

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 4/2/2026 (7 – 7:45 PM)

Attendees (11): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Joan Markoe, Peg Szczurek, Nora Shock, Jan Roberts, Suzanne Cross, Judith Johnson, Stephen Denning, and Grace Hanrahan.

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

Calendar of Events:

Membership Drive Began	Wednesday 4/1/26		See website to join.
April Clean-Up	Saturday 4/11/26	10 – 11 AM	Monthly Clean-up
May Meeting	Thursday 5/7/26	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
May Clean-Up	Saturday 5/9/26	10 – 11 AM	“Love Your Park” Clean-up
Parks-on-Tap	Wed 5/13 – Fri 5/15 Sat 5/16 – Sun 5/17	4 – 10 PM Noon – 10 PM	Benefits Parks & Recreation
Story Walk	Sat 5/16 – Sun 5/17	10 AM – 4 PM	Book: <u>Caps for Sale</u>

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

PNC Bank Statement for Period 3/01/2026-3/31/2026

Beginning Balance	\$39,039.71
Deposits	\$ 557.68
Deductions	\$ 690.45
Ending Balance	\$38,906.94

Deposits

Deposits totaling \$557.68 were: \$257.68 for dues and donations, and \$300.00 for an In Memoriam donation for Alden "Duke" DuPont (from Colleen and Joe Walsh, in memory of her father).

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$690.45 were: \$24.37 for Rose Tone, \$563.13 for trash cans, and \$102.95 for gardening implements.

Membership Drive: Joan Markoe reported that the drive which began on April 1st was off to a good start with 18 members joining. Some members are choosing monthly donations, which are available in “Give Lively”.

Bench Replacement: Jim Fennell has not heard back yet from Parks & Recreation on the cost of replacing a bench that had been destroyed. We have offered to finance the bench out of our own funds.

Parks-on-Tap: Baldwin Park will host Parks-on-Tap, which is a partnership between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and FCM Hospitality. A portion of all proceeds benefits the Philadelphia park network. The schedule for Baldwin Park is:

Wed 5/13 – Fri 5/15 4 – 10 PM

Sat 5/16 – Sun 5/17 Noon – 10 PM

Story Walk: Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson will set up a Story Walk of the children's book, Caps for Sale. It will be available during Parks-on Tap, on Saturday 5/16 and Sunday 5/17 from 10 AM – 4 PM.

Park Maintenance: The Belmont Charter School, located in the former Hallahan High School is planning to return to clean up the park benches as a Community Outreach Project. They did a great job in the fall. Recently, the Sister Cities Park hired professionals to clean their benches with power water washers. This sparked a discussion as to whether we might investigate this for the future. Another note, the plastic trash can liners, which were damaged by rats, have all been replaced with 31-gallon galvanized steel cans.

April Clean-Up: Nancy van Arkel announced that this month's clean-up will focus on weeding and cleaning the area around the southeast stone walls. Also, they plan to cut back on the Euonymus on the west side of the park. Plans are being developed to work on the Liriope which is growing out of control.

Website News: Read Joe Walsh's latest article about a neighborhood building that has been in the news over the last two years, both for having our neighborhood's most controversial business and for its owner who ended up in prison for seven years with a fraud conviction. See the website:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/1500-spring-garden-street>

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.