

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 9/5/2019 (7 – 8:20 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (12): Sandra Owens, Jim Fennell, Grace Hanrahan, Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Eve Adler, Bob Strunk, Joan Possiel, Jan Roberts, Sandie Farrell, Joan Applegate and Eliza Ruse Esposito of Parks & Recreation to discuss the rat problem. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 8/1/2019 meeting were approved.

Rat Problem: Friends of Baldwin Park made multiple calls to Parks & Recreation and the Health Department, which resulted in rat poison being placed in the park. Bob Strunk said that poison also should be placed in the railroad cut area. In addition, the Friends group purchased and installed new trash can liners after realizing that many of the old liners were missing or damaged.

Eliza Ruse Esposito said that Parks & Recreation has had success working with the Health Department in dealing with the rat problem in Love Park. Unfortunately, the sculpture in Baldwin Park attracts rats which have created deep nests in the rocks.

The following ideas and suggestions were discussed.

- Parks & Recreation (P&R) is open to our putting dry ice in holes in the sculpture to trap the rats. We would have to buy the dry ice pellets as P&R does not have a contract. However, they would pick them up from the vendor. The estimated cost was less than \$200.
- In addition to the weekly Monday trash collection by contractors, P&R would arrange for a second trash pick-up on Friday or Saturday by their operations staff.
- Removal of some trash cans has worked in Rittenhouse Square. Eliza suggested that as a pilot we remove about 50% (10) of the trash cans. Also, cans might be placed further into the park to discourage household trash dumping. The cans would be stored offsite and brought back if needed. Jim Fennell suggested that we take a survey to determine which cans to remove.
- Laminated signs against household trash dumping, as well as discouraging wildlife feeding should be posted. Also, encourage visitors to take their trash with them.

Calendar:	September Clean-up	Saturday 9/21/19	10 AM
	October Meeting	Thursday 10/3/19	7 PM
	October Clean-up	Saturday 10/19/19	10 AM
	Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade	Saturday 10/26/19	11 AM (Rain Date: 10/27/19)
	Love Your Park Clean-up	Saturday 11/9/19	10 AM

Park Friends Network Tour: The annual bus tour of parks will take place in Germantown on Saturday 9/21/19 from 8:30 AM – 2:00 PM. Each Friends group can send two representatives. Lunch will be provided. Contact Jim Fennell or Sandy Owens, if interested.

Replacement Trees on 19th Street Sidewalk: We were approved for five trees to replace the dead trees on 19th Street just outside the park. They will probably be planted next year. Special thanks to Joe Walsh for applying for the trees.

Movie Night: About 80 people attended our first movie night, showing Hugo on Thursday 8/29/19. Special thanks go to Joe Walsh for arranging the event.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade: This will occur on Saturday 10/26/19 at 11 AM (Rain date: Sunday 10/27). Based on last year's event, the estimated cost is about \$100. Jan Roberts will check with Joe Walsh on how to get a permit.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported a total of \$11,438.93 in the account. We added three more new members, bringing the total membership up to 60, of which 34 are new members. Expenses included: \$69.66 for movie night flyers; \$53.88 for trash can liners; and \$5,980 for plants. Joan is awaiting reimbursement for expenses totaling \$4,604.29 from the 2017/2018 Parks on Tap Grant program.

Web Site News: Check out the recent article by Joe Walsh on the Baldwin Park website on Hallahan High School. It can be found in the history section at: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>

Plants and Trees: Jim Fennell will give a brief tour of the new plantings before the next clean-up on Saturday 9/21/19 at 9:30 AM. Joe Walsh has posted an updated tree inventory with links to Wikipedia on the Baldwin Park website under "Gallery". The park has 18 different species of trees. As the inventory is a work in progress, he requests that people review the data for accuracy. It can be found at: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/trees-in-the-park>

Pedestrian Crosswalk Status: Although pedestrian crossing signs and the painted stripes have been installed on the corner of 19th & Hamilton Streets, we are still waiting for the curb cuts. Most cars are ignoring the signs and not stopping for pedestrians. Suggestions included installing blinking lights (as at Comcast Center), traffic cones with a little man (as at State College) and a "Crosswalk Ahead" warning sign posted further up the street. Eve Adler volunteered to contact Corey Bell of Darrell Clark's office on the problem.

Other Neighborhood News: Jim Fennell said that the original Granary building will be named the Parker to honor the architect who had lived and worked in the building for years. Joan Posseil complained that the developer is not maintaining Shamokin Street as the fence is covered with graffiti and the garden is full of weeds. Jim Fennell will report the problems to Dennis Boylan of LSNA.

No date has been set by Mural Arts for the new railroad mural on 20th Street.

The Friends of the Rail Park will be sponsoring special events on three Saturdays in October.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.