

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 1/4/2024 (7 – 7:40 PM)**

**Attendees (11):** Jim Fennell, Nancy van Arkel, Joan Markoe, Bob Strunk, Sandy Owens, Jan Roberts, Sherry Claypool, Roz Franklin, Suzanne Cross, Stan Ordo and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

**Team Meeting:** Jim Fennell and Nancy van Arkel attended a team meeting with representatives of Parks and Recreation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy. Baldwin Park problems and issues such as repair of two lamp post lights and the installation of park two park signs were discussed. Progress is being made on the signs for the park. We will pay for two signs at a cost of about \$14,000 and then the Fairmount Park Conservancy will refund us about \$3,000 as part of the Parks-on-Tap payment.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Joan Markoe reported the following:

**PNC Bank Statement for Period 12/01/2023-12/29/2023**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$42,192.92 |
| Deposits          | \$ 1,863.50 |
| Deductions        | \$ 334.45   |
| Ending Balance    | \$43,721.97 |

**Deposits**

Deposits totaling \$1,863.50 were: \$1,612.50 for Parks-on-Tap, and \$251.00 for Dues\Donations. The May and August Parks-on-Tap sessions were combined into one check.

**Deductions**

Deductions totaling \$334.45 were: \$269.98 for dog waste bags, \$64.47 for M. Baldwin birthday party supplies.

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**Year-to-12/31/2023:**

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Income     | \$12,444.53 |
| Expenses   | \$ 2,559.62 |
| Net Income | \$ 9,884.91 |

**Membership Committee:** Roz Franklin has started manually updating the database and will evaluate the possibility of automating the membership data processing. Joan Markoe mentioned that our membership year runs from April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Thus far, the Membership Drive has resulted in 147 members/donors (29 new members and 118 renewing members) and \$9,940.00 in dues/donations.

## Calendar of Events:

|                   |                    |       |                  |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------|------------------|
| January Clean-up  | Saturday 1/13/2024 | 10 AM | Monthly Clean-up |
| February Meeting  | Thursday 2/1/2024  | 7 PM  | Monthly Meeting  |
| February Clean-up | Saturday 2/10/2024 | 10 AM | Monthly Clean-up |

**Park Maintenance:** Parks & Recreation sawed off a dangling broken branch on the northeast corner of the park. An arborist re-evaluated a white pine and black pine tree and decided that they could remain. Earlier, we had been told that these two trees had to be removed because they were in danger of falling. Nancy van Arkel said that the tree identification tags, which had been removed, will be re-installed on the two trees.

**Park Signs:** Jim Fennell, Nancy van Arkel, Sandy Owens, and Bob Strunk will do a walk-around in the park to identify four possible locations for our park signs. These locations will be checked for possible underground pipes and electric lines.

**Vandalism:** Recently, there were several instances of vandalism: trash cans being dumped; membership signs being removed; all books being removed from the Little Library; park brochures being scattered around the park; and the dog bag dispenser being emptied.

**Little Library:** Suzanne Cross reported that they have been receiving many books recently, especially children's books. In addition to books, they accept DVD's and stationery supplies. Jim Fennell mentioned that the Little Library now appears in Google Earth. In addition to occasionally having the library emptied, Suzanne reported that a vandal broke the plexiglass window door. Fortunately, she was able to get it repaired quickly with the help of Fairmount Hardware and Tivoli maintenance staff.

## Website News:

For more information about Matthias Baldwin Park, the history of the park and the surrounding neighborhood, visit our website:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.