

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Marlins' Café Patio, 514 Potter Street

September 8, 2021 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2020-09-22.1 ✓

Present: Tom Scott (President), Anne Mackie (Vice President), Mark Ellis Walker (Acting Secretary), Jeremy Ferrera, Audra Blankers, John DeOrio. **Quorum satisfied.** Also present: prospective Board member Chris Donaldson.

Action Items are listed at the end of the Minutes, both generally and broken out by individual.

The meeting was held on the patio of Marlins' Café.

Called to order ~7:10pm by Tom Scott, President.

Review of the minutes of the August 4 meeting. Minor edits implemented.

Motion: 2021-09-08.1 Consent Agenda

Motion by Anne to accept; seconded by Audra; passed unanimously.

Motion 2021-09-08.1a Approve 2021-08-04 Board Minutes as presented and amended earlier in this meeting.

Passed.

1. Small & Simple Grant for Rock Hill Park

Anne presented the status of this project, which has roughly \$5,000 available to be used by the end of 2021.

With regard to using some of it for restorative landscaping (?), she needs to contact the Parks Department and the City in the next day or two to get or create a list of approved plants. Audra mentioned that a local nursery would be having a big plant sale soon and that they'd have native plants available, but Anne noted that Parks and the City would have to approve any species first.

Tom and John volunteered to help develop project options such as have been discussed previously (butterfly-garden restoration/signage, memorial art project in honor of a local musician who had died, etc.). Other ideas were brainstormed and included a piece of ironwork art by a local (Andrew?), possibly in conjunction with the memorial project (for which we would need to loop them in, via Julia Burns). Another was the potential repair to the basketball court, fixing and raising the hoop (a Parks Department job which would be funded by this available grant money). Anne also suggested that it would be good to add a Rock Hill Park sign on Potter Street near the park's Iron Street entrance to improve the park's visibility.

2. Western Washington University Fall Info Fair 9/20 & 21

Tom brought a flyer from the university on signup for having a presence/table at the event. It was agreed that we should staff a 3' x 6' table on both days (11am–2pm), and Audra and Jeremy indicated willingness to be present for that, especially as Audra can volunteer through her work (DocuSign) and have that be reimbursed as a donation to the YNA.

Mark volunteered to produce a flyer (bouncing text off Anne to verify topical relevance) for handing out at the event or to have in lieu of in-person YNA Board presence, and suggestions were made to have it include outreach for student involvement in parks-maintenance projects and Board liaison roles. Anne offered to send him some literature from prior YNA student outreach to Mark and Audra to help in this effort.

A brief discussion ensued regarding past events of this nature and other related efforts. Anne recalls having York buttons as handouts and that the university used to put more effort into them. Chris mentioned that he's received a student-outreach door hanger from the university just the previous week, but nobody else seems to have received one.

Audra will take the lead on tabling, and Mark will create the handout. Jeremy can table on the 21st. Tom will email Chris Roselli and/or Julia Burns about this event and possibilities of handouts or other materials.

3. National Night Out Against Crime Updates

Tom indicates that this is still postponed.

Jeremy reminded us of an email he had sent on the 31st in which he reported that his neighbor Carl Blankenship would want to volunteer on brainstorming and planning for such an event, as he recently was the victim of a motorcycle theft and would like to see a neighborhood watch set up. Tom suggested that Jeremy reach out to him about that but noted that Officer Knutson would not be keen on attempting to do this as an online event (given the propensity for such contexts to foster negativity and incivility).

The consensus was that the event should be considered tabled indefinitely for 2021 but something to make a good showing for in 2022 (which by the annual schedule will take place on August 2), including the wagon rides (the vendor having been so informed by Tom).

4. MNAC Letter/Position

Regarding Tom's original letter's form being found baffling to those of us who aren't familiar with the legalese of documents of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC), Tom offered to write a cover letter to introduce YNA's concerns about having MNAC be more responsive to and representative of the local neighborhood organizations than has been the trend in recent years and then indicate the actions or attitude MNAC should undertake to effect these hoped-for improvements. Anne and Tom then gave the other Board members an overview of the history of MNAC and why things are now the way they are.

MNAC was originally more active as a think tank and involved in neighborhoods' internal planning ahead of them pitching plans to the City. On Mayor Kelli Linville's watch, it became much more

unilateral in direction, as she discouraged debate and interaction in favor of more top-down management. An alternative neighborhood association had previously arisen, about 16 years ago, when MNAC got similarly dysfunctional.

For a better understanding of why MNAC interactiveness is important, Tom reviewed its role in the City's two-year planning processes and how the current state of things hinders (or even eliminates?) a neighborhood's ability to participate in that or initiate its own self-improvement efforts.

With Mayor Seth Fleetwood now in office (albeit not particularly keen on MNAC being more dynamic or active), this seems like a good opportunity to urge MNAC to reorient itself to its original purpose...a wish that has been growing among some neighborhood associations since April.

Anne suggested that what Tom says at the MNAC meeting next week be a simple summation as to this push and noted that the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association is on board if we'll spearhead this effort. She further suggests revisiting a letter the YNA wrote some years ago (when Kirsti Charlton was president) objecting to MNAC being defanged.

A last observation from Anne: the MNAC website hasn't posted any meeting minutes since 2019!

5. Selecting a Chief of Police (Update)

Tom suggested we discuss this, but Mark noted that we'd done so at the August 4 meeting and that our collective suggestions for what YNA would like to see in a Chief of Police were already summarized in the meeting minutes. After the implementation of a nuance correction requested by Anne regarding recognizing that the Police Department has already been doing a good job but that we were *reiterating* ideals, it was agreed that Tom could present that summation at the MNAC meeting.

6. Next Meeting

Returning to the intended schedule of meeting on the fourth Wednesday of the month, it was agreed that we would meet next on September 22. There was a brief discussion as to whether this should be a General Meeting or a Board Meeting, and the consensus was that we don't have enough ready to present that would necessitate a General Meeting just now. As to whether or not to wait until October for the next Board meeting, rather than meet again in just two weeks, it was agreed that enough activities are under way to justify getting together to check on progress that soon, especially with regard to getting Rock Hill Park grant funds' use in play before the calendar runs out with them unspent.

7. Board Position Confirmations

Motion 2021-09-08.1b Per discussion at 2021-08-04 Board Meeting, Appoint Mark Ellis Walker as (Reluctant) Board Secretary, and

Motion 2021-09-08.1c Per discussion at 2021-08-04 Board Meeting, Appoint John DeOrio as Board Treasurer. Anne moved; Audra seconded. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:08pm.

Individual Action Items:

Anne:

- Contact Parks Department and City staff to obtain or create a list of approved plants for landscaping at Rock Hill Park
- Possibly contact Julia Burns to learn the status of the musician-memorial project for Rock Hill Park and see if a locally crafted ironwork art would be a good option

Audra: At work, propose volunteering to staff a table at the WWU Info Fair on September 20/21; take the lead on tabling

Jeremy: Staff table at WWU Info Fair on September 20

John: Follow up with Anne on status of Rock Hill Park grant projects

Mark:

- Produce YNA student-outreach flyer for distribution at WWU Info Fair
- Summarize meeting notes and submit as Minutes before the next Board meeting

Tom:

- Email Chris Roselli and Julia Burns about YNA presence at the WWU Info Fair
- Write cover letter for MNAC proposals, introducing and clarifying their intention (for general-public comprehension)

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Acting Secretary.