

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 10/1/2020 (7 – 7:40 PM) – Zoom Session

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

Attendees (18): Joe Walsh, Bernard & Jane Mason, Bob Strunk, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Peg Szczurek,, Marion Parkinson, Ed Boehner, Eddie Schechter, Frank & Mary Feingold, Mel Seligsohn, Tony Mauro, Suzanne Cross, and Seamus Kearmey. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 9/3/2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: In Joan Markoe's absence, Sandy Owens reported as of 9/30/2020, a balance of \$22,865.86. There were outstanding checks of \$3,500.00 and \$205.02. Joan Markoe will be submitting a reimbursement request of about \$4,000 from the 2019 Parks-on-Tap Reinvestment Grant.

Membership Drive: As of 9/30/2020, there was a total of 105 memberships, which was up from last year's total of 66.

Calendar of Future Planned Events:

Next Park Clean-up	Saturday 10/17/2020	10 AM	With social distancing and masks.
November Meeting	Thursday 11/5/2020	7 PM	
Love Your Park Clean-up	Saturday 11/14/2020	10 AM	With social distancing and masks.
Howl-o-Ween Dog Parade	CANCELLED		

Tree Identification Tags: Stan Ordo and Joe Walsh will get together to prioritize the trees to be tagged. Some of the money from the \$1,500 Fairmount Park Collaboration Grant will be used to pay for the tree id tags at Baldwin and Aviator Parks. The rest of the money is for a portable amplifier for tours and group gatherings. The grant money is good until 8/31/2021. However, a W-9 form may be needed for expenses greater than \$250. Tags will be ordered from National Band & Tag Company The delivery time is about 3 weeks. The website is: <https://www.nationalband.com/arboretum-tags/>

Bench Repair: It was decided to delay re-installing the middle armrests of the Baldwin Park benches until after the benches are cleaned. Scrubbing with a brush and plain water has been effective. Each bench takes about 30 minutes and 10 of the 27 have been cleaned so far. After the clean-up, the armrests will be installed when it is considered safe. It was suggested that the benches closer to 19th Street be done first and perhaps only 4 at a time to see how it goes. Stan Ordo said that we will use a bolt with a rounded surface which would be difficult to remove.

19th Street Trees: Joe Walsh proposed that the Friends of Baldwin Park apply to the city for the planting two additional trees on 19th Street, north of the new hawthorn trees. The motion passed unanimously. Slots are open for the watering of the existing hawthorn trees along 19th Street. 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>

Park Maintenance: Seamus Kearney asked if the old tree stumps could be removed. Jim Fennell will ask Parks & Recreation but was skeptical if we would get a response because of their budget. Peggy Szczurek suggested that the stumps might be used as a lesson for children to determine the age of the tree by counting the rings. A dead tree on the south side was removed by Parks & Recreation, but the truck accidentally knocked over part of a wall. Stan Ordo has volunteered to try to fix it. To Mel Seligsohn's question if the Spotted Lantern Flies had killed trees in the park, the answer was that most of the trees do not have the type of bark that attract the flies. Park trees have died for other reasons. Suzanne Cross posted signs warning about rats and fines for dumping household trash in the cans.

Park Plantings: Jim Fennell mentioned that \$3,500 worth of plants have been planted. This include Hibiscus shrubs as an experiment on the north side. Money from last year's Parks-on-Tap grant will fund the plantings.

Watermark Lecture: Joe Walsh will give another in his series of lectures via Zoom on Monday 10/12 at 2 PM. The topic will be autumn in the neighborhood and the history of the Granary. In addition to the Watermark residents, it will be open to the Friends of Baldwin Park.

MANNA: Eddie Schechter described the good work MANNA does in providing nutritious meals for the ill and disabled. Located nearby at 420 N. 20th Street, MANNA's "Pie in the Sky" fundraiser, where they sell delicious pies for Thanksgiving, will be starting soon. The deadline for ordering pies is November 20th. Go to their website to volunteer for MANNA or to order pies:

<https://mannapa.org/>

Encampment News: The encampment continues as the city backed down from the 9/9 deadline to remove the residents. Rumors exist that the city is in the process of negotiating a deal with the organizers.

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.