

York Board Meeting
October 20, 2009
GSUMC
Tom called to order at 7:02pm

Present: Tom, Kaylee (student), Lesley, Kirsten, Dietmar, Kyle (student), Sarah (student), Rashawn (student), Lena, Vale, Jessica, Dale, Michael, Darren Sandstrom (Neighborhood Code Compliance Officer, BPD), Anne, Jon, Dixie, George, Kunle Ojikutu (WWU), Rod (CCS), Dave, Thad, Laura, Maureen, Helen, Karen Reed, Lynne, Jake, Randy Stegmeir (WWU Chief of Police), Colin Emmett (BPD), Carolyn, Eric, Ava, Francis, Sgt. David Richards (BPD Litter Control Officer), Lex, Rod, Donna, Lacey,

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Agenda Review
3. Franklin Park Grand Opening—Helen

Helen reported on progress of park redevelopment. Specifically announced the donation of a skate feature and bench by the Reed family. Karen Reed was present and explained that her son Jeff, who died at 27, loved skateboarding. The family is very excited to be part of Franklin Park, a positive place for families to come together. They have also donated a bench and money for plantings and an opening celebration.

Grand Opening November 13. City cannot participate right now, but will participate next year (perhaps for neighborhood picnic). Helen suggests having a small neighborhood event for now on Saturday the 14th. Committee to plan the event will meet Monday at 3pm at 1212 Grant. Come to celebrate!

4. Party Houses and Evening Disturbances of Late—Sergeant
Neighbors have been complaining recently of exceptionally rowdy opening of school year. Many phone calls to police already.

Sgt. wanted to talk about the Block Watch program. Has been under suspension for a few years, due to vacancy. Jump-starting again and looking for new block watches. A block watch is a group of most immediate neighbors, to whom there is some sort of real connection. Based on the fundamental that the best protection is to know one's neighbors, to have a relationship. A neighbor would host a meeting involving Officer Kat Dearborn, who would talk about crime prevention.

It was asked of the young people whether they think there's anything different about this year. The "World Party" concept was raised, in which houses near one another host parties on the same night. The result is people swarming the streets in transition from one party to another.

Sgt. Richards, patrol. Stated that the BPD is no longer able to do intensive party patrols

as in the past. Plan now is to highlight nights that may be problematic and bring on a few extra officers to patrol on those nights. On busy nights party calls fall to the bottom of the priority list. In 1979 average response time was 60 seconds; now it's 40 minutes. Encourages students to say no to hosting parties; to call 911 as early as possible during a bad situation.

Ticketing practices were questioned. How do officers decide whether to ticket? Sgt. Richards answered that there must be a victim other than a police officer in order for a ticket to be issued. There will be a written case report whether or not tickets are issued. Advisement letters are sent to homeowners based on case reports, not tickets. Encourages residents to state to the dispatcher whether they'd be willing to go to court to support their complaint.

Randy Stegmeir, Chief of WWU Police. Forums for neighborhood discussion are great (neighborhood meetings, "Let's Talk" forums). Has a very small staff right now, some of whom must remain on campus at all times. Mentioned the positive of the late-night shuttle buses to transport students back to campus. Pick-up locations have changed; bus currently only stops at the Bellingham Bus Depot.

Kunle Ojikutu, Assistant VP for WWU. Western tries to plan events during the first few months of classes to encourage students to socialize responsibly on campus. Also mentioned doorknockers, which help educate students on how to be good neighbors. Budget constraints.

Kaylee encourages face to face contact whenever possible. Was frustrated with the receipt of a recent letter from the YNA with a list of complaints regarding student houses. Suggests conversation as a better alternative. Another student reminds the group that not all parties are keggers and that it needs to be possible to congregate to have fun responsibly.

Darren, Litter Control Officer. There is currently money available for a 30-yard dumpster. Also supplies for litter pickup are available. Thanks were offered to Officer for his prompt response to litter-related calls.

