

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 2/7/2019 (7 – 8:20 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (9): Sandra Owens, Bob Strunk, Suzanne Cross, Grace Hanrahan, Stan Ordo, Joan Markoe, Mary Feingold, Joe Walsh, and Jan Roberts. Bob Strunk moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 1/3/2019 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported the current treasury total is \$14,093.38. We received \$770.98 from Parks and Recreation (P&R) for expenses from the 2017 Parks on Tap Reinvestment Grant. Recent expenses included: two boxes of doggie bags (\$199.98) and reference documents for the By-Law Committee: Articles of Confederation (\$58.00) and PA Sample By-Laws (\$15.00).

Joan reviewed the 2018 Annual Financial Report which was distributed at the meeting.

We are waiting to hear from P&R on the amount of the 2018 Parks on Tap Reinvestment Grant. The remainder of the 2017 Reinvestment Grant (\$1,189.05) must be spent by 12/1/2019. It will probably be spent on park signs, tree identification signs and doggie bags.

Joan submitted our 2018 IRS tax filing which Paul Shay did in the past. It is very simple as we have less than \$50K in the treasury. Mary Feingold suggested that we may want to contact the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations (BCO) for tax guidelines.

Membership: Joan Markoe reported that we currently have 51 members in 30 households. This represents an increase in the number of members as well as the amount donated. However, we need to increase membership and broaden our base. One method is by contacting the residents of the surrounding buildings and complexes about membership in the Friends of the Park. Jan Roberts has drafted an article for the City View Newsletter. Joan Markoe will contact North-X-Northwest. Sandie Farrell has volunteered to get the word out to the Hamilton Townhomes. Suzanne Cross suggested setting up a group and posting a notice in the Nextdoor Franklinton website. It was also proposed that we create a banner for a membership drive and man a table on a weekend in April. Stan Ordo volunteered to work on the banner. A membership committee was formed by Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts and Mary Feingold to come up with plans.

Crosswalk at 19th & Hamilton: Jim Fennell received word that painting the striping will take place in spring, but there is no word on the schedule for the curb cuts and removal of parking places.

By-Laws Committee: Sandy Owens, Joan Markoe, Joan Applegate, and Grace Hanrahan have been working on a set of by-laws. They are close to finalizing a draft set. Next steps will be to present the draft to the Board and then to the members at a General Membership meeting.

Web Site News: Check out recent articles by Joe Walsh on "Baldwin Park in Maps", "1600 Callowhill", and "The Spanish Chapel" under History at: www.BaldwinParkPhilly.org.

Park Friends Network Meetings: Suzanne Cross, Mary Feingold and Jan Roberts volunteered to attend the Park Friends Network Quarterly Meeting on Wednesday 2/13/19 at 5:30 PM at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center. Sandy Owens asked for volunteers to go with her to the Park Network Conference on Saturday 3/2/19 from 8:30 AM to 2 PM at the University of the Sciences.

Neighborhood Collaboration: Sandy Owens and Jim Fennell met with Friends of the Rail Park on the possibility of collaborating on combined tours of the Rail Park and Baldwin Park in the spring. The

emphasis would be on the history and horticulture of the parks. The project might be funded through a Neighborhood Public Space Summit grant of up to \$2,500. The deadline to apply is 2/28/19.

Park Archives: Sandy Owens and Grace Hanrahan visited P&R archives at 1515 Arch Street. We can store important park documents such as minutes, by-laws, financial reports, and photos in their files. In the Baldwin Park file, there was an article about a successful fundraiser in 1991 by an earlier group, Friends of Franklinton Park. Also, there was a story that the park may have received a large donation from Elcye Wax Prince to the Franklinton Park Foundation for a garden area in the park.

Doggie Bags: Joan Markoe expressed concern over the expense of funding the dispenser as we are going through 30-40 bags per day at an estimated cost of \$1 per day. The Friends of Rittenhouse Square has a posted a sign on their dispenser asking owners to limit their use of bags. Stan Ordo will create a similar sign for our dispenser. As they also have an ad from Penn Vet which helps defray the doggie bag cost, Joan volunteered to draft a letter to the new local veterinary group asking if they want to contribute to our group and advertise on our dog bag dispenser

Calendar: Next Meeting: Thursday 3/7/2019 at 7 PM

Next Cleanup: Saturday 3/16/2019 at 10 AM (rain/snow date 3/23/19)

Scavenger Hunt: To increase interest in the park, Joe Walsh suggested that we might host a scavenger hunt where participants would swap photos of found objects. The consensus favored the idea.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.