

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 5/5/2022 (7 – 7:50 PM) In-Person and via Zoom Session**

**Attendees (19).** The meeting was hybrid: a combination of in-person and zoom session.

**In-Person (13):** Jim Fennell, Joe Walsh, Sandra Owens, Suzanne Cross, Bob Strunk, Mel Seligsohn, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Nancy van Arkel, Sherry Claypool, Tony Di Lodovico, Joe Carroll, and Heather Carroll.

**Via Zoom (6):** Nancy Ramussen, Joan Markoe, Ed Boehner, Jan Roberts, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Joan Markoe reported the following information:

PNC Bank Statement for Period April 1 through April 29, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$30,397.42	
Deposits	\$ 7,420.02	See note below for breakdown.
Deductions	\$ 53.02	Story Walk materials
Ending Balance	\$37,764.42	
Deposits:	\$7,146.02	Membership dues and donations.
	\$ 274.00	Refund from an annual service contract from Green Estates Sprinklers. Parks & Rec is assuming the cost of this expense for 2022.

**Clean-up Rescheduled:** Because of the prediction of heavy rain and high winds, the “Love Your Park Clean-up” was postponed to Saturday, May 14th at 10 AM. Jim Fennell will contact the volunteers who signed up on the website. Joe Walsh will post on website and Stan Ordo on the park banners.

**Friends Network:** Jim Fennell reported that at the Friends Network Meeting on May 4th, they sought support for a PA House proposal to reduce liability for volunteer groups. As an example, the Pennypack Park Friends was disbanded after being sued for two accidents in their park over which they had no responsibility. Jim Fennell contacted the Conservancy to add the group, Friends of Baldwin Park, to the group letter of support of the proposal.

**Parks-on-Tap:** Baldwin Park may be selected to host Parks-on-Tap in September. No date has been set. Although there has been a change in the financial set-up, it still should be profitable for the park.

**Membership Report:**

Since the membership campaign began April 1st, Marion Parkinson reported that so far there have been 72 renewals and 28 new members, for a total of 100. Joan Markoe is reaching out to representatives Hamilton Townhomes, the Watermark, and North-X-Northwest to publicize membership.

**Gardening/Planting Committee:** Nancy van Arkel reported that the Baldwin Park has been certified as a Wildlife Habitat. To qualify, the park had to show that it has enough food and water to sustain wildlife, as well as a place to raise their young. The group also has pruned the Clematis and Grape Vines on the southern fence and added a slow-release fertilizer. To fight the Spotted Lantern Fly, they purchased a non-invasive type of Praying Mantis eggs which will be placed in Maple trees in the park. As part of

“Love Your Park Week,” the group plans to plant native Sunflowers and Bachelor Buttons seeds in the sedum bed on the southeast side of the park. This mixture will also show support for Ukraine, as it is the colors of the Ukrainian flag. These plans were approved by Parks & Recreation. The total cost is about \$470.

**Little Library:** Peg Szczurek reported that the library is extremely popular. She has already gone through 15 boxes of books and needs more books, especially children’s books. Cookbooks, mysteries, and magazines are popular. Contact Peg if you have donations for the library.

**Story Walk:** Peg Szczurek announced that Caps for Sale, a children’s book about a peddler, some monkeys, and their monkey business, will be the next Story Walk scheduled for Friday 6/3 – Sunday 6/5 from 10 AM – 5 PM. Laminated monkeys will be hung from one of the trees as part of the story experience.

**By-Law Committee:** The board met on May 2nd to re-start the process of drafting by-laws for the Friends of Baldwin Park. Contact Jim Fennell if you are interested in joining the committee.

**Watermark Tree and History Tour:** Joe Walsh is conducting a tour of the park’s trees and history on Friday, May 20th at 11 AM. All are welcome to attend.

**Rail Park Day:** The Friends of Baldwin Park have been invited to set up a table at the Rail Park Day Event on Saturday, June 11th. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table from 2- 4 PM. Jim Fennell has placards about the history of the Baldwin Locomotive Works. Also, Joe Walsh has samples of old rails which will show how heavy they are. Contact Joe Walsh if you wish to volunteer.

**Website News:** Check out the latest history article on our website by Joe Walsh about what is on the other side of the fence on the south side of Baldwin Park. Here is the link:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/pickering-spring>

**East Coast Greenway:** Mel Seligsohn mentioned that Spring Garden Street will be part of the East Coast Greenway, which is a 3,000 mile walking and bike route, running from Maine to Key West. Spring Garden Street’s bike lanes will connect the Delaware to the Schuylkill River.

**Calendar of Events:**

May Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 5/14/2022	10 AM	“Love Your Park” clean-up
June Meeting	Thursday 6/2/2022	7 PM	Zoom or in-person at Tivoli
Story Walk	Friday 6/3 – Sunday 6/5	10 AM – 5 PM	Book: <u>Caps for Sale</u> Rain Dates: 6/10 – 6/12
June Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 6/11/2022	10 AM	Monthly Clean-up
Rail Park Day	Saturday 6/11/2022	2 - 4 PM	Rail Park

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.