

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 2/5/2026 (7 – 8:00 PM)**

**Attendees (15):** Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Joan Markoe, Sherry Claypool, Peg Szczurek, Roz Franklin, Nora Shock, Joe Walsh, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Bob Davis, Judy Johnson, Steve Denning, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the December meeting were approved. There was no January 2026 meeting because of the holidays.

**Treasurer’s Report:** As we did not meet in January, Joan Markoe submitted the December and January financial statements.

**Bank Statement for Period 12/01/2025-12/31/2025**

Beginning Balance	\$39,574.01	
Deposits	\$ 98.24	From dues & donations
Deductions	\$ 184.26	
Ending Balance	\$39,487.99	

**Deductions**

Deductions totaling \$184.26 were: \$123.76 for Baldwin birthday party supplies, and \$60.50 for WIX 2-year renewal for .com website domain.

**Bank Statement for Period 1/01/2026-1/31/2026**

Beginning Balance	\$39,487.99	
Deposits	\$ 1,083.62	From dues & donations*
Deductions	\$ 1,046.98	
Ending Balance	\$39,524.63	

**Deductions**

Deductions totaling \$1,046.98 were: \$727.00 for final payment on Movie Night and \$319.98 for dog waste bags.

\*Note: This includes a very generous donation of \$1,000 from a member.

Jim Fennell and Nancy van Arkel completed the annual application to renew our membership as a Friends Group. Parks & Recreation is offering Mini Grants of about \$1,200 which could be used to defray cost of Movie Night. However, it appears that we would not be awarded a Mini Grant if we are selected to host Parks on Tap, which usually brings in about \$2,000. If we are not selected for Parks on Tap, we will apply for a Mini Grant.

## Calendar of Events:

March Meeting	Thursday 3/5/26	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
March Clean-up	Saturday 3/14/26	10 – 11 AM	Monthly clean-up

**Trash Can Replacement:** As the experiment with replacing the plastic trash can liner with a metal can has been successful, Joe Walsh reported that we will replace 14 plastic trash can liners with metal cans at a cost of about \$40 each. Rats have chewed through the bottom of the plastic to get to discarded food. Joe hopes that this project will be done in connection with Love Your Park Day, which is Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>. Preparations will start on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> and will involve drilling drainage holes in the bottom of the metal cans. Also, debris which has accumulated under the plastic cans must be removed.

**Tree Replacement:** Last year, we planted 7 new trees. So far, all have survived. Nancy van Arkel and Joe Walsh reviewed the current inventory of trees and identified a few dying trees which may need to be replaced: a Cherry tree on 19<sup>th</sup> Street side of park, and an American Dogwood and a Pine Tree on the park's southside. In addition, we have requested that the city replace a dead Hawthorne tree on 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Bench Replacement:** Although we have reminded Parks & Recreation to replace two damaged benches that were removed in the last few years, we may have to fund these benches from our funds. Each bench may cost \$2,500, plus installation costs. Joe Walsh and George Arpagian are investigating possibly installing the benches ourselves.

**Possibly Rotating Meeting Location:** Joe Walsh proposed that we might want to consider rotating our meeting location to attract more members to The Friends of Baldwin Park. Suggested possible nearby sites might be: The Granary, NXNW, and Fountain View (Previously, The Watermark).

**Website News:** Webmaster Joe Walsh reported that in 2025 the website had 15 thousand different individual visitors. Since its inception, the Baldwin Park Website has had had over 70 thousand unique website visits! It now includes 96 different history articles. Note that the section called "Member Info" is where you will find archived documents, such as Meeting Minutes and Friends Documents. Contact Joe Walsh if you have some relevant documents that should be archived. Check out the latest article on Baldwin Park becoming an arboretum: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/baldwin-park-arboretum>

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.