

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 2/4/2021 (7 – 7:40 PM) – Zoom Session.**

**Note:** Because of the coronavirus, the board decided to hold a virtual meeting via a Zoom session.

**Attendees (15):** Joe Walsh, Bob Strunk, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Joan Markoe, Ed Boehner, Eddie Schechter, Ed Bogucki, Suzanne Cross, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Jan Roberts, and Floyd Patton. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 1/7/2021 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Joan Markoe reported as of 1/31/2021:

Beginning Balance:	\$23,272.58
Deposits:	0.00
Deductions:	\$ 572.39
Ending Balance:	\$22,700.19

Deductions:	\$ 562.00	(D&O Insurance)
	\$ 10.39	(Laminated Posters - dogs on leash/Suzanne Cross)

**Membership Report:** Joan Markoe reported no additional memberships received during January. There are 124 members, of which 73 are new members. Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson volunteered their computer skills to help track the members. The next membership campaign will begin in March.

**Calendar of Future Planned Events:**

Watermark Baldwin Lecture	Tuesday 2/16/2021	3 PM	Joe Walsh’s lecture via Zoom
February Park Clean-up	Saturday 2/13/2021	10 AM	Canceled due to bad weather
March Meeting	Thursday 3/4/2021	7 PM	Via Zoom
March Clean-up	Saturday 3/13/2021	10 AM	With social distancing and masks
Love Your Park Week	5/8 – 5/16/2021		Project: re-staining the mortar

Note: Joe Walsh proposed that we schedule park clean-ups for the second Saturday of the month.

**Tree Identification Tags:** Joe Walsh received the initial order of eight tree tags. The first tree tag was installed on the Cedar of Lebanon on the 19th Street side of park. Bad weather has postponed posting the other tags. Joe expects to order about 40 more tags for delivery in April. Meka Perez, our Park Friends Stewardship coordinator, has been getting Baldwin Park some good press. There is a shoutout in the January Love Your Park blog, and an article about our tree identification project in February’s Park Friends Network Newsletter.

**More Street Trees on 19th Street:** As there are spots for two additional trees north of the Hawthorns on 19th Street, Joe Walsh will initiate an application. The Tree Tenders will cut the pit for the trees. We would be responsible for their care and maintenance. Ed Bogucki who is involved with Tree Tenders said that we should be approved, as the city is aiming to create an urban forest covering 30% of open space. An arborist will have the final decision on the type of tree we would receive.

**Parkway Museum District Signs:** Sandy Owens volunteered to investigate the cost to have Baldwin Park added to the Parkway Museum District Signs posted along the Ben Franklin Parkway. These are blue signs ringing the parkway listing organizations and pointing to their locations with arrows. The cost is \$100 per sign and an annual cost of \$15.75 for maintenance. It was proposed that we purchase two signs: located at 19th & Vine and 19th & Callowhill. After members get a chance to check out these signs, the discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

**Possible Musical Performance in Park:** Steve Kurens is looking for help in organizing a possible musical performance in the fall. He has reached out to the Curtis Institute which has students interested in performing in front of a live audience. Volunteers would be needed to help with publicizing and organizing the event.

**Storywalk:** Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson proposed having our first Storywalk near Earth Day, possibly April 23 -25. Frames, containing laminated pages from a beginner's reader, would be placed along the park's path so that children would be able to follow the story as they walk through the park. The event would be publicized by signs posted in the park, as well as through Next Door Neighbor and LSNA and contacting local day care centers. More details will be available for the March meeting.

**Website News:** Check out the latest history article, "Bridget Carey: Murder in Baldwin Park", which describes a possible mass murderer living in the neighborhood in the early 1900's.

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>

**Board Change:** Bob Strunk is voluntarily stepping down as Vice President and is being replaced by Joe Walsh. Bob will continue working on the board as a Director.

**Other Neighborhood News:** Work on the original granary building is nearing completion with a State Store opening on the first floor in late February or early March. High-end residential rental units will occupy the rest of the building which will be named "Tidewater Sonder".

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.