

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 3/5/2020 (7 – 8:05 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (9): Sandra Owens, Jan Roberts, Grace Hanrahan, Bob Strunk, Jim Fennell, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Eve Adler and Joe Walsh. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 2/6/2020 meeting were approved.

Calendar: **Note: Subsequently, these planned events were CANCELED due to the virus.**

March Clean-up	Saturday 3/21/2020	10 AM
April Meeting	Thursday 4/2/2020	7 PM
April & City-Wide Clean-up	Saturday 4/4/2020	10 AM

Parks-on-Tap: Baldwin Park will host Parks-on-Tap July 15th through July 19th. Members of the Friends of Baldwin Park will celebrate a Picnic in the Park on the afternoon of Saturday July 18th. This year, the profits may be reduced to help spread the revenue around to other parks which cannot host the event.

Movie Night: Joe Walsh has applied to Parks & Recreation to host a movie night on Thursday August 27th. Joe welcomes suggestions of possible movie selections, especially with a train theme. Joe is thinking of Buster Keaton's *The General* or *Strangers on a Train*.

Treasurer's Report: In Joan Markoe's absence, Sandy Owens reported a total of \$18,669 in the account. There were no expenses. There was a deposit of \$146 for dues from four new members.

Membership Drive: As procedures were worked out during last year's very successful drive, it was decided that we will work as a team as committee of the whole with no need for a chairperson. Jim Fennell will send out an email on the drive. Joan Markoe will handle the money. Joe Walsh will post on the Baldwin Park website and the Nextdoor Franklinton website. Suzanne Cross will hang the laminated posters used last year.

Rail Park: After our last meeting with the Friends of the Rail Park, two of their interns from Harvard requested a meeting. Sandy Owens met with them on Friday February 28th and gave them a tour of Baldwin Park and the Callowhill Cut. They discussed the problems of homelessness and drug dealers.

Dogs: Joe Walsh reported that he has been asking people to place leashes on their dogs. Most owners comply with the request. However, if they refuse, the police suggest calling 911 on the spot to report the incident. Peg Szczurek requested that trash can lids be removed as dog owners and others are leaving their doggie bags and trash on top of the lid instead of depositing it in the can.

Tree Planting on 19th Street: Joe Walsh announced that we will be getting five Hawthorne trees on the 19th Street side of the park probably in April or May. As each tree will require 20 gallons of water per week, we will need volunteers to form a bucket brigade when the trees arrive.

Future Events: Baldwin Park will participate in a Jane Walk on Friday May 1st at 6 PM. Joe Walsh and Jim Fennell will provide a neighborhood historic tour of several sites within a few blocks of the park. These will include sites covered on the Baldwin Park website such as the Granary, Preston Retreat and the Carpenters Museum. Joe Walsh is planning the 2nd Annual Scavenger Hunt which will take place on

Saturday 5/16. For next year, Joe would like to host a special tour aimed at children, such as a seminar on the trees in the park during school hours.

Park Issues: Peg Szczurek mentioned that topsoil is needed to counter the soil erosion problem under the maple tree at the southeast corner of the park. Eve Adler and Joan Possiel are reminding the city of the need to install curb cuts at the pedestrian crossing at corner of 19th & Hamilton Streets. Also, although cars going down 19th Street are starting to stop at the pedestrian crossing, cars on Hamilton Street are assuming the cars have stopped for them. They are making their right turn without looking for pedestrians.

Website News: Check out the latest history articles at <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>. This month features an article on “Pennsylvania State College of Optometry / Carpenters Museum” by Joe Walsh.

Neighborhood News: A developer is proceeding with plans to construct a 6-story rental apartment building at 1823 – 1837 Callowhill Street. The building will be 70 feet tall and with 57 apartments and retail space at street level. Balconies will face the park. No parking will be included except for bicycles. There is no zoning change need as it can be built by right. However, the developer may make a presentation at a future LSNA meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.