

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 5/6/2021 (7 – 7:40 PM) – Zoom Session.**

**Attendees (17):** Joe Walsh, Bob Strunk, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Joan Markoe, Jan Roberts, Ed Boehner, Peg Szczurek, Eve Adler, Nancy Van Arkel, Sandie Farrell, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Sally Mazzarella, and Floyd Platton. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 4/1/2021 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Bank Statement for Month Ending April 30, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$27,532.94
Deposits	\$ 4,417.70
Deductions	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$31,950.64

Deposits are all from dues, representing 61 memberships received in April. An additional \$300.00 in dues from eight members was received in May, but it did not hit the April statement, so current cash is approximately \$32,250.00.

**Membership Report:** The 2021-2022 membership drive has gone well with total current membership of 161, with 92 renewals and 69 new members. Dues totaled \$9,720.00, which is \$2,740.00 more in dues than last year. 32 Members from last year have not yet renewed but we hope to hear from them soon. From past years’ experience, memberships will continue to trickle in, and may be bolstered by the park events we are sponsoring.

Thanks to all our volunteers who have been helping on the membership effort, especially: Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson for recording memberships and sending acknowledgement letters and Suzanne Cross for being a membership drive presence at park events. Members' efforts at encouraging the building property managers to publicize the drive resulted in many memberships.

**Calendar of Future Planned Events:**

Love Your Park Week	Saturday 5/8/2021	10 AM	Clean-up & re-staining the mortar
Scavenger Hunt	Saturday 5/15/2021	10 AM	Registration; 10:30 AM Hunt Begins
Watermark Baldwin Lecture	Thursday 5/27/2021	3:30 PM	Joe Walsh’s lecture via Zoom
June Meeting	Thursday 6/3/2021	7 PM	Via Zoom
June Park Clean-up	Saturday 6/12/2021	10 AM	Monthly park clean-up

**Story Walk:** Peg Szczurek reported that the Story Walk was a success with some families visiting it more than once. Many wrote positive comments on how enjoyable it was. Peg and Marion Parkinson prepared the story boards, containing laminated pages from a beginner’s reader, A Tree for All Seasons, about a Sugar Maple tree. The boards were on display for five days from Friday April 23 – Sunday May 2. The cost for this project was about \$100, which included the book purchases and laminated paper. The signs can be re-used. Near Halloween, the next Story Walk book will be May I Pet Your Dog.

**Love Your Park Week:** This will be celebrated from May 8 – May 16. On Saturday May 8, in addition to a park clean-up, the project of re-staining the mortar is planned. However, Stan Ordo cautioned that the weather prediction of rain may force us to postpone this project.

**Scavenger Hunt:** Joe Walsh announced that the Scavenger Hunt will take place on Saturday May 15th. Registration can be done on-line on the Baldwin Park website or through in-person registration at 10 AM. The hunt will run from 10:30 – Noon and cover the area between 17th and 20th Streets and Spring Garden to Wood Streets. Rain date is Sunday 5/16. The top prize is \$100 in cash.

**Park Friends Network Meeting:** The zoom meeting took place on May 5th. One take-away from the meeting is that Parks & Recreation plans to place the permit application process on-line.

**Watermark Baldwin Lecture:** Joe Walsh's next lecture via Zoom is scheduled for Thursday 5/27/2021 at 3:30 PM. In honor of Memorial Day, the topic is the role of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in the war efforts. The link to the meeting is: <https://zoom.us/j/97728486242>

**Orens Brothers Building:** Eve Adler and Mel Seligsohn spoke with the Orens brothers, developers of the building under construction located at 1823 – 1837 Callowhill Street. The 6-story building with 57 apartments and retail space at street level will be named "The Baldwin". The sign will be going up shortly. Fall 2022 is the expected opening date.

**Corporate Sponsors:** Joan Markoe reported that Baldwin Park has received donations from several corporate sponsors including: North X Northwest Apartments, Community College of Philadelphia, Our House Montessori, Westminster Arch Apartments, Three Logan Square, and BPM Fitness.

**Park Plant and Tree Maintenance:** Jim Fennell mentioned that the Fringe Trees are in bloom with beautiful white flowers. Of the forty Hibiscus Plants that were added last year, only about half are visible, but he hopes that the rest will survive. In the southwest corner, the plumbago plants are not doing well and may need to be replaced. The contractor, All Seasons, picks up trash once per week. It is unclear if Parks & Recreation staff will provide a second trash-pick-up as we had last summer. Joe Walsh reported that the water pump may be fixed soon which will allow the sprinklers to resume.

**Tree Identification Tags:** Joe Walsh has ordered the remaining approximately 40 tags which should be received by the end of June.

**Website News:** Read the May history article which deals with the role of the Baldwin Locomotive Works in the war efforts.

See: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/baldwin-at-war>

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