

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 1/2/2020 (7 – 8:15 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (12): Sandra Owens, Bob Strunk, Jim Ruddick, Grace Hanrahan, Joan Markoe, Jan Roberts, Bernard Mason, Jim Fennell, Suzanne Cross, Joe Walsh, Joan Applegate and Jackie Wolf. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 12/5/2019 meeting were approved.

Calendar:	January Clean-up	Saturday 1/18/2020	10 AM
	February Meeting	Thursday 2/6/2020	7 PM
	February Clean-up	Saturday 2/15/2020	10 AM

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported a total of \$19,074.26 in the account. We received \$3,523.50 from the 2019 Parks-on-Tap Happy Hour, which was about \$1,000 more than 2018. In addition, there were dues from new members totaling \$72.75. The expenses included: the Matthias Baldwin Birthday which totaled \$139.72 for refreshments and paper products and the two-year website domain cost. Next month, Joan will provide the annual overview report on expenses and membership.

Insurance for Officers/Directors: Joan Markoe reported on her research in seeking liability insurance to protect the officers against such things as lawsuits. The estimated costs based on quotes varied but seemed to be about \$800 - \$1,000 per year. Joan was waiting to receive further clarification from the insurance company on what was included. It was decided that the board of officers would meet separately to discuss this after she received that information. Joan cautioned that we need to be sure to get a permit from Parks & Recreation for any official events and that we use their official attendance form to protect us in case of an accident.

2019 Accomplishments: Joe Walsh listed the 2019 Accomplishments for the Friends of Baldwin Park:

- Celebrated the 224th birthday of Matthias Baldwin, 12/5/19 after monthly meeting
- Helped celebrate the dedication of the new Baldwin Locomotive Works mural, 11/14/19
- Hosted our second annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade, October 26, 2019
- Hosted Movie Night in the Park, August 29, 2019
- Crosswalks across 19th Street advocated by Friends: completed August 2019
- Purchased and replaced 19 of 21 trash can liners in the Park and meticulously removed all trash and food from under the steel containers in August 2019
- Paid \$6,000 for new plantings in the landscaped beds in August 2019
- Hosted very successful Parks on Tap, June 26-30, 2019
- Hosted Paint the Mural Day, June 1, 2019
- Free neighborhood Scavenger Hunt, May 18, 2019
- A very successful April 2019 membership drive doubled our membership

Website News: Joe Walsh listed the 2019 accomplishments for the Friends of Baldwin Park website:

- Last 180 days: 3.2k individuals accessing website with 4.2k total hits
- Seamus Kearney's papers posted to website: minutes back to 2007; speeches. Thanks, Seamus.
- Membership forms and PayPal page completed. Thanks, Joan Markoe
- Minutes and documents of Friends group given pages

- Every event given a page, accessible from Accomplishments of Friends page from Home page
- Special project: trees in the park, 32 pages.
- Website immortalized in art on Baldwin mural (Thank you Phillip Adams and Mural Arts). Now it looks like we will have to fund the website forever!

Check out the latest history articles “The Schuylkill River in Geological Times” by Sandra Owens and “The Central Manual Training School/ NOVO” by Joe Walsh at <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>. Next month look for an article on “The Tivoli” by Joe Walsh.

Rail Park: The Rails Park’s Community Engagement and Programs Manager, Shawn Sheu, together with other Rail Park representatives, will attend our February meeting to discuss plans and ideas for the Rail Park. Refreshments will be provided.

2020 Plans for Baldwin Park: This is the list of future projects for 2020 which were discussed:

- Plantings – possibly spending \$3,000 - \$4,000 for plantings on north side
- Staining grout
- Replacing stone gravel
- Tree labels – identify tree and add QR code for Baldwin Park website.
- Doggie Bag Dispenser - sign identifying the bags as compliments of the Friends of Baldwin Park

Good-Bye to Joan Applegate: On behalf of the Friends, Jim Fennell expressed appreciation to Joan Applegate for her work on the board. Joan and her husband Jeff will be moving from the Tivoli in early February.

Membership Committee: This committee needs a new chair as Joan Markoe is stepping down as chairwoman. Last year, the committee began the membership drive process in February with renewals due in April. Joan Markoe will continue to take care of the dues. Jim Fennell will send out the email request for renewals. There is a separate email box for renewals and PayPal. Most of the preliminary procedures were established last year so it will be much easier for the next chairperson. Let Jim Fennell know if you are interested.

New Ideas for Activities in 2020: These were some suggestions that were proposed:

- **Tour of the Park Trees** – Suzanne Cross suggested that this could be done in connection with the tree labeling project. Initially we might start with labeling 15 trees.
- **Jane’s Walk** – Joe Walsh proposed we get involved in this national program which is named after urbanist Jane Jacobs. Held in Philadelphia the first weekend in May, it involves a short tour of the neighborhood to familiarize people with the area.
- **Bocce** – Jim Ruddick suggested that we might host a bocce tournament in the park.

Neighborhood News: The Rail Park is hosting a Lunar New Year Party at noon on Saturday 2/8/2020.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.