

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 10/3/2019 (7 – 8:10 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (14): Sandra Owens, Jim Fennell, Grace Hanrahan, Joe Walsh, Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Eve Adler, Seamus Kearney, Bob Strunk, Joan Possiel, Jan Roberts, Joan Applegate, Susan Collins and Stan Ordo. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 9/5/2019 meeting were approved.

Calendar:	October Clean-up	Saturday 10/19/19	10 AM
	Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade	Saturday 10/26/19	11 AM (Rain Date: 10/27/19)
	November Meeting	Thursday 11/7/19	7 PM
	Love Your Park Clean-up	Saturday 11/9/19	10 AM

Rat Problem: Joe Walsh contacted the Department of Health regarding rats on the south side of the park in the rail area. Their inspector reported 3 tree stumps which each had 12 rat holes per stump. In the park, rats are active on the west and east side of the landscaping. Joe is not optimistic that the dry ice method will work because of ventilation problems. We would need at least 2 pounds of dry ice per hole at a cost of \$1 per pound. Joe reported finding 2 dead rats in the past week. In addition to the regular Monday trash pickup, Parks & Recreation has started a second trash collection on Thursday or Friday. Suzanne Cross displayed signs she created to place on our trash cans warning about the rats. Other posters warn about not dumping household trash which can cost a penalty of up to \$3,000. We were still waiting for Parks & Recreation to remove the old trash can liners from the park.

Replacement Trees on 19th Street Sidewalk: We were approved for five Hawthorne trees to replace the dead trees on 19th Street just outside the park. This might take 12 – 18 months depending on their budget. We would be responsible for watering the trees. If we did not want to wait, we might explore the possibility of buying trees ourselves. Special thanks to Joe Walsh for applying for the trees.

Treasurer’s Report: Joan Markoe reported a total of \$15,859.07 in the account.

Since last month, we added reimbursement for expenses totaling \$4,604.29 from the 2017/2018 Parks on Tap Grant program from a Parks on Tap Reinvestment Grant and \$50 in dues.

Expenses included: \$189.16 for trash can liners; \$25 for Howl-o-Ween permit; and \$19.99 for bank checks.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Parade: This will occur on Saturday 10/26/19 at 11 AM (Rain date: Sunday 10/27). Based on last year’s event, the estimated cost is about \$100. The event will be publicized by LSNA and the Baldwin Park website. In addition to posting the banner and posters in the park, Jan Roberts and Grace Hanrahan will distribute flyers to nearby buildings and businesses. Dog treat bags will be made up from local pet store donations. Jim Fennell will take photos of the dogs to post on the website. Joan Possiel will bring Halloween music. Sandy Owens and Suzanne Cross will decorate a baton for the parade leader.

Pedestrian Crosswalk Status: Eve Adler and Joan Possiel have been checking with City Council on the curb cuts but report no progress. Most cars are ignoring the pedestrian crossing signs and not stopping for pedestrians. Eve Adler is asking for blinking lights. Joan Markoe suggested a “Crosswalk Ahead” warning sign posted further up the street as they have in Northern Liberties.

Web Site News: Joe Walsh is working on a plant inventory and an article on the railroad mural. Check out the recent article by Joe Walsh on the Baldwin Park website on Piasecki

Helicopters. It can be found in the history section at: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>

Baldwin 2nd Annual Birthday: We will celebrate Matthias Baldwin's birthday at the December 5th meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Other Neighborhood News:

No date had been set by Mural Arts for the new railroad mural on 20th Street.

The Friends of the Rail Park will be sponsoring special events on three Saturdays in October. On 10/5/19, at 6 PM, they will have a light show with images of phases of the moon.

Callowhill Green is a new deli at 18th & Callowhill serving breakfast and lunch.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.