

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

July 23 2025 Minutes

Approved: Motion _____

Present: Colin Beazley (President), Élan Engel, Erin Vonnahme, Jeremy Ferrera, Mark Ellis Walker (Secretary), Opie Knechtel (Treasurer), Paul D'Agnolo. **Quorum satisfied.**

Excused: Chris Donaldson (Vice President), John DeOrio, Kevin Cussen, Megan Doyle.

Absent: Todd Kleinbrook, Tom Scott.

Guest: June Hathaway.

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

The meeting began a little after 6:40pm when a quorum was reached.

1. Dumpster Day Recap

Saturday, June 28, was the 47th annual Dumpster Day, coordinated by Erin and longtime Dumpster Queen Carolyn Mulder. Erin and Opie reported that there was more dropping off of items than historically is the norm and that dozens of neighbors were involved, including with vehicles going through the neighborhood to retrieve items, and the dumpster was picked up by 10:15. Nothing much was scavenged for reuse, and there was one full-sized couch among the dumped things. Erin didn't have much to report in terms of numbers and highlights that could be reported in the newsletter but will confer with Carolyn for that. Erin Crosby should be thanked for volunteering to help keep things going smoothly.

2. Yard Crawl Status

June Hathaway gave an update on preparations for the York Yard Crawl scheduled to happen this Saturday (the 26th). There are currently 40 stops registered and listed on the event's website yorkyardcrawl.fun, with more still signing up, and she supplied printed black-and-white copies of the listings with a neighborhood map (blank, with no stops marked on it) and inquired as to the best way to get many more copies printed so that they would be on hand at Nelson's; Colin offered to contact Whatcom Community College's print shop in hopes of getting fast-enough turnaround on a print run, and he will print two large copies of the map himself.

June acknowledged that working harder on getting sponsors involved is always an afterthought of this event's efforts. Opie suggested that a pitch for that should happen as early as January or February in future years. Nelson's is sponsoring two port-a-potties and a hand-wash station to be located just outside for general use. As an afterthought, it was suggested that documentation of the event could involve a participatory activity in which neighborhood kids were provided with cheap digital cameras and encouraged to photograph various stops.

3. Annual Picnic Planning

The annual picnic will be held on September 6, the Saturday after Labor Day, at Harriet Spanel Park as usual with a potluck gathering and piñata. Opie confirmed that our budget situation is fine for spending \$500 to \$600 as was the case last year. Colin reported that the band Wild Geese of the West is very interested in playing this year as well, and he will book them. He will also reach out to Robin Thomas of the Sehome Neighborhood Association to make it a joint event with them. Also, the newsletter should indicate that candidates of the upcoming election are welcome to attend.

4. Newsletter Status

Mark noted that he hadn't been able to scare up enough content to fill a newsletter ahead of the Yard Crawl but that things were starting to come together, including a feature in the works on the Lakeway underpass mural about to be installed by Paper Whale (one of whose founders is a York resident) which, with the help of text from Kevin, will also report on the Rock Hill Park Refresh status and outlook and what neighbors can expect to see and how things will impact their use of the park.

Erin offered to contact Ragfinery, the York business recently displaced out of the neighborhood by a fire, to see if they would be returning to operations in York and whether they'd be interested in having us do a feature on them in the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Individual Action Items:

Colin:

- Contact Whatcom Community College's print shop about printing York Yard Crawl flyers ASAP.
- Book the Wild Geese of the West for the Annual Picnic.
- Contact Robin Thomas of the Sehome Neighborhood Association to arrange to make the Annual Picnic a joint York/Sehome event.
- Reach out to Fire and Police Departments about having representation/engagement at the Annual Picnic.

Mark:

- Continue producing a summer issue of the newsletter, promoting the Annual Picnic.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Élan:

- Come up with a kids' feature for the newsletter.

Erin:

- Consult Carolyn Mulder for reportable details on Dumpster Day results.
- Reach out to Ragfinery to see if they will be returning to operations within York and if we can do a feature on them in the newsletter sometime.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.