

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

March 26 2025 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2026-03-26.1 ✓

Present: Colin Beazley (President), Erin Vonnahme, Jeremy Ferrera, John DeOrio, Mark Ellis Walker (Secretary), Megan Doyle, Opie Knechtel (Treasurer), Paul D'Agnolo, Tom Scott. **Quorum satisfied.**

Excused: Chris Donaldson (Vice President), Kevin Cussen.

Absent: Élan Engel, Mars Lindgren, Todd Kleinbrook.

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

The meeting began at 6:37pm.

1. Board Elections

Mark, Opie, and Colin indicated their willingness to continue to serve as officers for 2025 and were duly confirmed by unanimous votes. Chris was not present but told Colin that he'll also continue as Vice President, albeit after a little more postsurgery recovery time.

2. City Council and MNAC Meetings

Élan reported on the atmosphere of recent MNAC meetings, reiterating that Mayor Lund is listening to the neighborhoods' concerns and interests more than was the case with the previous administration.

There was discussion about a recent resolution that was fast-tracked through the City Council, regarding middle housing: how does the YNA want to inform residents of this as well as represent them on the matter to the City Council? Aspects that are particularly relevant to York are the streamlining of the permitting process for building (both new and modifications) and that the requirements to provide adequate parking are being either dropped or simply not enforced.

It was suggested that Megan should provide a summary of the library of resources available for responsible local housing development, possibly to be publicized (or even made available) in the June issue of the *Yorker* newsletter and promoted at the joint York/Sehome event. The possibility of publishing local permit applications in the newsletter or on the website was raised but without anyone stepping up to make it happen.

3. Small & Simple Grant Completion

Colin indicated that it is our intention to have at least the design for the Harriet Spanel Park interpretive signage ready to show at the joint York/Sehome social event in June. Mark is refining his original rough drafts to present the Parks Department with options to review and vet per their own standards.

4. Spring/Summer Event Schedule

Regarding the Rock Hill Park Work Party scheduled for May 31, John will coordinate volunteer-recruitment efforts and event planning with Colin and Ryan Robie in hopes of matching the tremendous turnout of 82 participants at the January work party.

Colin is working with Robin Thomas, president of the Sehome Neighborhood Association, to schedule a second joint York/Sehome social event in early June and encouraged everyone to reach out to groups that would want to have a presence there (such as the Bellingham Food Bank). As noted above, we will strive to have the interpretive signage design ready to at least show there if not be installed already.

Erin will take the lead in coordinating Dumpster Day with longtime “Dumpster Queen” Carolyn Mulder. This year’s event is scheduled for June 28.

The York Yard Crawl will be held on July 26, with Megan and June Hathaway again organizing and publicizing participation; flyer posting should happen in the first two weeks of July. Megan will reach out to Whatcom County Democrats to obtain more yard signs to repurpose for use as event locators. She also wants to do a street-mandala project this year at the intersection of Potter and Humboldt, similar to the one done at the Sunnyland Stomp last year; costs are not anticipated to be large and could be covered by a City “Small & Simple” grant if one were available.

Tom reports that the Wine & Roses Garden Club’s event at Plantas Nativa on March 20 was not well attended. They also have events scheduled for mid-April and mid-May: the annual plant exchange and a presentation on planter design.

5. Newsletter Distribution Update

Colin will help Mark revisit the current volunteer block assignments ahead of the June issue with an eye to ensuring all blocks are covered and hopefully more conveniently proximate to the volunteers’ own addresses, but Mark warns that the task is more complicated than it seems.

Printed copies of the March newsletter were newly available at this meeting, so all Board members present signed out for their blocks and took copies home for delivery.

6. Other Items

Colin reported that 60%-design-status plans of the Rock Hill Park Refresh, featuring the near-final playground simulations, were presented to the public at the General Meeting held on February 27* and were well received. Mark will add those simulations and plans to the website.

**Mark was unable to attend the General Meeting, being out of town that day, so no formal minutes are available.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm.

Individual Action Items:

Colin:

- See if the City's Party Trailer can be reserved for the York Yard Crawl on July 27.
- Continue scheduling the joint York/Sehome social event for early June with the Sehome Neighborhood Association.
- With Mark, revisit the assignment of newsletter delivery blocks by volunteers.

Mark:

- With Colin, produce draft designs for interpretive signage for the park kiosks' bulletin boards for Parks Department review and guidance.
- With Colin, revisit the assignment of newsletter delivery blocks by volunteers.
- Add the Rock Hill Park Refresh 60% Design plans and simulations to the website.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Megan:

- Summarize a library of available resources for responsible local housing development, for possible publication in the June newsletter and promotion at the joint York/Sehome event.
- With June Hathaway, continue planning the York Yard Crawl and investigate the possibility of creating a street mandala as part of it. Anticipate a flyer-posting effort to culminate in the first two weeks of July.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.