

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 9/4/2025 (7 – 8 PM)

Attendees (8): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Jan Roberts, Suzanne Cross, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Calendar of Events:

Movie Night: "E.T"	Friday 9/12/25	Dusk (about 7 PM)	Bring chairs, blankets, & insect repellent
September Clean-up	Saturday 9/13/25	10 - 11 AM	Monthly Park Clean-up
October Meeting	Thursday 10/2/25	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
October Clean-up	Saturday 10/18/25	10 - 11 AM	Monthly Park Clean-up Note: change to 3rd Saturday
Howl-O-Ween Dog Event	Saturday 10/25/25 (Rain Date: Sunday 10/26/25)	11 AM	Dog Costume Event

Park Maintenance: Nancy van Arkel announced that the park clean-up on Saturday 9/13 will focus on clipping back the vines on the fence and cutting back on the tall grasses. Also, the October clean-up date has been moved from the 2nd Saturday to the 3rd Saturday in October to 10/18/25 because of the holiday weekend. An additional park sign is scheduled to be installed on 10/6/25 at the southeast park entrance.

Park Memorials: Recently, we have received requests to dedicate trees in memory of the deceased. Instead, we decided to offer to post a memorial message about the deceased on the park's website for a donation to the park. Joe Walsh and Nancy van Arkel are in the process of drafting a policy for this procedure.

Park Pests: Recently, the park has been besieged by an influx of rats. Jim Fennell and others have called Vector Control (215-685-9000), which is the City of Philadelphia's department which handles rat problems. Vector Control has placed traps around the park. In addition to the traps, based upon our experience, we realize that we need to replace the plastic trash can liners as the rats have chewed through the bottom of the plastic to get to discarded food. It was suggested that we also experiment with metal cans instead of plastic liners. As mosquitos are also a problem, Joe Walsh has been placing oil in the water puddle near the sprinklers system to kill mosquitos.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe submitted the August financial statement.

PNC Bank Statement for Period 08/01/2025-08/31/2025

Beginning Balance	\$46,198.65	
Deposits	\$ 347.50	From dues & donations
Deductions	\$ 5,178.35	
Ending Balance	\$41,367.80	

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$5,178.35 were: \$4,417.50 for 50% deposit on another park sign; \$400.00 for movie licensing fee; \$40.87 for Movie Night posters; and \$319.98 for dog waste bags.

Membership: The 2025 membership drive started in early April. Joan Markoe reported that we have 120 members contributing about \$9,100 in membership fees and donations. The average donation is \$76. Special thanks to Roz Franklin and Joan Markoe for their work in tracking memberships.

This year we started using an automated system, Give Lively. This system will accept credit cards, PayPal, and Venmo. However, personal checks and cash will no longer be accepted. If you would like to make a donation from your **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** or from your **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)**, please contact baldwinparkmembership@gmail.com, and we will let you know how to send that donation.

Movie Night: Baldwin Park's Movie Night will be showing "E.T." on Friday 9/12 at dusk, which is about 7 PM. Bring your own chairs, blankets and insect repellent. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park. Special thanks to Joan Markoe and Joe Walsh for organizing this event, especially after an earlier date had to be canceled after it was rained out.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Event: Jan Roberts and Grace Hanrahan spoke briefly about preparations underway for the popular annual dog costume event which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 10/25 at from 11 AM – Noon, with a rain date of Sunday 10/26. Last year's event attracted between about 100 dogs. A budget of \$300 was approved for the event.

Website News: Check out Joe Walsh's latest history article on crime in the neighborhood. Murder, prison escapes, and the sale of margarine are all neighborhood crimes detailed in this month's featured local history article:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/crime-in-the-neighborhood>

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.