

York Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Marlins' Café Patio, 514 Potter Street
September 22, 2021 Minutes - DRAFT
Approved: Motion _____

Present: Tom Scott (President), Anne Mackie (Vice President), John DeOrio (Treasurer), Mark Ellis Walker (Acting Secretary), Jeremy Ferrera, Audra Blankers, Chris Donaldson.
Quorum satisfied.

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 7:06pm by Tom Scott, President.

Review of the minutes of the September 8 meeting. Minor edits implemented.

Motion: 2021-09-08.1 Consent Agenda

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

1. WWU Info Fair Flyer

Although a communication mix-up meant that YNA wasn't present at the Info Fair as intended, Mark did produce a York Neighborhood flyer as planned and had 125 copies printed. Jeremy is checking with Chris Roselli to see if some of these can somehow be distributed to relevant students anyway, but in the meantime the flyers will be at Nelson's Market/Marlins' Café for distribution.

There was a brief discussion of the somewhat parental tone of some of the flyer's text (a section taken from a 2017 issue of the *Yorker* newsletter), with Board members not reaching consensus on just how much of it was too negative. Mark will revisit the text with an eye to a future reprint and try to swing the tone around to be more encouraging and less "because we're the adults and we said so."

The flyer can be posted on the YNA website's home page anytime, regardless of which verbiage appears on it. John suggested the section calling for student participation in our parks be linked to the Park Steward form on the City's website. He'd also like to see the call for Board participation be more visible.

Anne noted that usually our outreach to students at this time of year comes in the form of an issue of the *Yorker* and the annual picnic and that this standalone form perhaps couldn't serve that role in just its two pages. Making that aspect of the text as welcoming and a call to action could find a form in the introduction of the flyer on the website.

On a final note about student outreach, Audra mentioned that she's reaching out to known student houses regarding the impending Garden Walk (see below).

2. Garbage/Dumping/Furniture Situation

Anne passed around a copy of the old and still entertaining “2013 Couches of York” calendar by way of introducing her assessment of the state of affairs regarding dumped items around the neighborhood...a situation she reported as being worse than it has been in a couple of decades (with which Tom concurred). The Sehome neighborhood has also been badly trashed in August and September, and a resident there is seeking to petition for a city ordinance imposing a per-day-of-violation fine on property owners to get them to clean up; it was noted that the practical difficulty of that is complicated.

The City spends around \$30,000 a year currently to do cleanup of illegal dumpage, and Public Works will come get stuff if called, but this partly sends a message to students (who are by and large the ones dumping furniture especially, which can accumulate other sorts of garbage as time passes) that it's OK because someone will take care of the mess they leave behind.

After a quick review of this year's Dumpster Day results, Tom suggested that YNA might propose to the City that another Dumpster Day should be held, in late August or early September, sponsored by the City (rather than the Dumpster Day sponsors) but hosted in York as with the June event. He will ask Public Works if they'd be interested in doing this.

3. Garden Walk—Thursday, September 23

Wine & Roses Garden Club will be hosting a progressive Garden Walk the following day, with three destinations established (Audra's, Mary's, and Kim's gardens). Tom will send an email announcing this to the general distribution list.

4. Scarecrow Throwdown

Following up on last year's scarecrow competition, Audra has already made a flyer promoting a 2021 competition.

MOTION 2021.09.22.02 Anne moved and Chris seconded that we authorize \$200 for prizes; the motion passed unanimously. (It was assumed the Garden Club would oversee prize details.)

Audra will be added to the York Facebook page as an admin so she can post information.

5. Small & Simple Grant for Rock Hill Park

Anne provided us with a copy of the Letter of Agreement with the City outlining the projects proposed for the use of the \$5,000 grant monies, with the associated budget amounts indicated for each. The timeframe is arbitrary except for the requirement to use the funds by the end of 2021.

Regarding the art/memorial portion, a proposal has not yet been formulated by the group that is interested.

John volunteered to set up a meeting with Amy Brown at the Parks Department to work out approval of specific projects (e.g., details of the basketball-court improvements) and a list of approved plants (with Anne).

It was also noted that most of this project's work will be done by the Parks Department but paid for by YNA out of the grant. Work parties will be needed...so what sort of student involvement could be arranged? Are there any Scouts troops looking to pitch in? Unanswered questions, but worth thinking about.

6. Miscellaneous Items from Tom

On the YNA website, all the Board members' biographies are in place and last photos will be added shortly. Thanks to new members for coming through with those!

In City news, he notes that they're getting flak for cutting the public-comments element of their meetings. This came about because the recordings of meetings are posted on YouTube and subsequently got blocked for violations of YouTube policy regarding false content (because of public-comment material). The City's solution was to eliminate the comment option entirely, and it's causing some uproar. They're working alternatives. This will be an ongoing situation, but Tom wanted to be sure we were aware of it.

With that in mind, Tom asked if any Board members wanted to be added to the City's email distribution list for announcements (typically weekly), with Anne noting that this would include Planning's permit announcements. Tom and Anne already receive them, but John asked to be added to the list.

7. City Planning Director Stakeholder Event (Virtual)—Thursday, September 30

Tom informed us that there will be a "virtual community-stakeholder event" next Thursday regarding the selection of a new Director of Planning and Community Development. He briefed us on the importance and history of this role, which is pretty big. It will be held online at 4pm on the 30th.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:11pm.

General Action Items: Think about ways to arrange student, Scouts, or other local involvement in upcoming Rock Hill Park improvement projects via work parties.

Individual Action Items:

Anne:

- With John, prepare to meet with the Parks Department to work out approval of specific Rock Hill Park improvement projects for the Small & Simple Grant
- Continue to follow up on the memorial art project for Rock Hill Park

Audra: When administrative access has been established for you on the YNA Facebook page, post the Scarecrow Throwdown details/flyer

Jeremy: Continue to explore (with Chris Roselli) how the Info Fair flyer can be distributed to students

John: Set up meeting with the Parks Department to work out approval of specific Rock Hill Park improvement projects for the Small & Simple Grant

Mark:

- Revisit student-tips verbiage of Info Fair flyer to make it more encouraging and less parental
- Post the flyer on the YNA home page, with an introductory note welcoming new students more explicitly (in lieu of the newsletter and greeting events)
- Summarize meeting notes and submit as Minutes before the next Board meeting

Tom:

- Contact City Public Works to see if they'd be interested in a Aug-Sept Dumpster Day, noting the worst-in-decades levels of trash encountered this year, and
- Raise the matter of the trash situation at the next MNAC meeting
- Send an announcement of the Garden Walk to the general email list
- Forward remaining Board photos to Mark and be sure he's added to the editor@ email address (with Anne) for *Yorker* mail

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Acting Secretary, with revisions/editing by Anne Mackie.