

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Marlins' Café, 514 Potter Street

April 26 2023 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2023-07-26.1 ✓

Present: Colin Beazley (President), Chris Donaldson (Vice President), Opie Knechtel (Treasurer), Mark Ellis Walker (Secretary), Megan Doyle. **Quorum satisfied.**

Excused: Élan Engel, Jeremy Ferrera, Rebecca Hobbs.

Absent: John DeOrio, Mars Lindgren, Tom Scott, Todd Kleinbrook.

Guest: Kevin Cussen.

The meeting got started around 6:35pm.

1. Introductions, Approval of March Minutes, and Voting-in of New Board Members

The March Board meeting minutes were approved after Opie so moved and Chris seconded.

Kevin Cussen, who attended the Board meeting in March, was voted onto the Board and, purely by coincidence, bought a round of beverages for all interested Board members later in the meeting.

Colin moved, Mark seconded. He reiterated his background and interests for those who weren't present last time.

2. Small & Simple Grants Discussion

There was a quick discussion about the grant-application opportunity, following up on an email from Colin that indicated the two primary projects likely to move forward in the process were 1. bulletin boards to be installed at both of our parks and 2. an interactive walking tour in conjunction with the City.

Colin and Megan had collaborated on the bulletin-board one and drafted text for an application along with a rough budget estimate, keeping in mind that it appears that the City is more likely to approve smaller grants (below \$4K) in the interest of distributing the available funds to as many neighborhoods as possible. The text was very favorably received by Board members, so Colin and Megan will refine it slightly in time to submit to the City by the deadline of May 1 (the coming Monday).

Chris, spearheading the walking-tour project, informed us that the City wants to work with us on this as a pilot project and therefore we had a good chance of getting the application approved. He will continue working with Katie Franks to that end. Although the City had recommended working with a contractor to identify the properties to feature and conduct initial research for text and images, he says we can cull material from our available YNA archives (which Anne Mackie has just handed over to Rebecca before moving to the Cordata neighborhood). Once we've established that, we can expand the effort to involve other York neighbors in determining the core featured attractions. It was suggested that we find out what of the project the City itself would want us to ask the S&S grant to fund, so that they're already inclined to approve the application.

3. Park Updates

Colin met with Jonathan Schilk, the City's parks landscaper, for a walk-through visit to Rock Hill Park. He noted that ADA/accessibility issues will pose interesting challenges in the upcoming park-improvement design process. It was suggested that the YNA should gather local feedback on the project in late summer and at the picnic (which he will plan to attend but should also be invited to), whereupon the Parks Department will want to move forward with our results in hand to inform it.

There was a side discussion about the Lakeway–Ellis transportation-corridor project already underway, specifically as to what sort of linkage of York to the Carl Cozier Elementary School was envisioned, if any.

A work party has been officially planned for Rock Hill Park on June 17. Volunteers should register with the Parks Department if possible, although it is not required (but they will be asked to sign in once there). For the upcoming May issue of the *Yorker* newsletter, Mark asked that Colin write a little description of what a work party entails and what potential volunteers should expect.

4. May *Yorker* newsletter

As Rebecca was unable to attend, Mark discussed content possibilities with Board members who indicated they were interested in contributing text for the May issue (anticipated to go to print in mid-May). He noted that, although we had a business-card-sized ad and a quarter-page one come to the end of their four issues without renewing (one due to retirement, the other not contacted for renewal because they were a one-off not even located within York), we have new advertisers to replace both of them plus another quarter-page ad.

In addition to the parks work-party piece and his regular President's Corner one, Colin will supply this issue's local-business spotlight (on Alphabet Studios, a screen-print card company run by Jesse Levison). Chris volunteered to write something on the activities of the Historic Preservation Committee. More general content will include plugging Dumpster Day (not yet scheduled; Colin will check in on this with Carolyn Mulder) and giving advance notice of the Annual Picnic (September 10; see next item). Mark noted that it's OK if our content load is a little light; that was the case with the March issue, and that allowed him to increase the font size slightly...something that has long been desired during his six years of doing the layout.

5. Annual Picnic

Although this was not on the posted agenda, it was decided that we needed to establish the date for the 2023 picnic now so that it could be promoted in the upcoming *Yorker*. By consensus, it was agreed that September 10 would be the optimum date, considering how well that post-Labor Day weekend worked last year. Harriet Spanel Park will again be the venue.

Colin noted that the City is once again making the Party Trailer available to neighborhoods, so we should put in a reservation for that. The importance of having kids' activities was emphasized.

There was discussion of the possibility of a non-YNA-sanctioned concert to be held at the event or possibly as a Rock the Park one at Rock Hill at a different date; nothing concrete was decided upon, however.

In Anne's absence, Chris offered to take on the coordination of the food planning and also to chair the Picnic Committee, which will now reactivate.

6. Treasurer Update

Opie reported that, although she has been slammed and not able to do much yet as Treasurer since taking on the role last month, we have arranged with WECU to make treasurer@yorkneighborhood.org the primary/official contact for our account there, making the process of handing the associated responsibility/authority with them easier henceforth. Colin indicated that the account has around \$4K available, per John DeOrio.

7. IT Update

With regard to YNA's social-media presence, Chris reported that currently he is doing all posts on Facebook and NextDoor; currently these are happening only monthly, but he's hoping to get them up to twice-weekly.

Transfer and transition of YNA's website to a Google Suite environment and hosting is still underway. Kevin offered to assess the intended arrangement, including what its new maintenance interface will be (currently being handled by Mark, with Tom still available as well as responsible for the existing hosting arrangement with a local company). In discussion with other Board members involved in the transition, prior to the meeting, Opie had recommended that the Board have a dedicated IT position and that it should be by election.

Mark noted that committee members in particular should be aware that the website can readily host pages on their activities, if anyone's interested in promoting such.

8. Open Discussion

Colin proposed that the next Board meeting (May 24) again be held at Nelson's Market and that we use it as a newsletter-delivery event, with Board members and other interested delivery volunteers first convening for the meeting, then delivering their blocks, and finally returning to Nelson's for a beverage together to celebrate the completed work.

As for the General Meeting on June 28, there was brief discussion of possible topics and speakers. Chris suggested we use it to present the current Board and its activities, projects, and priorities. Mark expressed the hope that we could get our Police Department's neighborhood liaison to revive their previous brief checking-in appearances at the start of the meeting; Colin will reach out to them about that as well as to Lisa Anderson on providing a similarly brief status update (not a featured report, however).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03pm.

General Action Items: Board members interested in helping to plan and organize the Annual Picnic should connect with Chris.

Individual Action Items:

Colin:

- Contact Carolyn Mulder to determine Dumpster Day date.
- With Megan, refine Small & Simple Grant verbiage and budget, then submit it to the City by May 1.
- Write content for *Yorker* newsletter: President's Corner, business spotlight, brief description of what happens at a parks work party.
- Reach out to Police Department about making a checking-in appearance at the May General Meeting; ditto Lisa Anderson.

Megan: With Colin, refine Small & Simple Grant verbiage and budget, then submit it to the City by May 1.

Chris:

- Establish committee for Annual Picnic and see about reserving the City's Party Trailer
- See if a Small & Simple Grant request can be produced about the interactive walking-tour project in time for the May 1 deadline.

Kevin: Assess the status and outlook of the transitioning of YNA's website hosting and maintenance, consulting Chris, Tom, Colin, and Mark among others for current status and intended future arrangements.

Mark: Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.