

York Neighborhood Association General Membership Meeting

Aslan Brewing Company, 1330 North Forest Street

November 20 2025 Minutes

Approved: Motion 2026-03-26.1 ✓

Present: YNA Board members Colin Beazley (President), Élan Engel, Kevin Cussen, Mark Ellis Walker (Secretary), Opie Knechtel (Treasurer), and Tom Scott (quorum satisfied), plus four neighbors (Lilli, Sarah, a second Lilli near the end, and Alex) and some offspring.

After socializing and ordering of food, the meeting began at 7:00pm with round-robin introductions.

1. Newsletter Distribution

Colin had picked up the November issues of the newsletter before coming to the meeting, copies were available for Board members to take and sign out for ahead of starting deliveries. Mark noted that, between heavy rain scheduled for the coming weekend and then the Thanksgiving break, it wasn't expected that deliveries would need to happen before the start of December but that they should wrap up by the 7th in order to publicize the Holiday Party.

2. Holiday Party Planning

Tom gave updates on the status of the usual components of the party, starting with the wagon being confirmed for that night (Saturday, December 13) and attendance by some of Squaticum High School's choir and possibly some from the university's as well. Ben Shaklee or Megan Doyle should ask members of Gallowglass, who performed at 2023 and 2024's parties, if they'll do so again.

For the ticketing process, it was agreed to revise things based on lessons learned in recent year and use numbers rather than colors on tickets to differentiate ride groups and to put estimated departure times on them. Eight rides are anticipated for sure, with a ninth possible but not to be advertised, and some indication on rides going to the Shuksan Healthcare Center. Kevin will be the ticket issuer.

Megan should be asked about providing a tent, either of her own or from Hardware Sales. Jeremy will be able to staff the cider/cocoa table again, and Carolyn Mulder will be contacted about helping with safety and directing traffic.

For publicizing the event, Opie will ask Whatcom Community College for an estimate of printing costs for flyers to be created by Chris again. Our social-media outlets should promote it now too, including hopefully reactivating an inactive Instagram page which Lilli noted is probably the platform college students would look to for such info; Colin will ask Chris if he owns that page, and, if so and it can be revived, Lilli can help initiate the process of establishing a post first and then sustaining it as a "story."

It was also agreed by consensus that this should be presented as a benefit for the Bellingham Food Bank, not the YNA, although we will still have our donation QR codes posted and a donation bin.

As for YNA-branded merchandise at the party, Kevin will bring the last four hats available for sale; The student guests present said that stickers would be very popular among students.

3. Other Items

Colin asked for all present to chime in on what their priorities and goals were for the YNA in 2026. Élan suggested that we look into having the local-history presenters the Good Time Girls do something for us as they recently did for another neighborhood. And Kevin reiterated the desire to have a Rock at Rock Hill Park concert coinciding with the debut of the new playgrounds there late next summer.

Élan also asked for feedback on the new mural at the Lakeway underpass of I-5, on behalf of Mayor Lund who had received some that was negative; all at this meeting who expressed their own reaction to it and impressions were completely positive, noting that it was not only lovely but also brought light into that notoriously grim underpass. Also regarding Lakeway, Colin noted that old, dead trees along the median have now been replaced.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Individual Action Items:

Chris:

- Prepare publicity materials for promoting the Holiday Party.

Colin:

- Ask Chris if he owns the York Instagram page and can revive it in conjunction with guest Lilli Kihlstrom.

Erin:

- With Mark, make a QR code for Food Bank donations specific to York.

Kevin:

- For the Holiday Party, prepare something to poll neighbors for what YNA merchandise they'd like us to offer for sale.

Mark:

- With Erin, make a QR code for Food Bank donations specific to York and print it for the Holiday Party.
- Transcribe and distribute minutes for this meeting for Board review.

Megan:

- For the Holiday Party, ask members of Gallowglass if they'll perform again and look into getting a tent for out front of Nelson's Market.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Ellis Walker, Secretary.