

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 12/4/2025 (7 – 8:00 PM)

Attendees (14): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Sherry Claypool, John Rand, Barbara Shelly, Peg Szczurek, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Stan Ordo, Suzanne Cross, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Matthias Baldwin Birthday: Sandy Owens opened the December meeting with light refreshments and a birthday cake celebrating Matthias Baldwin's 230th Birthday. Also, Sandy posted the Baldwin Birthday Banner on the fence on the 19th Street side on northwest corner of the park for the month of December.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe submitted the November financial statement.

PNC Bank Statement for Period 11/01/2025-11/28/2025

Beginning Balance	\$39,547.21	
Deposits	\$ 393.41	(from Dues & Donations)
Deductions	\$ 366.61	
Ending Balance	\$39,574.01	

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$366.61 were: \$207.24 for gardening equipment, and \$159.37 for Howl-o-Ween supplies.

Membership: Joan Markoe reported for Roslyn Franklin who was away:

The total number of members as of 12/4/25 was 124. (Last year, the total was 111.)

The total dues as of 12/4/25 was \$9,516.81. (Last year, the total was \$7,706.05.)

Since November, we added 11 new members, with 8 appearing to be because of the "Love Your Park" membership promotion.

Calendar of Events:

December Clean-up	Saturday 12/13/25	10 – 11 AM	Depending on weather
January Meeting	Thursday 1/1/26	CANCELED	New Year's Day
January Clean-up	Saturday 1/10/26	10 – 11 AM	Depending on weather
February Meeting	Thursday 2/5/26	7 PM	Monthly Meeting

Belmont Charter School Project: As a Community Outreach Project, students from the Belmont Charter School, located in the former Hallahan High School, cleaned up the park benches on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving. They did a great job and plan to come back in the spring.

Park Maintenance: As it is taking a while for Parks & Recreation to replace a missing park bench, we may consider paying for a new bench ourselves. Also, we plan to replace the plastic trash can liners as the rats have chewed through the bottom of the plastic to get to discarded food. We will replace the 14 plastic trash cans with metal cans at a cost of about \$45 each. Because the city has identified the park as having a rat problem, they make monthly visits to check on the rats.

New Tree Plans: 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 19th Street side of park, and an American Dogwood and a Pine Tree on the park's southside. They are considering the following new trees: a White Oak, Crepe Myrtle, and a Black Tupelo. Good News: The new trees that were planted this past year have all survived.

Website News: Check out Joe Walsh's latest history articles on the water supply and the outflow in the Baldwin Park neighborhood including history, current costs, and why you should not buy bottled water. See these links:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/water-supply>

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/sewers-in-the-neighborhood>

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.