

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 7/7/2022 (7 – 7:40 PM) In-Person and via Zoom**

**Attendees (14):** The meeting was hybrid: a combination of in-person and zoom session.

**In-Person (9):** Jim Fennell, Joe Walsh, Sandra Owens, Suzanne Cross, Bob Strunk, Lydia Chen, Nancy van Arkel, Peg Szczurek, and Marion Parkinson.

**Zoom (5):** Joan Markoe, Ed Boehner, Jan Roberts, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joan Markoe reported the following information:

PNC Bank Statement for Period June 1, 2022, to June 30, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$38,663.70	
Deposits	\$ 972.32	(from membership dues and donations)
Deductions	\$ 70.74	(\$50.54 – brochures & signs; \$20.20 – no camping signs)
Ending Balance	\$39,565.28	

**Membership Report:** Marion Parkinson reported the following:

New Members	40
Renewing Members	101
Total Members	141
Total Donations and Dues:	\$10,190.

Peg Szczurek is working with Eddie Schechter on contacting Watermark residents on membership renewal.

Note: By the end of 2021, the total membership was 200 with about \$13,000 in dues and donations.

**Little Library:** Peg Szczurek reported that the library has been extremely popular and successful. Donations have come in from many neighbors. Peg and Marion are willing to pick up donations. Also, the Free Library will be donating children's books.

**CAUTION:** Check books carefully! A used hypodermic needle was found in one of the books. Joe Walsh has found used needles in the park and suggests using an empty bottle to pick it up and dispose of safely.

**Story Walk:** Peg Szczurek said that the Story Walk of Caps for Sale was a success in June. Because it was partially rained out, it will be re-run it on the day of the Movie Night (Thursday 8/25) and through the following weekend (Friday 8/26 – Sunday 8/28).

**Park Planting and Maintenance:** Jim Fennell and Nancy van Arkel met with Parks & Recreation to discuss recommendations for plants for blank areas. The proposal for infills totals about \$5,700. The expense was approved by the board. Parks & Recreation will cut back on the bayberry bushes in the southeast area which have grown too high. They may also do some turf repair. Joe Walsh suggested that the Honey Locust tree needs trimming. Jim also mentioned the paths that need repair to Jim Mako. The sunflowers and bachelor buttons that were planted recently in the southeast section by the Garden Committee are starting to bloom. These flowers are the colors of the Ukrainian flag.

**Park Camping Problem:** Recently, we had overnight campers in the park. Although it is against park rules, it is not listed on our current sign. Suzanne Cross created posters to hang in the park. We hope to get the new official signs from Parks & Recreation which is updated with all the rules.

**Board Vacancy:** If you are interested in getting more involved in the Friends of Baldwin Park by becoming a board member, please contact Jim Fennell.

**Parks-on-Tap:** Save the dates: Wednesday 9/21 through Sunday 9/25, when we will be hosting Parks-on-Tap. We will especially benefit from the first night, Wednesday 9/21, when we get a share of profits from the Happy Hour during first two hours.

**Movie Night:** Joe Walsh announced that WALL-E will be shown on Thursday 8/25, starting at dusk (about 7:45 PM). Rain date is Thursday 9/1. WALL-E is the last robot left on earth who spends his time tidying up the planet, one piece of garbage at a time. Bring seating, refreshments, and insect repellent. Joe arranged for the permit. Stan Ordo will create a movie night poster.

### Calendar of Events:

August Meeting	Canceled – Summer Break		
August Clean-up	Saturday 8/13/2022	10 AM	Monthly clean-up
Story Walk	Thursday 8/25/2022	10 AM-7:30 PM	Book: <u><a href="#">Caps for Sale</a></u>
	Friday 8/26 – Sunday 8/28	10 AM-5PM	
Movie Night	Thursday 8/25/2022	7:45 PM	Movie WALL-E
	Rain Date: Thurs 9/1/2022		
September Meeting	Thursday 9/8/2022	7 PM	Zoom or in-person
September Clean-up	Saturday 9/10/2022	10 AM	Monthly clean-up
Parks-on-Tap	Wed 9/21 – Sun 9/25/2022		Check schedule

**Park Insects:** Nancy van Arkel said that the hatchlings of the non-invasive Praying Mantis are growing larger and have been placed in Maple trees in the park to fight the Spotted Lantern Fly. Also, Nancy van Arkel sprayed the Hibiscus plants with alcohol to prevent the plants from being eaten by thrips.

**Trash Can Needed:** Grace Hanrahan requested that we ask Parks & Recreation to return a trash can to the park's southeast entrance to help eliminate trash and used doggie bags being discarded at the park's entrance. Jim Fennell will contact Parks & Recreation with the request.

**Website News:** This month's history article discusses the oldest commercial building in the neighborhood, built in 1875:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/library-parking-lot-1900-callowhill>

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