could be intentional in its work to promote businesses owned by people of color in the neighborhood.

Housing Committee

June 18, 2020
8:30 AM
Zoom

Minutes:
Attendees: Dick Hecker, Jaylin Martin, Jake Thorsen, Allyson Wells

1. **Contractor List**

SoWe is developing a contractor list to assist in the Affordable Home Repair program. Committee members provided suggestions on how to build a list. Committee wanted to be intentional about providing opportunities for SoWe contractors.

2. **Home Buyer Cohort**

Committee discussed creating a group of individuals who are renters in SoWe interested in purchasing a house. These individuals can be 2-3 years away from buying a home. They would be provided with a continuum of programs from partners to provide education, counseling, saving programs, and down payment assistance. The program will be discussed with LHOP/Tabor.

3. **SoWe Landlord Cohort**

Committee discussed creating a group of residents who are also landlords in SoWe. This group could be a networking group but also provided with skills and resources to grow their businesses. This could be a way to provide responsible rentals and build resident equity.

4. **Housing Data Report**

Committee reviewed a housing data report for the SoWe neighborhood.

Neighborhood Connections Committee

June 15th, 2020

6:00 PM

Zoom

Minutes:

Attendees: Melissa Engle-Hess, Marie Linares-King, Martha Montes, Christina Ortega, Loretta Pagan, Emerson Sampaio, Jake Thorsen

1. **Community Discussion**

The committee discussed race, racism, justice, and equity. The committee brainstormed SoWe's role of promoting equity and justice and how this committee can be more intentional about it.

2. **Mini Grants**

Two mini-grants have been approved. One to support a mural event on the 300 Block of Laurel to support Pride Month, Juneteenth, and World Refuge Day. One to support the gardening initiative on the 400 block of poplar.

3. **First Responders**

Marie Linares-King is organizing care packages for first responders. Melissa Engle-Hess will develop a distribute a sign-up list for first responder residents via social media.