

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 9/2/2021 (7 – 7:40 PM)

Note: September Meeting was held via a Zoom Session.

Attendees (12): Joe Walsh, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Marion Parkinson, Peg Szczurek, Nancy Van Arkel, Sandie Farrell, Sally Mazzarella, Stan Ordo, Joan Markoe, Bob Strunk, and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 8/5/2021 meeting were approved.

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

PNC Bank Statement for Period Ending August 31, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$33,684.40 | |
| Deposits | \$ 804.20 | (All from dues.) |
| Deductions | \$ 262.66 | |
| Ending Balance | \$34,225.94 | |

Deductions: \$239.56 for Dog Waste Bags (Jan Roberts) and \$23.10 for Movie Night Posters (Grace Hanrahan).

Note: \$3,720.00 worth of landscaping has been completed, but we have not yet been billed.

Membership Report

As of August 31, 2021, we have received the following for 2021-2022 membership.

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Total Members | 184 |
| Renewals | 96 |
| New Members | 88 |
| Dues Collected | \$12,395. |

Note: Membership activity had slowed down earlier in the summer, but it has picked up again with eight additional new members in August.

Movie Night: Movie Night, which was held on Thursday, 8/26, was a great success with about 60 attendees. *A League of Their Own* was shown. Joe Walsh mentioned that continuing it next year will depend upon our getting a grant from the Conservancy.

Fairmount Park Conservancy News: The Conservancy and the Park Friends Network are encouraging support of PA House Bill 1694 which will provide limited liability protection for volunteers and volunteer organizations from meritless lawsuits.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade: Grace Hanrahan and Jan Roberts set the date for Saturday, 10/30, from 10 – 11:30 AM, with a rain date of Sunday, 10/31. Treat bags will be given to the dogs, but refreshments will not be provided for attendees. Stan Ordo will update the banner and poster used in the past. Joe Walsh has applied for the permit and will send out publicity notices to Next Door Neighbor, LSNA, and nearby residential building representatives. Jim Fennell volunteered to take photos. The cost is estimated to be less than \$100.

Story Walk: In connection with the dog parade, Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson will set up the story book walk for May I Pet Your Dog? to run from Friday 10/29 through Sunday 10/31 from 10 AM – 3 PM. Volunteers to help set up and take down the story boards are welcome.

Calendar of Events:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| September Clean-up | Saturday 9/11/2021 | 10 AM | Monthly Park clean-up |
| Watermark Baldwin Lecture | Friday 9/17/2021 | 2 PM | Lecture on unions |
| October Monthly Meeting | Thursday 10/7/2021 | 7 PM | Meeting via zoom |
| October Clean-up | Saturday 10/9/2021 | 10 AM | Monthly Park clean-up |
| Story Walk | Friday 10/29 – Sunday 10/31 | 10 AM – 3 PM | <u>May I Pet Your Dog?</u> |
| Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade | Saturday 10/30/2021 | 10 – 11:30 AM | Dog Costume Parade (Rain Date: Sunday 10/31) |

Tree Initiatives: An arborist and some trainees from Power Corps will review our trees on Wednesday 9/8/2021. There is no cost for this review. The Philadelphia Horticultural Society has approved our request for a tree planting on 19th Street. The cost will be \$150 for the tree and \$150 for the sidewalk cutting for the pit, for a total of \$300. Tree Tenders will do the planting. A motion to donate money to Tree Tenders was approved. The sidewalk cut will happen in September and the tree will arrive the weekend of November 20th.

Parks & Recreation News: Meka Perez, our Parks & Recreation liaison, has left the agency and we are waiting to be assigned a new liaison. Sandy Owens announced that Parks & Recreation is sponsoring a tour of two South Philadelphia parks: Mifflin Square on Wolf Street and Growing Home Gardens on Emily Street on Saturday 9/18 from 11 AM – 1 PM. This year no bus will be provided for the tour. Participants will have to travel on their own. Contact Sandy Owens if you are interested.

Crosswalk News: Curtis Wolferson, who works for Darrell Clark, is the new contact for our request for a curb cut on 19th and Hamilton Streets. Jim Fennell will give his name to Eve Adler who has been working on this project.

Little Free Library: Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson researched the cost of creating a Little Free Library in the park. They estimate the cost would be in the \$400 - \$500 range. Peg Szczurek volunteered to head the project. On the call, Sally Mazzarella, Nancy Van Arkel, and Sandie Farrell volunteered to help. Peg plans to stock the library with books for both children and adults. For more information on this book sharing movement, go to the website: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

Grants: Joe Walsh is investigating applying for grants to help finance our projects and plans to add information to our website about possible grants. To fund the Little Free Library, Joe Walsh suggested that we might apply for a grant from Feet First in Philly. The deadline to apply is 11/8/2021. Peg would need to draft a budget for the grant. There is one year to fulfill the grant. Contact Joe with any other grants that we might be eligible to apply for.

Website News: Check out the latest history article on our website about items from the neighborhood which are on display at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/baldwin-park-at-the-smithsonian>

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