



**York Business Improvement District Authority
Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

The meeting was held Wednesday, June 9, 2021 for the York Business Improvement District Authority (“YBIDA”), commencing at 7:30 a.m. The meeting was conducted remotely on Zoom with access for the public to hear. The meeting was also available by telephone. Notice of the Zoom link and telephone number were provided to the public in advance by notice required by law.

The following Board members were in attendance, representing a quorum:

Kate Hynes	Julian Tolbert
John Klinedinst	Allison Witherow
Carlos Garcia	
Eric Menzer	
Aneury Perez	
Brian Strong	

York County Economic Alliance staff members were present: Katie Mahoney, Vice President Marketing & Communications; Elaine Bonneau, Director of Downtown Inc.; Matthew Sechrist, Project Manager; and Hannah Beard, Community Engagement Manager.

CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME

Chair Julian Tolbert called the meeting to order 7:30am

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No comments. No members of the public present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chair Julian Tolbert presented the April YBIDA minutes in Secretary Wilmore’s absence. The minutes were shared prior to the meeting. Chair Tolbert put forth a motion for approval. Mr. Eric Menzer made a motion to second and the minutes were approved.

COVID RECOVERY

Ms. Elaine Bonneau reported that Downtown Inc’s Give Local York campaign raised \$22,500 for Downtown Bloom Grants, which are launching June 9. The current round will be open to applicants for three weeks and recipients will be acknowledged on July 9. A total of \$25,000 will be awarded to businesses; \$500-\$3,000 each. An information session will be held virtually and pitch competition assistance will be provided through a partnership with SCORE. Priority for funding will go to businesses that have not received Bloom funding in the past.



Regarding new and expanding businesses in Downtown York, Downtown Inc uses a Google Sheet to track new, expanding, and closes businesses, as well as self-identifying markers and any information pertaining to closures for assemblance of reliable retention numbers. Since the beginning of COVID through May 2021, Downtown York has had 32 businesses open, 13 existing businesses expand, and 10 businesses close.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Aneury Perez presented the financial report. Dollars from the assessments have started to come in. Ms. Elaine Bonneau reported on fundraising: as of April 2021, Downtown Inc is pacing correctly for the year. The Fund Development report from April 2021 can be found on BoardEffect and the next Fund Development Committee meeting is scheduled for June 24. The Downtown Inc Friends Campaign has received positive response and is being sent out four times each year, an increase from three mailers last year.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCUSION INITIATIVES

Ms. Elaine Bonneau reported on the 2021 Welcoming Community Grants which are launched by Better York, administered by Downtown Inc, and funded by Better York, York County Community Foundation and Powder Mill Foundation. The goal of the program is to foster welcoming, inclusive, diverse and accessible events in York City. A total of 22 applications were received this year and 10 organizations/individuals were awarded funding.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Report was presented by Chair Julian Tolbert. The Downtown Economic Development Committee was formed as a response to the Economic Action Plan that was developed by York County Economic Alliance, County Planning Commissioners, County Planning Commission, and the City of York. The committee is advocating for funds from sale of the Wastewater Treatment Plant to go towards the development of Downtown. The perspective of the Economic Development Committee will be put forth on development of the Northwest Triangle to the Redevelopment Authority (RDA).

YCEA BOARD REPORT

The York County Economic Alliance continues to place specific actions behind Economic Action Plan, as presented by Chair Julian Tolbert. The BLOOM Empowerment Center will begin rollout this Summer with the goal to assist businesses and a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Welcoming Workplaces efforts will coordinate best practices on welcoming members of historically disadvantaged communities into the largest employers in York County. Implementation of Welcoming Workplaces should take place over the next term. Lastly, the York County Economic Alliance led a pilot project to activate fiber from York City through the Heritage Rail Trail down to the Maryland border. Wi-Fi spots have been activated at Glatfelter Station and one to be placed in York City. Eventually, broadband will be available throughout the county.



OLD BUSINESS

Elaine provided updated on Columbia Gas Meter: Brian Tate's Case. A suggestion was made by Attorney Niles Benn to create a coalition with legislators of surrounding cities that are having similar experiences. Pro-resident legislation presence is needed. David Gonzalez is leading the advocacy efforts and is looking to secure meetings with western Pennsylvanian counties.

NEW BUSINESS

Welcome Mathew Sechrist, new Project Manager for Downtown Inc. Downtown businesses are experiencing upticks in business, tourism, and positive repercussions from event turnout such as First Friday. The City of York has hired and announced Collin Holder as the new Chief of Staff for the City of York.

AJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Tolbert adjourned the meeting at 9:24am.