

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

March 27 2024 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2024-04-18.1 ✓

Present: Colin Beazley (President), Chris Donaldson (Vice President), Mark Ellis Walker (Secretary), Élan Engel, Kevin Cussen, Megan Doyle. **Quorum satisfied.**

Excused: Jeremy Ferrera, John DeOrio, Mars Lindgren, Opie Knechtel (Treasurer).

Absent: Tom Scott.

Guests: Past Board members Byron Bagwell and Todd Kleinbrook, York Yard Crawl's June Hathaway.

Action Items for specific Board members are listed at the end of the Minutes.

The meeting got started at 6:41pm.

1. February General Meeting Recap (Rock Hill Park Update)

Colin summarized the meeting as being very positive and pretty much all about the Rock Hill Park redesign. Laine Potter and Jonathan Schilk from the City's Planning Department gave a presentation on it and then answered questions from the attendees (of which there were around 12, including 6 Board members). He noted that the timeline they outlined was longer than ideal but realistic, and actually contractors have already been seen scoping out the site. Also, the presence of criminal or suspicious activity has been much better recently thanks to removal of undergrowth and improvement of fencing as well as more use by college students and families.

Colin and Kevin established a Google-based Rock Hill Park Refresh survey and posted a QR code for it on the neighborhood's bulletin boards. A "Rock Hill Review" will report its results both soon and ongoing. At the February General Meeting, they distributed handouts showing preliminary results of the two-question, multiple-choice-plus-options survey from the 17 responses that had been made. Neighbors should be encouraged to participate, whether on the City-level committee or just to be included in the process. Mark will also promote the survey on the YNA website, using verbiage already provided for it by Kevin.

2. Planning for York / Sehome Social at Harriet Spanel Park

May 16, a Thursday, has been established as the date for the event, which Sehome representatives reached out to the YNA about jointly hosting. This will be held instead of our regular YNA General Meeting and is intended to be a social event. It was suggested that we should have a table set up to display information about the Rock Hill Park Refresh; neighbors should also be encouraged to promote their local businesses and such at the event too.

Greg Hope, the Training and Outreach Coordinator for Bellingham Emergency Management, will attend, as will someone from the City about the Comprehensive Plan Update and hopefully someone from the Parks Department.

There was a side discussion here in which Colin reported on some City-level things, such as that the mood and outlook at meetings of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) are now much better with Mayor Kim Lund involved. However, regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update, he notes that the city's neighborhood associations are not feeling consulted/involved in what they see as a City-pushed process; the City, on the other hand, says that it wants to also represent those local populations who aren't represented by neighborhood associations.

3. Treasurer Update

As Opie was unable to attend this meeting, this item will be tabled until the Board's April meeting.

4. Historical Preservation Committee Report

Colin reported on behalf of himself and Chris about their recent meeting with Jeff Jewell, the Whatcom Museum's Archivist/Historian. Jewell was moved to tears by our enthusiasm for the Interactive Walking Tour project. The committee's next steps are to identify sites to include on the tour and get owners' buy-in for that inclusion.

5. Board Nominations and Confirmations

Paul d'Agnolo was unable to attend this meeting. Byron attended and is considering rejoining.

6. Status of Upcoming Newsletter

Mark reported that content has been slow to come in for the next *Yorker*, so a March distribution has been shifted to mid-April. A content-submission deadline of April 5 was agreed upon, and various Board members agreed to write specific items for it. Byron offered to have his business, Story Tattoo, be featured as a local-business-spotlight piece.

There was a tangential discussion of the interrelatedness of the Rock Hill Park Refresh and the City's Comprehensive Plan Update, with Mark indicating that he feels it should be addressed in the newsletter, but Colin recommended that we mention it but not push it as a main focus, as it's such a long-term process; instead, we should promote opportunities for York neighbors to be involved.

Because Colin will be unable to attend the next Board meeting if it's held on its usual third-Wednesday date, one was tentatively scheduled for April 18 instead (a Thursday), again at Nelson's. The focus of this meeting should largely be on fundraising ideas and planning the Sehome/York Social.

Meeting not so much adjourned as dissolved around 8:00, although adjournment was moved and seconded as a formality.

Action item for all Board members: Continue to send fundraising ideas/suggestions to Opie

Individual Action Items:

Chris:

- Write an article about the Interactive Walking Tour for the newsletter by April 5

Colin:

- Write the President's Corner feature for newsletter
- With Kevin, plan what to feature about the Rock Hill Park Refresh at the May Social

Kevin:

- Write a short article about the Rock Hill Park Refresh for the newsletter by April 5
- With Colin, plan what to feature about the Rock Hill Park Refresh at the May Social

Mark:

- Continue compiling and writing content for the newsletter, and send interview questions to Byron for a feature on his business
- Establish a Rock Hill Park Refresh feature on the YNA website to encourage participation
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review

Megan:

- Write a short article of house-maintenance tips for the newsletter by April 5

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.