

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 2/3/2022 (7 – 7:40 PM) via Zoom Session

Attendees (17): Joe Walsh, Jim Fennell, Tony Di Lodovico, Sandra Owens, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts, Ed Boehner, Frank and Mary Feingold, Seamus Kearney, Beth Shay, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

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

PNC Bank Statement for Period Ending January 31, 2022

Beginning Balance	\$30,777.89
Deposits	\$ 573.02
Deductions	\$ 611.85
Ending Balance	\$30,739.06

Deposits (all from dues/donations):

\$500.00	Anonymous Donation
\$25.00	Additional donation from an existing member
\$48.02	Two members joined in late 2021 but not reflected in bank account until 2022

Deductions: \$573.00 - Aon Risk Services for our annual premium for D&O Insurance
\$ 38.85 - WiX for 3-year extension for .org domain for our website.

Membership Report:

We had no additional members join in January 2022.
Total number of members for the 2021-2022 membership drive is 200.
Total amount collected for that drive is \$14,175.00.

2021 Year-End Financial and Membership Report: A copy of the report was recently circulated to all members. Joan Markoe emphasized that 2021 was a particularly good year financially with 200 members/donors resulting in \$13,600 in dues/donations. This was a significant increase over 2020, in which we had 124 members/donors amounting to \$6,980 in dues/donations. Expenses added up to about \$6,100, with the highest amount (about \$4,000) going to landscaping and lawn sprinkler maintenance. The report is also available on the website at:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/friends-documents>

Website News: Check out the latest history article on our website by Joe Walsh in honor of Charles Darwin’s birthday on February 12th. It is a biology tour of Baldwin Park, which may be of interest to teachers looking for class trip ideas. Here is the link:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/darwin-in-baldwin-park>

Joe has also added map locations using Google for many of the history articles. The map can be found on the main page of the History tab at:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>

Little Library: Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson have decided to wait until closer to the installation date of April to order the library kit. Some members have volunteered to help with donations of money and books. The library kit will cost about \$500. The location will be the northwest entrance on top of the tree stump.

Gardening/Planting Committee: Nancy Van Arkel, as well as several other members such as Beth Shay and Pam Parseghian, have expressed an interest in planting annuals on the east side of the park. A Gardening/Planting Committee is being formed for those interested in volunteering. Jim Fennell suggested an initial budget of \$500 for annuals.

Park Maintenance: All Seasons Contractors did a fall clean-up of the park in mid-January. To discourage people from walking their dogs on the stone walls, we might warn them of the rats. Joe Walsh reported that he is finding needles in the park daily. In addition, despite the signs warning against disposal of household trash, there is a woman who is dropping off 10 pound bags of kitty litter about three times a week. Joe suggests taking a photo of any suspicious activity so that it can be reported.

Picnic in the Park: As it seems unlikely that we will host a Parks-on-Tap this year, Beth Shay suggested that we might revive the idea of a Picnic in the Park. People would have to bring their own chairs, tables, food, and drink. The proposal is under consideration.

Neighborhood News: Suzanne Cross reported that most of the police have moved from the 21st Street Station to the new Police Headquarters in the old Inquirer Building at Broad and Callowhill Streets. Seamus Kearney mentioned that detectives remain at the 21st Street Station. 2100 Hamilton Street has sold over half of their condominiums. DGX, which is an upscale Dollar General Store on the 1900 block of Callowhill, is awaiting its liquor license to sell beer in March. The Mexican Restaurant, Buena Onda, on Callowhill Street will be expanding, adding another restaurant in the Rittenhouse Square area.

Calendar of Events:

March Monthly Meeting	Thursday 3/3/2022	7 PM	Meeting via Zoom
March Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 3/12/2022	10 AM	Monthly Park clean-up

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