

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 10/2/2025 (7 – 7:50 PM)

Attendees (10): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Bob Strunk, Chen Chen Wang, Joan Markoe, Jan Roberts, Sherry Claypool, Bob David, and Grace Hanrahan.

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

Calendar of Events:

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
November Meeting	Thursday 11/6/25	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
November Clean-up	Saturday 11/15/25	10 – 11 AM	“Love Your Park” Clean-up Note: change to 3rd Saturday

Movie Night: About 75 people enjoyed watching “E.T.” on Friday 9/12 in the park. Special thanks to Joan Markoe and Joe Walsh for organizing this event.

Park Sign: A new sign was installed on the southeast 18th Street entrance. After it was noticed that none of the signs include the park hours, Jim Fennell contacted the manufacturer to obtain stickers to add the hours to the signs.

Treasurer’s Report: Joan Markoe submitted the September financial statement.

PNC Bank Statement for Period 09/01/2025-09/30/2025

Beginning Balance	\$41,367.80	
Deposits	\$ 572.94	From dues & donations
Deductions	\$ 0.00	
Ending Balance	\$41,940.74	

Deposits

There was also a \$300 donation for an In Memoriam recognition of Anna Fineberg's mother. Anna and her family were residents of Tivoli for many years. This will appear on the website when we have gathered all the information.

Outstanding Expenses: These are \$4,000 for the new sign and possible costs for movie night.

Park Pests: Recently, the park had been besieged by an influx of rats. However, after calling Vector Control (215-685-9000), which is the City of Philadelphia's department which handles rat problems, traps were set around the park. The traps seem to have worked in eliminating the rat problem. However, we plan to replace the plastic trash can liners as the rats have chewed through the bottom of the plastic to get to discarded food. We will replace the 14 plastic trash cans with metal cans at a cost of about \$45 each. A motion was approved to pay up to \$1,000 for the purchase and delivery of the metal cans.

Membership: Joan Markoe announced that Roz Franklin will be taking over membership and has become a member of the board. Joan reported that we now have 111 members contributing about \$9,024.25 in membership fees and donations. The average donation is \$81. This year's dues are 18% higher than last year. Members can join through an automated system, Give Lively, which 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.

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 about 100 dogs. A budget of \$300 was approved for the event.

Park Maintenance: The lawn was recently aerated and fertilized. The park is now on a 2-week schedule for mowing.

Website News: Check out Joe Walsh's latest history article.

The northeast corner of 16th and Callowhill Streets went from row houses (30 years) to freight/coal yard (90 years) to surface parking lot (50 years). Will it soon be filled up with million-dollar homes? Read more at

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/16th-and-callowhill-ne-corner>

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.