

York Neighborhood Association

Board of Directors Meeting

In the Chestnut Professional Building—800 East Chestnut Street, Suite 1A

March 23, 2022 Minutes - DRAFT

Approved: Motion **Motion 2022-04-27.1** ✓

Present: Tom Scott (President), Anne Mackie (Vice President), John DeOrio (Treasurer), Mark Ellis Walker (Acting Secretary), Colin Beazley, Chris Donaldson, Jeremy Ferrera, Opie Knechtel, Élan Engel, Todd Kleinbrook, Rebecca Hobbs (guest), Erik Thomas (guest)

Attending via phone: Jason Finkbonner

Quorum way satisfied!

General action items are listed at the end of the Minutes.

The meeting got started at 7:00pm.

1. Mailing Address

Following up on an online discussion regarding whether to have the YNA mailing address be a static one such as a post-office box or a fluid one that changes with each successive holder of the office of Treasurer, the matter was further debated. Tom was more in favor of the consistency of the former option, whereas Anne noted that the Treasurer's duties suggest that official mail (such as checks) needs to come directly to them. After some discussion, Anne moved that the Treasurer establish a post-office box for this purpose. Élan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. John will move forward with this.

2. Executive Committee

John will remain the Treasurer going into the new year.

Colin presented himself as a candidate for President and, there being no other volunteers for the position, was unanimously approved.

Chris volunteered for the position of Vice President and reviewed his vision for what the YNA could do in 2022, such as emulating what Whatcom Community Helpers did to provide community assistance during COVID-19 times. Tom presented himself as a candidate as well but then opted to support Chris and instead volunteer to take on the role of Secretary from Mark (who gratefully handed the title over to him). Both motions were unanimously approved.

3. Board Retirements

It was agreed that a special "thank you" certificate will be created for Don Hilty-Jones (former YNA President) who is moving out of the neighborhood. Chris volunteered to create a certificate.

Additionally, a thank-you will be sent to Audra Blankers, also moving out of the neighborhood, for her term on YNA's Board. John will coordinate.

Colin will pay a visit to the new occupants of Audra and Eli's house to welcome them and thank them for allowing us to continue to have our "Welcome to York" sign in their yard.

4. *Yorker* Editor Position Available

Anne is stepping down as lead editor of our *Yorker* newsletter, and Board members were encouraged to volunteer. The importance of maintaining printed copies was discussed, as many students who are only here for a short time but are still residents can be reached with local issues by way of a printed newsletter.

Guest Rebecca Hobbs offered to take on the editorial post; her offer was accepted by the Board. She will work with Anne and Mark on the upcoming *Yorker* issue and review past content and themes.

Article topics for 2022 *Yorkers* will be discussed at the next meeting. John and Chris indicated their intention to write articles, and Colin will also write something as incoming President.

5. Meeting Locations

Anne reported on her scouting for site options for general and Board meetings. The ideal candidate as a facility would be Norway Hall, which is now occupied by Christ the King Church, but their fee for its rental is \$400 per meeting...rather steep for our means. The next-best option would be Carl Cozier School, across I-5 in the Puget neighborhood, which would have the bonus of areas for kids' activities during general meetings. She will pursue both options further to see what can be arranged.

It was also noted that, later this year, there will be a joint meeting of York and Puget neighborhoods to discuss/review the status of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan update. This will be hosted by the City, jointly with the two neighborhoods.

6. Rock Hill Park Work Party

John reported that the Sunday, March 20, event was a big success and that the new interpretive sign for the pollinator garden was installed today.

There was some discussion about the possibilities for rehabilitation/replacement of the playground equipment at the park and how best to get feedback from the neighborhood as to what locals' priorities for that would be. Anne suggested the *Yorker* newsletter as one venue, Survey Monkey as another. We should reach out to Steve Janiszewski, Park Operations Manager, to review realistic options at our next Board meeting.

Élan floated some thoughts on how a public activity/gathering space use at the park could be established that would be enclosed when not in use (so as to discourage attempts to move into it).

Use of the park and improvements such as to the playground equipment would be a great topic for an upcoming general meeting.

7. Events/Calendar

Tom provided a list of upcoming and annual events to review the status of: Dumpster Day (being planned with longtime “Dumpster Queen” Carolyn Mulder, date to be announced), National Night Out Against Crime (August 2 afternoon/evening) in conjunction with the Annual Picnic, York Wine & Roses Garden Club’s Progressive Dinner (December 3), Caroling Party and Wagon Ride (December 10).

May 1 was also put forward as a deadline for content for the next issue of the *Yorker* newsletter, ahead of a May 25 General Meeting.

8. Safe Streets and Traffic Calming

This nonagenda item was raised by Anne, who suggests that we need to get the City’s attention regarding the neighborhood’s need for speed bumps, highlighting the stop sign at Potter and Humboldt which is so frequently disregarded, and the introduction of signage indicating to drivers that this is a residential neighborhood and that they should slow down. The subject’s importance was underscored by a big car crash just the previous day that damaged three parked cars.

How best to do this? Make calls to Public Works and talk to our City Council representative. Possibly request the City to do a study to test current speeds of vehicles in York. Tom recalls that this has been done herein the past, resulting in the establishment of a four-way stop at a particularly troublesome intersection.

9. Public Safety

Colin proposes the creation of committees on Parks & Infrastructure, City & Planning, Neighborhood Public Safety, and Historic Preservation. Ahead of our next meeting, Board members should think about whether they’d like to be on any of these.

There was a side discussion on the effectiveness of “light up the neighborhood” efforts and methods. It was agreed that this would be a topic for the Public Safety Committee to explore in greater detail.

Todd volunteered to chair a Disaster & Preparedness committee and indicated he has ideas as to how to reach out to arriving college-student residents on this matter.

9. Final Thoughts

There was a quick review of which topics were tabled for a subsequent meeting. These are:

1. Whatcom Creek Comprehensive Plan issues
2. Historic Preservation
3. Neighborhood Public-Safety Programs
4. *Yorker* Distribution

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33pm.

General Action Items: Contact our City Council representative and Public Works to push for a review or study of York's vehicle speeds and ways to introduce "traffic calming" measures. Consider joining any of the following committees: Parks & Infrastructure, City & Planning, Neighborhood Public Safety, and Historic Preservation.

Individual Action Items:

Anne:

- Further look into the Norway Hall and Carl Cozier options for hosting YNA meetings.
- Meet with Mark and Rebecca to arrange the introduction of Rebecca as *Yorker* Editor.

Chris:

- Create a certificate of appreciation for Don Hilty-Jones.

Colin:

- Involve Steve Janiszewski (Park Operations Manager, Parks Department) at the next Board meeting to review the options for rehabilitation/replacement of playground equipment at Rock Hill Park, based on priorities indicated by neighborhood feedback.
- Add tabled items and *Yorker* article topics to the agenda of the next Board meeting.
- Pay a visit to the new occupants of Audra and Eli's house to welcome them to York and thank them for continuing to host our sign.
- Anticipate writing a President's Message piece for the upcoming *Yorker* issue.

John:

- Purchase a thank-you card for Audra and circulate it among the Board for signatures and messages.
- Establish a post-office box for the York Neighborhood Association.

Mark:

- Transcribe and circulate minutes from this meeting and the February General Meeting.
- Meet with Anne and Rebecca to arrange the introduction of Rebecca as *Yorker* Editor.

Tom:

- Check with Michael Neville to see if we can be of assistance with their upcoming housing change.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Acting Secretary.