

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

January 22 2025 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2026-03-26.1 ✓

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

Absent: Chris Donaldson (Vice President), Élan Engel, 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 at 6:37pm.

1. Rock Hill Park Refresh

Tomorrow is the 30% Status Check-In for this project. Kevin and Colin gave a quick recap on feedback from neighbors via the focus group and the Engage Bellingham website, and they will update the Board after that check-in meeting.

The current playground equipment will be removed, but what will take its place at that location is not yet known. The new playground equipment site will be just south of the entry sign at the end of Iron Street. From there, a walk/bike path hugging the I-5 sound wall will loop to the Lakeway Drive end of the park and back. Desire was expressed for some viewpoint element atop the rock ridge.

There is to be one more iteration of feedback, and then permitting begins. The design will be locked down at the 60% status point, whereupon bidding commences.

2. Small & Simple Grants

Regarding the grant for trees to be freely available to York property owners to grow Bellingham's tree canopy, Opie says only six or seven have picked up trees so far. There was a discussion of the complications involved in a stipulated 20' height minimum. It was also noted that trees can be planted in road easements if a street-tree permit is obtained.

As for the interpretive signage for our two parks' bulletin-board kiosks, Mark shared some rough mockups of how the available physical space could be used with the amount of text and illustrations he compiled from YNA resources; he found that, rather than an entire side of a bulletin board, a third to maybe a half would suffice for a simple design featuring a couple of historic photos, a site map, and the park-history narrative. Megan indicated that there were additional photos, especially of Rock Hill Park's prior status, in the YNA archives that should could make available for a revised mockup to be submitted to the Parks Department for preliminary review to get the project under way.

3. 2025 Budget

Opie reported that the YNA did better financially last year than she expected, ending 2024 with \$446.11 more than we started with!

4. Newsletter

Mark confessed that he really didn't have much content lined up yet for the first newsletter of 2025, so options were quickly brainstormed. One thing that was suggested was to start promoting the York Yard Crawl, which will take place the same weekend as 2024's (the last of July, so presumably the 26th). Opie said she could write an update on the status of the Way Station project, at the neighborhood's northwest corner, which had been delayed in its progress for part of the year. Promotion of the tree availability should also be featured.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Individual Action Items:

Colin:

- With Kevin, update the Board on the status of the Rock Hill Park Refresh project after the 30% Check-In meeting tomorrow.

Kevin:

- With Colin, update the Board on the status of the Rock Hill Park Refresh project after the 30% Check-In meeting tomorrow.

Mark:

- Produce the February 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 for the newsletter by mid-February.
- Provide Mark with at least temporary copies of photos of the Rock Hill Park site and Franklin School for possible inclusion on the parks' bulletin-board kiosks.

Opie: Write an update piece on the status of the Way Station project for the newsletter by late February.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.