5. Accumulation of Existing and Coming Facilities for Treatment, Rehabilitation and Re-entry—Tom

Representatives from Catholic Community Services: Donna Wells; Rod Elin, Regional Chief of Operations; Lex Rivers, Clinical Manager

CCS has made an offer on the RBC building on Humboldt and Lakeway for a Treatment Facility.

Location chosen for proximity to bus lines, shopping, etc. If all goes through, will likely begin operations in Feb. or March 2010. All outpatient, not residential facilities. What is diversion? Deferred prosecution, evening classes for DUI, pregnant women, adolescents,

young adults, etc. Could be court-mandated treatment, family recommendations, people choosing for themselves, etc. Meetings are scheduled, generally no big groups gathering around the building. Latest meetings would end at 8:30pm. No services on weekends.

Neighbors reminded CCS of landscaping requirements and other conditions of use regarding this commercial property. Rod was thankful for the reminder and asked to be told of any other conditions of use regarding property, since they have not been apprised of anything specific from the Planning Dept. or anywhere else. Lex says they really do want feedback and hope to have an open conversation with neighbors.

6. Herfey's site—Thad Allen, Dept. of Corrections

Thad Allen, Re-entry Specialist, Dept. of Corrections. Will be a Dept. of Corrections site for administrative purposes for parole officers. Used to be located above Opportunity Council. Currently at old Tube Time site. Parolees would come to meet with officers. May be a single-story expansion of existing building.

Neighbor stated that the current fence around the site has alleviated a lot of the undesirable activity that used to happen there.

Thad says sometimes offenders may congregate outside the building before class. Offices are typically open 7-7 or so.

Tom brought up desirability of high-visibility design. Thad said it may be possible to install security cameras.

7. Changes at State Dept. of Corrections—Thad

Huge budget cuts. Also legislature changed law that released offenders from prison with no re-entry support. Discussion regarding who is responsible to deal with offenders. Nonprofits are getting hit hard with requests for assistance. Thad will keep us apprised of how these changes will affect our neighborhood.

8. Samish Way Urban Village—Anne

City Council will hold a work session Nov. 9. All are welcome to come observe but there will be no public comment. Oct. 5th was the public hearing. Lisa Anderson (Edwards St.), Helen Jackson and Kirstie Charlton all spoke at the meeting and did an excellent job. Much work has gone into forming York's response to SWUV plans (potentially 7-story apartment complexes backing up to single-family zoning in York). Will stay tuned in to City Council and hopefully they will agree with our recommendations. Having another planning committee meeting is a possibility. Not sure if it's still possible to submit anything to the Council before the work session. Helen recommends contacting them once more to clarify plans and find out what is included and what is not. Anne will follow up with City Council and email Planning Committee.

9. Christmas Caroling Wagon—Tom

York annually hosts a wagon ride pulled by Persheron horses. Scheduled for the evening of Saturday, December 12. Songbook provided. Email will be sent to announce.

Total cost usually about \$400. Business sponsorships are very welcome! Logo can be included in banner.

10. General Neighborhood Business

A. Treasurer's Report, Vale

We received \$1100 back from City—Neighborhood Services reimbursement. Goes toward newsletter and other mailings. Unclear whether program will continue next year. Is it still possible to submit receipts?

B. New Editor for the Yorker Newsletter—Tom

Anne volunteers to do the December issue/flyer. Any volunteers to take over long-term?

C. Historic Preservation—Lynne

South Hill and York's Historic Districts are being reviewed for nomination for Nat. Hist. Dist. Designation. Meeting in November in Spokane to review nominations. Katie Franks has sent a letter that must be posted on the website directing homeowners how to formulate objections to the designation.

York's application is on the COB Historic Preservation site.

D. Dangerous Dogs—Danielle Wallace

She and her service dog were attacked and hurt by neighborhood dogs. Dog continues to roam into her yard. She is frustrated by response of Animal Control, etc. Believes the neighborhood is in danger.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.