

York Neighborhood Association General Meeting

October 10, 2018

Garden Street United Methodist Church

Meeting Minutes

I Social

During the social period, Anne Mackie welcomed children to the pumpkin-decorating table. The Board provided soups, salad and desserts for the community meal.

II Police report

Officer Eric Osterkamp reported on the recent random assaults and murder committed near Lakeway and on the Whatcom Creek Trail. A suspect has been arrested.

Officer Osterkamp mentioned that, through the Bellingham Police Department (BPD), he and Officer Dante Alexander offer active shooter response training to any organization that requests it. The training includes making an Emergency Action Plan and emergency medical care.

He also mentioned that there has been a series of motorcycle thefts in York, although the three do not seem to be related. They are under investigation.

In response to a question about trail patrols, Officer Osterkamp described the citizen volunteer patrol program, and said volunteers had been asked to patrol the trails. Also the BPD has 4 bicycle officers who primarily patrol the downtown area.

In response to a question about vehicle prowls, Officer Osterkamp said that York has not seen much reported activity, but that may reflect lack of reporting. He said citizens can report minor crimes online, and reporting in this way helps police track criminal activity (see <https://www.cob.org/services/safety/police/reporting/Pages/online-reports.aspx>).

III Rock Hill Park

A discussion about recent work by the City Parks Department and the neighborhood to clear brush that screens activity in the park from neighbors and passers-by included the information that there's been a reduction in substance abuse issues.

In response to a question any plan to convert the park (or part of it) into a dog park, the suggestion was made to contact the Parks Department and Public Works.

The City police now have permission from the DOT to act on public nuisance behavior in the park and caution people about trespassing violations.

IV Warren Shea climate change update

Warren Shea discussed changes that we will likely see as climate change continues; he had photographs of local areas that will be affected by rising sea levels, and identified other areas that likely will be affected:

- 16.7 % of Blaine's housing inventory
- Bellingham's plan for 237 acres of redevelopment along the waterfront
- Interruption of railway service as tracks along the waterfront are affected, etc.

Current problems include record flooding, increases in frequency and severity of forest fires, other extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity. He explained the best first

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step to mitigate the problem is to replace use fossil fuels with clean energy—currently coal, oil, and gas provide 80% of the world's energy.

V Chris Roselli, WWU Community Relations Director

Chris Roselli introduced himself as a new resource for Western's neighbors.

VI Lieutenant Bob Vanderyacht on Emergency Management

Lieutenant Vanderyacht described his work in developing Emergency Action Plans and helping groups to develop their own. He brought copies of the 2017 Emergency Preparedness Guide. He also described the Map Your Neighborhood process, which helps neighborhoods define locations of useful resources during an emergency, and the planning in place for a future Mt Baker eruption. He recommended that each family set up an outside contact as a resource for potential emergencies where family members may be separated and unable to make contact.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes by Leigh Mcdiarmid; minutes approved 11/14/2018.

Attachment: 10/10/2018 YNA General Meeting Attendees