

# York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

## July 24 2024 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2024-09-25.1 ✓

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

**Absent:** Tom Scott, Mars Lindgren, John DeOrio, Paul D'Agnolo, Todd Kleinbrook.

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

The meeting began informally at 6:38pm.

### 1. York Yard Crawl (YYC) - Final Preparation

Megan reported that approximately 50 events/stops were already signed up, the map is now available online, and there were currently six sponsors. Among the latter, Hardware Sales will be loaning much rental equipment for the Board's meet-and-greet event at her place from 4pm to 6pm; several Board members confirmed that they will be there. The emphasis is to promote the YNA and communicate that we're not a Home Owners' Association (HOA) but rather a group of volunteers who put on fun events—parties, not property taxes, and a sense of community with lots of energy. Also, the Planning Department will loan us the interactive display boards they had at the Spring Social on the Rock Hill Park Refresh so we can continue to inform neighbors of its progress and possibilities.

She suggested that candidate-promoting yard signs be collected after the election in November, as they can be painted over and reused to designate YYC stops next year.

### 2. Sponsorship Pack

Chris had sent out an email to the Board with an early draft of the kind of tier-approach pitch to be used to recruit sponsors for future events' costs and materials and asked for feedback. The draft is in the form of a PDF on the YNA's Google Drive, and edits and suggestions can be made as annotations.

There was a discussion of additional packages such as the establishment of a "marquee sponsor" level and event-specific sponsorship options, as well as à la carte bundles and in-kind donation of goods. Chris will incorporate the feedback he receives and report back soon.

### 3. Annual Picnic Planning

Colin gave an overview of the status of plans for entertainment/music, food, setup, games and kids' activities, communication/PR, and sponsorship for the September 8 event. Last year's band, Wild Geese of the West, is definitely interested in playing again, and Colin will reach out to a second one he knows of. Megan noted that the party tower Hardware Sales has available for rent can serve as

the bands' amplifier. Colin reported that the City's Party Trailer is not available after Labor Day, due to its needing to be handled by their employees, but that he'll ask if an exception could be made.

Hot dogs and buns are likely to be supplied by Nelson's as usual, although this has not yet been confirmed with Mars and Ben Shaklee. As for the grill, which Chris will operate, a large charcoal grill is available from Hardware Sales but we'll stick with gas for now. The possibility of inviting a food truck such as Doug's Burgers was floated, but an ice-cream truck was thought to be better as it would not be competing with a potluck.

For setup, we should get the crate of plates and such from Tom well in advance. Arrangements were discussed for how to best present a bobbing-for-apples feature using apples to be supplied by Kevin, and Megan noted that Hardware Sales had a dunk tank available too. Colin will again purchase a piñata and bring his "bouncy house," and the kids' talent show should definitely be held as usual. Megan can bring a cornhole set, and Jeremy recommended that a foursquare court be established.

The event can be promoted via the newsletter, social media, and the sponsorship packets. Colin will send invitations to key City departments and people, including the Fire Department in hopes that they'll turn up with a truck as sometimes at past events. Board members should continue reaching out for possible sponsors of the event, and it was agreed that we should fundraise at it for the YNA.

#### **4. Newsletter**

The August edition of the *Yorker* is in the works, heavy on the ads although there is still space available for some articles, so Chris and Megan agreed to supply something on local history along with Megan's two previously committed short pieces. The deadline for any content is Wednesday July 31, with Mark hoping to send it to print the weekend of the 3rd for distribution the following week (at the end of which is the Subdued Stringband Jamboree advertised in the newsletter).

As for print costs, Opie reported that Whatcom Community College's print shop can print it for about \$200 less than Copysource charges, so she and Mark will follow up on that option depending on the quality of a draft copy to now be requested.

#### **5. MNAC Meeting Recap**

Élan said the latest meeting of the Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC), chiefly on the Bellingham Comprehensive Plan Update, saw a lot of attending neighborhood representatives not happy that the higher density anticipated will not be yielding more parking, although the planners did handle that feedback well. The main planner remarked that Bellingham's plan is the most complicated he's ever encountered. Élan also noted that Nelson's Market got mentioned as a good example of a mixed-use commercial/residential building; there were mixed feelings about commercial ground floors with residential above, but he noted that it's likely where the City is going with this update.

Megan expressed interest in becoming the YNA's official MNAC alternate and definitely wants to attend the meetings.

## 6. Parks Update

Word from Jonathan Schilk is that the Rock Hill Park Refresh has been “delayed” due to the preparation for improvements at Bloedel Donovan Park having issues with archaeological findings, stretching out that project’s schedule and thus impacting ours—in theory by about three months, but the project’s budget will need to be approved before the next move can happen.

Schilk also indicated that the focus in the Refresh will be on building up rather than wide. It may be that the existing playground equipment will be going away but not replaced. He can come to our August 20 meeting and give us an update and content we can then convey to the neighborhood. He would like to have a committee of five people who had signed up to be involved when they attended the Spring Social; Colin and Kevin will email an invitation to them to this effect.

## 7. York Merch

The possibilities for producing York-themed merchandise for fundraising were revisited and discussed at length, with many suggestions being presented. Kevin will look into getting a short run of 20 shirts and hats done to be tried out at the Annual Picnic, and Board members should email additional ideas to him soon so designs can be chosen.

## 8. Next Meetings

The Board will meet on Wednesday August 20 to finalize Annual Picnic plans and learn of the Rock Hill Park Refresh’s status from Jonathan Schilk. September 25 will be our next YNA General Meeting, and then October 23 will be a Board meeting for the planning of the annual Holiday Party event.

**The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.**

### **Action items for all Board members:**

- Send additional ideas and/or draft art for possible YNA merch to Kevin.

### **Individual Action Items:**

#### **Chris:**

- Coordinate with Megan to supply a short piece on local history for the newsletter by July 31.

#### **Colin:**

- Send Annual Picnic invitations to key City departments and people, including the Fire Department.
- Help host the YNA Meet & Greet during the Yard Crawl.
- Write a President’s Corner piece for the newsletter.
- With Kevin, prepare and send an email inviting Spring Social attendee neighbors who were interested in being involved in the Rock Hill Park Refresh to come to our August 20 Board meeting where Jonathan Schilk will provide an update on the project, and formally invite Schilk himself too.

**Kevin:**

- Help host the YNA Meet & Greet during the Yard Crawl.
- With Colin, prepare and send an email inviting Spring Social attendee neighbors who were interested in being involved in the Rock Hill Park Refresh to come to our August 20 Board meeting where Jonathan Schilk will provide an update on the project.
- Look into getting a short run of 20 York-themed shirts and hats produced to be tried out at the Annual Picnic.

**Mark:**

- Help host the YNA Meet & Greet during the Yard Crawl.
- Continue preparation of the August newsletter and collaborate with Opie on possibly having Whatcom Community College's print shop print it or future issues.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

**Megan:**

- Host the YNA Board Meet & Greet event during the Yard Crawl.
- For the newsletter, write a property-maintenance feature and a short piece on the success of her use of the City's SeeClickFix app (and how it works) to fix a broken water main adjacent to Hyland House, and coordinate with Chris to supply a short piece on local history by July 31.

**Opie:**

- Collaborate with Mark on possibly having Whatcom Community College's print shop print the August newsletter and/or future issues.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.