

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

September 25 2024 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2026-03-26.1 ✓

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

Excused: Opie Knechtel (Treasurer),

Absent: Chris Donaldson (Vice President), John DeOrio, Mars Lindgren, Paul D'Agnolo, Todd Kleinbrook, Tom Scott.

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

The meeting began around 6:30pm.

1. Annual Picnic Recap and Feedback

Colin estimated, based on the number of hot dogs served by grillmaster Chris and other observation, that attendance was around 125. It was deemed a success for sure, although for next year we should have more games for kids and more Board involvement (seven or eight attended, but not all participated in the preparations or services) as well as get the word out about it sooner via word of mouth.

2. Small & Simple Grants Timeline and Next Steps

Colin apprised us of the status of our two Small & Simple Grant projects. We have \$3,500 available for the intended signage at our parks' bulletin boards, and while these will probably be built by ADI it remains to be seen who will design their contents; Mark, who is a graphic designer, offered to do so but is leery of conflict-of-interest issues and therefore will probably treat it as just an initial design to potentially be finalized by another contractor.

As for the trees to make freely available to property owners for planting (albeit not on parking strips), Colin and Opie are working on an arrangement with Plantas Nativa to use the available \$4,000 grant monies to establish a six-month line of credit of sorts there and have Yorkers come pick up trees on the City-approved list when they're ready to plant them (that is, not having to fetch them now and somehow sustain them through winter). We could follow up on this at the first General Membership Meeting of the year (probably late February). Megan suggested that we could also use some of the grant monies to buy planting tools to make available...and further that we could finish off with an Arbor Day event (on Friday, April 25, 2025) and again use some of the funds to pay for some signage in advance.

Megan also volunteered to champion a street-mandala-painting event as part of a 2025 project, albeit not as a Small & Simple Grant proposal.

3. Annual Holiday Party / Horse & Carriage Planning

Tom was absent, so it was agreed by consensus that December 14th will be the date of the event (it being the second Saturday of the month) and that it run 5–8pm. Ideally Chris will coordinate with Tom on what needs to happen and the status of the booking of the horses and wagon.

4. October General Meeting

Because Colin will be out of town on Wednesday, October 23, he proposed that we change the tentative date to Thursday the 24th, although Mark noted that Colin could deputize Chris to cover for him instead. ***This scheduling was later superseded by a follow-up email on Tuesday, October 1, in which Colin suggested instead holding the meeting on Wednesday, October 30, with a Halloween/fall theme (refreshments: cookies, cider, hot chocolate) and a focus on the Small & Simple Grant trees' availability. A representative from the City's Public Works Department confirmed that they could attend this and support the tree project.*** Colin will also ask Mayor Lund about attending, whether to speak on the City's tree-canopy goals or just to be there in general.

5. Sponsorship Update

Chris will be pushing to have new sponsorship-package pitches ready to go out soon. Colin suggested offering sponsors one of our new York hats as an incentive. Of the hats, Kevin reported that 21 were sold at the Annual Picnic and 2 more afterward; he will bring the remainder to the Annual Holiday Party to offer for sale. Mark notes that we should also promote their availability on the YNA website.

6. Newsletter Schedule

Mark has a lot of material planned for the newsletter and intends to send it to print at the start of November so that copies can be delivered well before Thanksgiving (November 28). Former *Yorker* editor Rebecca Hobbs, back in town, has offered to take on the business-spotlight feature again, and Megan will contribute her now-regular home/property-improvement feature as well as a brief recap of her successful SeeClickFix experience from earlier this year. Élan agreed to come up with a kids' feature. Content for these and any other contributions should be supplied to him by mid-October.

7. Approval of Past Minutes

After Mark begged and whined about it yet again, the Board quickly reviewed and approved the Minutes for the April, June, July, and August 2024 Board meetings.

Motion: 2024-09-25.1 Approve the Minutes for the YNA Board meetings of April, June, July, and August 2024 as previously circulated. Passed unanimously.

8. Next Meetings

October ~~23~~ ~~or 24~~ **30** will be our next YNA General Meeting, and then Wednesday, November 20, will be a Board meeting for the final planning of the Annual Holiday Party event and planning of an Annual General Meeting to be held in February for Board elections and follow-up on the tree-planting project.

After a lively unplanned discussion as to just which Downtown-seeming businesses are actually in York and could be significant sponsors (Jeremy in particular being keen to follow up on some of these), **the meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.**

Individual Action Items:

Chris:

- Coordinate with Tom on wagon booking and other arrangements needed for the Annual Holiday Party.
- Continue preparing sponsorship packets.

Colin:

- With Opie, continue making arrangements with Plantas Nativa for tree availability.
- Invite Mayor Lund to the October General Meeting.

Élan:

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

Jeremy:

- Look into courting Saturna Capital and other Downtown-seeming York businesses as potential sponsors.

Kevin:

- Bring all remaining available York hats to the Annual Holiday Party for sale.

Mark:

- Produce the November newsletter.
- With Colin, produce draft designs for interpretive signage for the park kiosks' bulletin boards.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Megan:

- Write a home/property-maintenance piece and a SeeClickFix recap for the newsletter by mid-October.

Opie:

- With Colin, continue making arrangements with Plantas Nativa for tree availability.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.