

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 7/2/2020 (7 – 7:40 PM) – Zoom Session

Note: Because of the coronavirus, the board decided to hold a virtual meeting via a Zoom session.

Attendees (13): Joe Walsh, Helena Lax, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Bob Strunk, Suzanne Cross, Seamus Kearney, Joan Markoe, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Jim Ruddick, Jan Roberts, and Susan Collins. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 6/4/2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported as of 6/30/2020, a balance of \$23,321.63. There was a deposit of \$730.90 in deposits for 17 memberships. We were notified by the Parks Conservancy that we are eligible for \$4,000 in the Reinvestment Grants for the 2019 Parks-on-Tap. In August, we will be spending \$6,000 in landscaping.

Membership Drive: Despite the fact that our membership drive started on 3/21/2020 at the start of the corona virus lockdown, the drive has been successful. Joan Markoe reported that as of 7/2/2020, there was a total of 85 memberships, of which 35 were new and 50 were renewals. The total number of memberships is up from last year's total of 66. This year's total in memberships was \$5,075, which is up from last year's total of \$3,825.

Special thanks to Jim Fennell, Joe Walsh, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts, and Grace Hanrahan who helped make the drive a success through posting signs, sending email messages, and talking to park visitors. It was decided to keep the membership posters up through July.

Calendar of Future Planned Events:

July Park Clean-up	Saturday 7/18/2020	10 AM	Using social distancing and wearing masks.
Baldwin Park History	Thursday 7/16/2020	2 PM	Slide show presentation for the Watermark. Contact Joe Walsh for Zoom invitation.
August Meeting	Thursday 8/6/2020	7 PM	Contact Jim Fennell for Zoom invitation.
Parks-on-Tap	7/15 – 7/19/2020		This event was canceled.
Movie Night	Possibly early September		This event may be postponed or canceled.
Jane's Walk	Postponed		Tour of local sites by Joe Walsh & Jim Fennell.
Scavenger Hunt	Postponed		Joe Walsh has the hunt ready for beta testing.

Park Maintenance: This year only one rat has been sighted so far, so we will hold off on posting warning signs. In addition to the weekly trash pick-up on Mondays, Parks & Recreation started an additional weekly pick-up which should help control the rats. Special thanks to Joe Walsh who bagged extra trash from the can overflows on busy weekends.

When the park's sprinkler system stopped working, we discovered that because of budget cuts, Parks & Recreation no longer had a contract for sprinkler maintenance. The board approved payment for the repairs, which cost about \$1,000 out of the Friends of Baldwin Park Treasury and the sprinklers have been fixed. The sprinkler schedule has been changed to run from 2 - 5 AM to accommodate visitors who use the park for early morning exercise. With the water turned back on, the members of the "Bucket Brigade", who are watering the new 19th Street trees, have returned to using the water tap on the southeast side of the park, instead of the Tivoli water.

Beer Gardens: Although Parks-on-Tap has been canceled for Baldwin Park, it is being held at two sites: The Water Works and the Fairmount Park Horticultural Center. Proceeds benefit Parks & Recreation. Check out the website for details at: <https://www.parksontap.com/>

A bar is planning on operating a beer garden in the vacant lot on Callowhill Street near 19th Street next door to the beer distributor. See website for details: <https://thelandphl.com/>

Tree Identification Tags: Stan Ordo and Joe Walsh reported on their progress in getting an estimated cost for the Tree Identification Tag Project.

Attached is a list of the trees in Baldwin Park along with comments, the number of each type of tree, the cost per tag for each type of tree and the total cost for each tree and a summary cost of tagging all the trees. The source of the tags is **National Band & Tag Company**.

The website shows many varieties of tree tags. The basic size is 3" x 5" on UV Stable Black Aluminum (0.040" thick). The tags include two mounting holes. The tags are fastened to the trees by using two aluminum nails and two stainless steel springs as pictured on their website. On the tags, we can include the tree name, scientific name, a QR code, FMBP logo.

The website is: <https://www.nationalband.com/arboretum-tags/>

There is a design fee of \$35 per tag and then \$10 per tag. If we group trees of the same type to one design, we will save money. For example, for four Crabapple Trees, there would be one-time design fee of \$35 and \$40 for four tags, totaling \$75. Altogether, for all the trees that we are interested in tagging, the estimated cost is about \$1,400 which includes hardware. Initially, we should choose a select number of trees, preferably those close to the pathways. This will give us a chance to see how the concept works prior to completing the full order.

Spotted Lantern Fly Alert: Be on the lookout for the return of the Spotted Lanternfly which can destroy trees. Information can be found on this website:

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/SpottedLanternflyAlert/Pages/default.aspx

Website News: Check out the latest history article on the Baldwin Locomotive Works by Joe Walsh at: <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/baldwin-locomotive-works>.

Joe reported a record number of 6,200 hits on Sandy Owens' article on Matthias Baldwin after the media discussion of his defaced statue during the demonstrations. The statue has since been cleaned.

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