

## **YORK ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JANUARY 13, 2016, 7p.m.**

at Garden St. Methodist Church

The meeting was preceded by a Soup Supper at 6:30pm (approximately 50 attendees)

Vice President Tom Scott called the meeting to order at 7pm

### **Announcements:**

1. Two retiring YNA Board members were acknowledged with a round of applause: Robb Correll and Kirsti Charlton.
2. Campus Community Coalition is working with the Bellingham Police Dept. and the City Planning staff to launch a "Town-Gown Initiative."
3. A Waste Task Force has been formed to reduce trash dumping in neighborhoods. The Task Force includes Public Works, Campus Community Coalition, BPD, and neighborhood reps including York.
4. Neighbors are concerned about littering by the Bellingham Herald with its advertising inserts thrown into yards, gutters, and sidewalks.
5. Great Harvest Bread was thanked for donating dinner roles for the soup supper.

### **II. Guest Speaker, Bellingham Police Chief, Clifford Cook**

A. Chief Cook addressed these topics:

- 1) Body Cams: Police will begin using body cameras in June 2016 to record illegal activity. There have been concerns expressed about privacy rights and how the recordings will be used; a policy is being drafted to address these concerns.
- 2) "Bellingham Neighborhoods Together": A community safety program will be launched in two pilot neighborhoods that will encourage increased awareness by neighbors about criminal activity and how to report it to the police. This program will not replace Block Watch.
- 3) Predictive Policing software: Chief Cook acknowledged that this has received criticism from citizens; however, he supports its use as a means to better provide police services with our limited number of officers.
- 4) Mental Health Court: Chief Cook discussed the importance of our community's need to provide support for mental health services rather than have individuals needing mental health care ending up in jail. He explained the new agreement with the Yakima County jail where inmates from Bellingham will be transferred as a means to relieve our overcrowded jail.
- 5) Samish Way Motels: The police are experiencing a significant reduction in calls now that the Aloha Motel has been closed. He expressed concerns about the increase in prostitution and exploitation of young children in our community.

### **III. Speaker: Officer Eric Osterkamp, Bellingham Police Dept.**

- 1) "Town - Gown" Initiative: A grant application has been submitted to the state to gain funding for a new program designed to better improve student and community relations. It will be show-cased at the upcoming Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission meeting Jan. 20, 6:30 pm at the Library. A hand-out was provided.
- 2) York crime statistics from 2012 through 2015 were presented, plus a comparison of York, Sehome, Happy Valley, Sunnyland, and Puget neighborhoods. York's crime stats are the lowest in this group in 14 categories out of 21; 2015 had the lowest incidents in

four years in 11 categories. Stats for the City Center were also provided so that we could understand where the BPD's resources are most concentrated.

During the question and answer period, students who had a fire at their rental at 1210 Ellis St. shared the problems they have had with their landlord, both before and after the fire.

#### **IV. Business Meeting**

The following people were nominated to serve on the 2016 Board of Directors:

Cory Anderson, Lisa Anderson, Don Hilty-Jones, Anne Mackie, Jim Owen, Kim Owen, Audrey Roberts, Mark Schofield, Tom Scott, Edward Tabor.

**MOTION 2016.01.13.1: Carolyn Mulder moved and Michael Neville seconded to accept the nominations. It was approved unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

*Minutes submitted by Anne Mackie, Secretary*

*Minutes approved Feb. 9, 2016*