

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 4/7/2022 (7 – 7:50 PM) In-Person and via Zoom Session

Attendees (17). The meeting was hybrid: a combination of in-person and zoom session. It was the first in-person meeting conducted at the Tivoli meeting room since the pandemic began in March 2020.

In-Person: Jim Fennell, Joe Walsh, Sandra Owens, Suzanne Cross, Beth Shay, Jan Roberts, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Nancy van Arkel, and Sherry Claypool.

Via Zoom: Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Ed Boehner, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan

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

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

PNC Bank Statement for Period Ending March 31, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$30,482.23	
Deposits	\$ 467.07	Membership Dues
Deductions	\$ 551.88	The Little Free Library
Ending Balance	\$30,397.42	

Membership Report:

Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson reported that so far there have been 39 renewals and 5 new members. We received two donations of \$500. The membership campaign began with Jim Fennell sending out an email to his list of members and contacts on April 1st. Suzanne Cross and Peg Szczurek will place posters advertising the membership campaign on trash cans in park. The following members volunteered to publicize the membership campaign to these groups:

Jim Ruddick	LSNA
Joan Markoe	North-X-Northwest and Hamilton Townhouses
Jan Roberts and Jackie Wolf	City View
Ed Schecter	Watermark
Suzanne Cross	Tivoli
Eve Adler	Facebook

Little Library: The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Little Library was held on Saturday April 2nd during our monthly clean-up. Peg Sczurek thanked George Arpagian for installing the Little Library on the tree stump on the northwest corner of the park. The Little Library kit was assembled by an Amish contractor in Wisconsin. The library is part of a special program, “Read in Color,” which encourages diversity. Books will be marked if they are part of this program. The total cost of this project was about \$560. About 4 boxes of books have been donated. Peg volunteered to be the librarian and reported that already people have started borrowing books.

Gardening/Planting Committee: Nancy van Arkel is leading this group which includes Mary Feingold, Jim Fennell, Pam Parseghian, Beth Shay, and Carol Ruddick. The group presented an experimental plan to plant native Sunflowers and Bachelor Buttons seeds on the southeast side of the park. The mixture will also show support for Ukraine, as it is the colors of the Ukrainian flag. These native species grow to

a maximum height of 36", are self-seeding, but not aggressive, and attract pollinators such as butterflies and goldfinches. The seeds will cost about \$75. To fight the Spotted Lantern Fly, they are looking into the purchase of Praying Mantis eggs which will cost about \$35 and can yield 50 – 500 insects. The eggs would be placed in Maple trees in the park. The group also pruned the Clematis and Grape Vines on the southern fence and added a slow-release fertilizer. The Clematis is already showing signs of improvement. Nancy van Arkel researched certification for the park as a Natural Habitat for butterflies by the National Wildlife Association. It costs \$20 to apply.

The proposals made by the committee were approved by the members. Jim Fennell will contact Parks and Recreation for their approval.

Park Maintenance: Joe Walsh received approval from Tree Philly for a Bald Cypress tree for the north-central area of the park. There are no details on the timing for the planting.

Movie Night: Joe Walsh announced that we have been approved for hosting a movie either on Thursday August 25th or September 1st. WALL-E was selected which is an animated family movie about the environment and focuses on the last robot involved in cleaning up the garbage on planet Earth.

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 for a few hours. Jim Fennell has placards about the Baldwin Locomotive Works which were created for the historic sign dedication ceremony. Grace Hanrahan will check on the cost of printing color brochures. Contact Joe Walsh if you wish to volunteer.

Story Walk: Because of the success of the two Story Walks last year, Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson are interested in setting up another child's Story Walk in the park in June. The topic may be butterflies. Contact Peg if you have a book suggestion or wish to volunteer.

Future Plans: The Scavenger Hunt is cancelled as Parks & Recreation will not fund insurance for an event that takes place outside the park. The Jane Walks, which were held annually in early May and involved neighborhood walks, are not being held in Philadelphia this year. Jim Fennell contacted Parks & Recreation to volunteer our park as a possible site for Parks-on-Tap.

Website News: Check out the latest history article on our website by Joe Walsh about the oldest commercial building and the site of the biggest fire in the neighborhood. Here is the link:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/2000-hamilton-street>

Calendar of Events:

May Meeting	Thursday 5/5/2022	7 PM	Zoom or in-person at Tivoli
May Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 5/7/2022	10 AM	"Love Your Park" clean-up

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