

York Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Marlins' Café, 514 Potter Street
October 27, 2021 Minutes - DRAFT
Approved: Motion _____

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

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

The meeting was held inside Marlins' Café.

The meeting got started informally around 7:00pm, but quorum was not reached until the arrival of Tom Scott, President.

The minutes of the September 22 meeting were **not** reviewed; this can be done via email, so please **send any changes/corrections to Mark A.S.A.P.** so we can get them done!

1. Rock Hill Park Projects

Following some preliminary chatting about the park's status, as the meeting came together, Anne reviewed the history of benches and history of basketball court and hoop installation by the neighborhood volunteers) and the butterfly arbor, in conjunction with a general awareness of the Parks Department's minimal attention to the park over the years.

Anne and John will be meeting with Parks to negotiate specifics for the priority elements of the Small & Simple Grant:

1. Butterfly arbor and interpretive/informational signage
2. Basketball court/hoop replacement/improvements
3. Bench (ideally at the top of the sledding hill, where it would make it more obvious that this is a public park)
4. Plants (purchased from local nurseries and some free from Parks)

2. York Welcome Sign at Loving Space

Our new sign was demolished by an out-of-control car on the night of October 20. Anne is following up with the Loving Space staff, and Tom is staying on top of the Police Department in order to ensure that we get recompensed so a new sign can be built and installed as before. Updates have been sent to the Board via email, so this was just a formal mention of how things stand.

3. Proposed Changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan

Anne reports that the Planning Department is proposing some significant changes to the Comprehensive Plan and that these were being rushed in without sufficient advance notice to allow solid review and appropriate response from the neighborhoods before an imminent public hearing ahead of City Council review/approval (November 4). The meeting packet was not made available for review in a timely manner; the document was some 69 or so pages of heavily marked-up text that would need to be unraveled carefully to see what was really going on behind all the debris.

Issues of concern: the proposed change to allow non-owner-resident ADUs, which would allow absentee owners to double their units in single-family-zoned properties.

Motion: 2021-10-27.1 Anne and Tom to review the proposed-changes document and draft a letter of concern from YNA to City Planning objecting, as described above. Anne moved, Jeremy seconded; passed unanimously.

4. Traffic Calming

This topic was part of the previous week's meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC). Following up on the raising (in that meeting) of the possibility of installing light-up stop signs (at a cost of roughly \$1,500 each), a course of action follows:

Motion: 2021-10-27.2 We investigate such an installation at the intersection of Potter and Humboldt (at least at the south stop sign, which is the one most ignored by speeding motorists) and propose that after review. John moved, Jeremy seconded; passed unanimously.

5. Garbage/Dumping/Furniture Situation (Updates)

This remains a big problem, especially in York and Sehome neighborhoods. Sehome Neighborhood Association may want to collaborate on what to propose regarding enforcement of existing regulations regarding fines for dumped material and what it takes to get the City to actually remove the junk. We will discuss more online. Jeremy suggested a draft letter be prepared and loop in with Sehome for possible submission to the City in 2022.

At this point, John had to leave, whereupon the meeting would be left without a quorum, so all further business was left as just discussion without motions formally put.

Tom noted that the City uses an app called SeeClickFix for reporting graffiti and junk, and he suggested the Board members try using it; it may be enough to get enforcement to happen, by sheer force of numbers.

On a side note, he also mentioned that in the MNAC meeting there was some wrong information put forth regarding the maintenance responsibility for trees planted in the areas between sidewalks and streets; in contrast to what was said there, that responsibility lies with the property owners and not the City or Parks. This segued nicely to a discussion of the status of an upcoming issue of the...

6. Yorker Newsletter

A list of topics for a new issue (our first since February 2020) were discussed. Concerns about getting it distributed (an ongoing difficulty) were discussed; Mark has a list of volunteers but many do not

follow through and this leads to him personally covering for several volunteers each issue. Tom noted that a newsletter just now would have no time constraints regarding notice of an upcoming General Meeting, thus the newsletter could go out whenever and not have urgency complicating volunteers' involvement/follow-through.

A review and discussion of topics ensued briefly:

- Street trees; generate interest now, to act upon in October 2022
- General Neighborhood Meeting to be held in January or February
- Status of former Diego's restaurant becoming a bakery
- Dumping
- Speeding and stop signs as discussed above
- Rock Hill Park and Harriet Spanel Park status/projects
- Wine & Roses Garden Club Halloween contest results
- Something on historic architecture? Maybe revisit the historic-trees topic again?
- Donation form and all ads from last issue, with all ads to run again through 2022, resetting their donation status in January 2023

7. Annual Holiday Party

Nelson's Market owners Anne and Jon Ostby have concerns regarding hosting the event (tentatively scheduled for the second weekend in December, as usual) in person and indoors, given the ongoing uncertainty about COVID-19 restrictions which remain volatile with ongoing general health safety. Tom suggested that the event could be relocated to Harriet Spanel Park if propane heaters and port-a-potties could be arranged or that we could simply cancel the event for this year.

In any case, it's time for the Holiday Party Committee to get active, and Jeremy indicated that he'd like to be on that. Tom to follow-up with the committee to ascertain interest.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:32pm.

General Action Items: Try using the SeeClickFix app to report local graffiti and junk to be removed
Discuss (via email) Anne's upcoming list of subtopics regarding the problem of dumping, with an eye to teaming with Sehome's neighborhood association in proposing actions for the City.

Individual Action Items:

Anne:

- URGENT: With Tom, review the Planning Department's proposed changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan and draft a letter voicing serious concerns about there having been insufficient time allowed for thorough review of what appear to be major changes
- Meet with the Parks Department to work out approval of specific Rock Hill Park improvement projects for the Small & Simple Grant
- Continue developing newsletter content, in conjunction with Mark when ready to start writing
- Send list of Dumping subtopics to the Board for online discussion
- Investigate possibility of installation of at least one light-up stop sign at the intersection of Potter and Humboldt

Mark:

- Develop newsletter content with Anne
- Look into the status of 1515 North Forest Street (at one time the Foundry and/or the Repair Café, across from Eleanor Place) as a possible location for an upcoming meeting or event
- Summarize meeting notes and submit as Minutes before the next Board meeting

Tom:

- URGENT: With Anne, review the Planning Department's proposed changes to the City's Comprehensive Plan and draft a letter voicing serious concerns about there having been insufficient time allowed for thorough review of what appear to be major changes
- Add Jeremy to the Annual Holiday Party committee roster
- Email the committee to ascertain interest in hosting event at Spanel Park.

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