

York Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Meeting

Nelson's Market, 514 Potter Street

April 23 2025 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2026-03-26.1 ✓

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

Excused: Chris Donaldson (Vice President).

Absent: Mars Lindgren, Todd Kleinbrook, Tom Scott.

Guests: Colin's neighbor Hannah and City Councilmember Michael Lilliquist

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

The meeting began at 6:33pm.

1. Event Planning

We have a lot of events scheduled for the next several months! Colin and their various organizing Board members gave a recap of their status and outlook.

- Wednesday, May 28 (6:30–8:00pm) | York Neighborhood Association General Meeting @ Norway Hall. Colin opened the floor for contributions of topics of interest that this meeting might address; City budgets and the office of the Comptroller were put forward as well as the status of the new jail project, development of the waterfront, zoning and land use, and how to get an ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) done. Councilmember Lilliquist gave a brief overview of the status of the City's budget and staffing issues and the limited options available for using taxes to cover shortfalls.
- Saturday, May 31 (9am to noon) | Rock Hill Park Pollinator Garden Work Party. John said that they're trying to get as many as 80 people to attend, and he plans to print promotional flyers a week ahead of the event.
- Saturday, June 7 | 2nd Annual York/Sehome Info Fair @ Harriet Spanel Park. Colin reported that he hopes to have around 10 booths present and that the event is intended to be a potluck. Organizations to contact about having a booth or other presence there include the League of Women Voters and some of the muralists who have been active recently in town. He and Robin Thomas of the Sehome Neighborhood Association will send out emails about the event.
- Saturday, June 14 | Wine & Roses Rock Hunt & Wine Walk. Tom was not present to report on this.
- Saturday, June 28 | Dumpster Day @ Nelson's Market, 8:00 to 10:30am. Erin confirmed that the same sponsor lineup as usual has committed (Nelson's Market, Sanitary Services Company (SSC), and Republic Services). She and longtime "Dumpster Queen" Carolyn Mulder are seeking volunteers for providing trucks and driving around the neighborhood with

them to fetch larger abandoned items to bring to the dumpster at Nelson's. A volunteer being needed to wash the dumpster, Megan said she'd do it. Erin will ask Chris to produce some informational signage, which Opie suggests should emphasize what items are not allowed.

- Saturday, July 27 | York Yard Crawl! Megan is working on getting sponsors but remains too occupied with other projects to do much in support of this year's event. She and the event's founder June Hathaway are hoping to get 70 signs recycled for use at the various stops of the Crawl. There will be a Google Form for signups as of the beginning of June, and Chris will be asked to produce save-the-date signage.

2. Newsletter Distribution Status

Mark reported that the March newsletter got delivered in full except for one block that he accidentally deleted from the sign-out sheet; he belatedly delivered those last ones himself just now. He and Colin will collaborate to revisit the roster of block assignments to make them more efficient and locally pertinent. Board members were invited to review a set of maps Mark prepared indicating which blocks were currently assigned to volunteers and to indicate what blocks they'd prefer to take if other Board members were interested in swapping; he will incorporate the results of this exercise when producing the sign-out sheet for the next newsletter this summer.

3. April MNAC Meeting

Élan attended last week's Mayor's Neighborhood Advisory Commission (MNAC) meeting and said that it ran longer than had been expected. The main topic was the grand opening of the Little Squaticum Pier to take place on Saturday, April 26. The mayor also announced that the City had won a grant for a community solar array project from the Northwest Clean Air Agency. On behalf of the YNA, at the meeting Élan promoted Dumpster Day and the Yard Crawl, and Robin Thomas mentioned the intended York/Sehome info fair.

4. Small & Simple Grant for Park Signage

Mark presented some printouts of initial designs for the Rock Hill Park and Harriet Spanel Park interpretive signs to adorn one side of the new bulletin-board kiosks and invited Board members to provide feedback and make notes on them. Colin supplied Mark with a Rock Hill Park timeline prepared by Anne Mackie for potential inclusion on that park's sign.

5. Rock Hill Refresh Design Check-In

Kevin reported that the project is at the 60% Design phase and will be at 90% in June. The designs have been well received by the public and are popular. The timing of the implementation of the new playground elements, however, is tied to progress of the development of elements at Bloedel Donovan Park. The YNA should have Jonathan Shilck's boards of the playground designs at all its events this summer to keep the public aware of what's coming next year.

There was a side discussion about a popular Japanese trading-card series featuring local personalities and how such a thing might be created with some of York's own; if anyone has

suggestions for candidates for it, please send them to Kevin. He also would like us to commit to putting on a Rock the Park concert event to coincide with the debut of the new playground.

6. Other Items

Erin informed us that the Bellingham Food Bank's person specializing in the gleaning of local produce has returned and a gleaning event was in the works for late summer, August or September being better for such a thing than October. The event should be promoted on the website well in advance, and Paul asked that there be a signup option.

There was brief discussion of the possibility of having a fruit-growing garden of trees and/or bushes at Rock Hill Park. As for the York Farm, Colin's neighbor Hannah said that there are a couple of garden plots still available but that there are no chicken areas at this time.

As Treasurer, Opie reported that the YNA has paid Plantas Nativa for the seven or eight trees that York neighbors collected as part of our Small & Simple Grant to encourage the planting of more trees to build our tree canopy as the City was promoting. Financially we saw the addition of at least one and probably two new newsletter advertisers and one donation via the form that runs on the back page of every issue of the newsletter.

Finally, there was a brief recap of the volunteer effort, led by Kirsti Charlton and Judy Hopkinson, to welcome the 19 new families who've moved in at the YWCA's shelter on Lakeway Avenue, bringing Easter baskets for their children, Nelson's Market providing the baskets with a coupon for a free ice-cream cone for each child and mom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53pm.

General Action Items:

- Suggestions for Yorkers to feature on a tentatively proposed trading-card game should be sent to Kevin.

Individual Action Items:**Chris:**

- Produce informational signage for Dumpster Day and promotional flyers for the York Yard Crawl with Erin and Megan/June respectively.

Colin:

- 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.

John:

- Print and post flyers to promote the Rock Hill Park Work Party of May 31.

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.
- When a late-summer gleaning event has been announced by the Food Bank, promote it on the YNA website.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Megan:

- With June Hathaway, continue planning the York Yard Crawl.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.