

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**York Neighborhood Association Board Meeting**  
**February 11, 2015, 7pm**

At Garden St. United Methodist Church

President Don Hilty-Jones called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Present: Lisa Anderson, Cory Anderson, Paige Anderson, Kirstie Charlton, Robb Correll, Don Hilty-Jones, Anne Mackie, Kim Owen, Tom Scott, Mark Schofield, Edward Tabor

Guests: Bellingham Police Officer Eric Osterkamp; Dick Conoboy (Samish); WWU students Craig Hooker and Karen Izumoto

**1. Police Report**

A. Officer Osterkamp reported that he and the Parks Dept. have met to discuss environmental improvements for Rock Hill Park to reduce opportunities for crime, using the C.P.T.E.D. model: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. ADU compliancy will also be reviewed.

**Follow-up:** Eric will meet with YNA's Rock Hill Steward, Paige Anderson, to learn more about the current park plan that includes CPTED measures.

Paige reported that 50 volunteers worked at the park on Feb. 7 to remove invasives and spread mulch. Kim Owen volunteered to assess the playground equipment. An area for which she has expertise.

**2. Board Manual**

Anne distributed copies of the new board manual which included an overall review of YNA history and projects; City documents for neighborhood reimbursement of funds; Articles of Incorporation; Bylaws; Guidelines for Officers, Board Members, committees, and communications; volunteer participation form; expense reimbursement form; grant fund request forms; and the 2015 meeting calendar.

**Follow-up:** Discussion and final approval of documents will be on the agenda for the April 8 board meeting.

**3. Urban Planning Presentation**

WWU Urban Design students Karen Izumoto and Craig Hooker presented information about their class project on design proposals for the 3.8 acres in York along Whatcom Creek at the northern edge of the neighborhood, currently used by the Bellingham School Dist. as the Bus Barn. Several of their ideas for adding a park, residential housing and live/work spaces were consistent with the York Neighborhood Plan Amendments proposals approved by the City Council in 2009.

**4. 2015 YNA Officer Elections**

Nominated were Lisa Anderson, President; Tom Scott, Vice President; Don Hilty-Jones, Treasurer; and Anne Mackie, Secretary.

**MOTION 2015.2.11.1 Robb Correll moved and Kim Owen seconded to approve the nominees. Motion carried unanimously.**

**5. 2015 Board Assignments**

The Board Roster and committee assignments were reviewed. At the April board meeting final assignments will be discussed. Don agreed to continue as Campus Community Coalition representative; Kim volunteered to be Editor of *The Yorker*.

**Follow-up:** Tom will contact City Gate Apt. about STARS trash pick-up.

*BREAK: The Board enjoyed chocolate cake and coffee to celebrate the fine job outgoing President Don Hilty-Jones did for the last two years. Hip Hip Hooray for Don!*

## **6. Affordable Housing Ordinance & York's "historic protection" proposal for City Council Public Hearing, Feb. 23, 2015.**

Don distributed copies of the letter he sent Planning Director Rick Sepler, dated January 10, 2015, in which the YNA proposed "historic resource protection" language be added to the Bellingham Municipal Code (BMC) Titles 2, 20, and 21 regarding the incentive program for innovative affordable low-income home ownership. York's proposed addition is similar to language in the City's Multi-Family Housing Codes, BMC Chapter 17.82.030, Sec. 8 that provides Historic Resource Protection.

Mr. Sepler responded via email that the YNA letter has been entered into the record for the upcoming Public Hearing Feb. 23, and that he has discussed the proposal with the Mayor and Department staff.

**MOTION 2015.2.11.2 Anne moved and Tom seconded that a second letter be submitted by the YNA for the Feb. 23 Public Hearing and that President Lisa Anderson present the letter at the hearing. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Follow-up:** Draft copies of the letter were available at the meeting for review. Lisa and Anne will finalize.

## **7. Comprehensive Plan Timeline & YNA Involvement**

City Planning staff is hosting a community meeting about Attached Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) on Fri. Feb. 20, 1pm in the Mayor's Board Room. York and Sehome did not receive an invitation to the meeting.

**Follow-up:** Lisa will contact Rick Sepler and request that York and Sehome be invited to the meeting because the topic of illegal ADUs is a top priority for our neighborhoods. A report obtained from the Planning Dept. lists only three legal ADUs and one pending in York; there are many illegal ADUs of concern.

