

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 9/3/2020 (7 – 7:40 PM) – Zoom Session

Note: Because of the coronavirus, the board decided to hold a virtual meeting via a Zoom session.

Attendees (20): Joe Walsh, Bernard & Jane Mason, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Ed Boehner, Myron & Sheila Bassman, Rich & Sue Leimbach, Pat Wisch, Ed Dougherty, Lou Ferrero, Eddie Schechter, Frank Feingold, and Mel Seligsohn. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 7/2/2020 meeting were approved. There was no August meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported as of 8/31/2020, a balance of \$22,867.96. There was a deposit of \$291.30 from dues but no payouts. There was an outstanding check of \$205.02

Membership Drive: Joan Markoe reported that as of 9/3/2020, there was a total of 100 memberships, which was up from last year's total of 66. This year's total amount in memberships was \$5,850, up from last year's total of \$3,825.

Collaboration Grant: Joe Walsh of Baldwin Park and Ed Dougherty of Aviator Park applied for and were awarded a Fairmount Park Collaboration Grant which is given to fund parks working on joint projects. The grant money of \$1,500 will be used to for tree identification tags and an amplifier for tours and group gatherings.

Park Plantings: Jim Fennell authorized payment of \$3,500 for new plants which will include Hibiscus shrubs in the wet area and other plants such as Yarrow to fill in bare areas. Money from last year's Parks-on-Tap grant will fund the plantings.

Calendar of Future Planned Events:

Next Park Clean-up Saturday 9/26/2020 10 AM Using social distancing and wearing masks.

October Meeting Thursday 10/1/2020 7 PM Contact Jim Fennell for Zoom invitation.

Bench Vandalization: On the moonlit night of September 1st, vandals removed the cast iron middle armrests from all 27 of the Baldwin Park benches. The armrests deter people from sleeping on the benches. Fortunately, Joe Walsh, Dennis Boylan and Jim Fennell found them in the area to the south of the park. The meeting discussion centered on repairing the armrests to make them harder to remove. Stan Ordo mentioned sheer or snap nuts. Lou Ferrero, who has a background in mechanics and special tools, offered to help. Ed Dougherty suggested contacting Parks & Recreation who used a locking mechanism when the Aviator Park's armrests were removed. While some attendees suggested patrolling the park at night, Joe Walsh suggested that Tivoli and North by Northwest residents watch from their windows and call 911 if people are in the park between 10 PM and 7 AM. The suggestion of camera surveillance was considered impractical because of trees blocking the view.

Park Maintenance: Special thanks to Joe Walsh who bagged extra trash from the trash can overflows on busy weekends. Joe mentioned that we have a problem with people dumping household trash in the park, such as used kitty litter and bags of dirt. Joan Markoe suggested that we re-post the household trash posters that Suzanne Cross created last year. Jim Fennell asked that we thank the trash pick-up staff from Parks & Recreation for doing an extra pickup each week which helps control the rat problem.

Tree Identification Tags: Stan Ordo and Joe Walsh reported on their progress in getting an estimated cost for the Tree Identification Tag Project. Stan requested free sample tags from the National Band & Tag Company in both landscape and portrait format with a QR code. There is a design fee of \$35 per tag and then \$10 per tag. If we group trees of the same type to one design, we will save money. The delivery time is about 3 weeks. The website is: <https://www.nationalband.com/arboretum-tags/>

Encampment News: Attendees on the call were hopeful that the 9/9 deadline set by the city for the encampment to vacate the parkway would resolve the issue. Call 911 if people are in the park between 10 PM and 7 AM. No one can pitch a tent in the park at any time. If someone is a danger to themselves or others, it is best to call the Homeless Outreach Hotline at 215-232-1984 at Project HOME. Ed Dougherty mentioned that one of the positives of the encampment has been a strengthened relationship between LSNA and the city and the homeless agency. Praise was given to Dennis Boylan and Colleen Walsh on working on the problem.

19th Street Hawthorn Tree Watering: Slots are wide open for the watering of the hawthorn trees along 19th Street. Thanks to all who have volunteered. For more information, contact Joe Walsh at: baldwinparkphilly@gmail.com, but the process is easy if you use the sign-up sheet and watch the video. The sign-up sheet is at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040b4ba4ac22aaf94-baldwin> and the two-minute instructional video is at: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=y3GAAadQeUU>

The whole watering job can be done in 20 minutes with two people. The buckets are in the Fire Command Center in the lobby of the Tivoli.

Website News: Check out the latest history articles on “Garretson Hospital”, “Dalian on the Park” and “Locomotive Pioneers in the Neighborhood” by Joe Walsh at:

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

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