## **8. Meeting with Mercy Northwest for senior housing project at Wilson's Motors site.**

A written report prior to the Board meeting was provided. See attached.

## **9. Meeting with Bellingham Housing Authority about Lincoln Square**

A written report prior to the Board meeting was provided. See attached.

## **10. Meeting with Pioneer Human Services about City Gate Apts. Expansion**

Tom reported that the meeting has not yet occurred.

## **11. Meeting with Brigid Collins about new training program**

Anne met with Byron Mannering, Exec. Director, to learn more about the "Stewards of Children" program. A representative also attended YNA's January meeting and made a brief presentation.

**Follow-up:** The board agreed an announcement about the program should be included in the March Yorker newsletter.

**12. March 11 General YNA Meeting: Guest Speaker & Topic**

**MOTION 2015.2.11.3 It was moved and seconded to invite Dave Blake, Northwest Air Quality, to provide an educational program on indoor air quality. The motion passed unanimously.**

**MOTION 2015.2.11.4 It was moved and seconded to also have Paige Anderson do a presentation on Rock Hill Park's revised Park's Plan and report on work completed. The motion passed unanimously.**

It was agreed to include a Taco Dinner with the March 11 meeting. Assignments: Anne (beef mx); Lisa (chicken, lettuce); Mark (beans, onions); Edward (cheese); Kim (green chili, salsa, sour cream); Robb (taco shells). Don, Paige, Kirsti – to fill in what's missing.

**13. Treasurer's Report**

Lisa reported that total funds are \$5,700 (general funds \$3,551.58; Historic signs \$20; Historic Preservation \$130; Rock Hill Park \$1,000; Franklin Park \$1,000). Expenses 12/14-1/14, \$313 (newsletter and supplies). Deposits (11/14-2/15), \$720 (City reimbursement \$500; Event donations \$95; Wagon sponsorship \$125).

**MOTION 2015.2.11.5 Lisa moved and Kim seconded to reimburse Anne \$41.53 for printing the Board Manual. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Follow-up:** It was agreed that a secretarial operational budget should be developed and presented to the Board at its next meeting.

**14. March edition *The Yorker* newsletter**

Anne presented the list of articles for the upcoming newsletter for Board review. She and Kim will co-edit this edition, with Kim taking over as new editor for the May edition.

**15. Announcements**

Edward reported that he has met with Campus Community Coalition Coordinator, Carmen Rasmussen, and will be providing information to her on student involvement in neighborhood associations and events.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

*Minutes submitted by Anne Mackie, Secretary*

**For Reference: written reports provided to the Board for the meeting.**

1) Meeting with **Mercy Northwest** for senior housing project at Wilson's Motors: Lisa Anderson, Mark Schofield, Tom Scott and Anne Mackie met with representatives of Mercy Northwest on January 13. Paul Schissler, local development consultant, also attended. We heard about the proposal for a new low-income senior housing project to be built at the Wilsons' Motors site, corner of Ellis & N.Garden. Mercy Northwest must first be approved for funding by the city to be able to build this project. We probably won't hear about results for several more months. In general, our board members like the proposal. This item was

also reported at our January 14 General meeting and is mentioned in those meeting minutes, Item 8.C.

2) Meeting with **Bellingham Housing Authority** held January 15 at Lincoln Square. Board members Robb Correll, Mark Schofield, Tom Scott and Anne Mackie met with John Harmon, Director, and Kate Donnelly, Director of Asset Management. It was a very positive meeting in which we discussed concerns we have heard about criminal activity and safety at Lincoln Square. We agreed to follow-up with city Public Works to request additional street lighting along Grant St. across from Lincoln Square and to discuss with the city the need for a sidewalk to be installed in the 500 block of York St., which is a bus route and a hazardous pedestrian area. The meeting helped to establish a relationship between the YNA and BHA; a thank-you follow up letter will be sent.

3) Brigid Collins new education program: Byron Mannering, Director of **Brigid Collins** met with Anne Mackie in January to explain their new community education program. Brigid Collins is the local family support center addressing child abuse. Their new program is called: "Stewards of Children." He asked if York Neighborhood would like to participate in the trainings and help publicize them. Anne agreed to bring the item to the board and at a minimum York could put an announcement in The Yorker newsletter.