Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Incorporated
Conflict of Interest Policy
Adopted by its Members
01 March 2012

The purpose of this conflict of interest policy is to protect the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Incorporated’s ("FOBP") interests when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of FOBP or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article I - Purpose

The purpose of the conflict of interest policy is to protect FOBP’s interest when it is contemplating entering into a transaction or arrangement that might benefit the private interest of an officer or director of FOBP or might result in a possible excess benefit transaction. This policy is intended to supplement but not replace any applicable state and federal laws governing conflict of interest applicable to nonprofit and charitable organizations.

Article II - Definitions

1. Interested Person

Any director, principal officer, or member of a committee with governing board delegated powers, who has a direct or indirect financial interest, as defined below, is an interested person.

2. Financial Interest

A person has a financial interest if the person has, directly or indirectly, through business, investment, or family. Compensation includes direct and indirect remuneration as well as gifts or favors that are not insubstantial:

a. An ownership or investment interest in any entity with which FOBP has a transaction or arrangement,

b. A compensation arrangement with FOBP or with any entity or individual with which FOBP has a transaction or arrangement, or

c. A potential ownership or investment interest in, or compensation arrangement with, any entity or individual with which FOBP is negotiating a transaction or arrangement.

Article III - Procedures

2. Determining Whether a Conflict of Interest Exists

After disclosure of the financial interest and all material facts, and after any discussion with the interested person, he/she shall leave the governing board or committee meeting while the determination of a conflict of interest is discussed and voted upon. The remaining board or committee
members shall decide if a conflict of interest exists. A financial interest is not necessarily a conflict of interest. Under Article III, Section 2, a person who has a financial interest may have a conflict of interest only if the appropriate governing board or committee decides that a conflict of interest exists.

3. Procedures for Addressing the Conflict of Interest

a. An interested person may make a presentation at the governing board or committee meeting, but after the presentation, he/she shall leave the meeting during the discussion of, and the vote on, the transaction or arrangement involving the possible conflict of interest.

b. The chairperson of the governing board or committee shall, if appropriate, appoint a disinterested person or committee to investigate alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement.

c. After exercising due diligence, the governing board or committee shall determine whether FOBP can obtain with reasonable efforts a more advantageous transaction or arrangement from a person or entity that would not give rise to a conflict of interest.

d. If a more advantageous transaction or arrangement is not reasonably possible under circumstances not producing a conflict of interest, the governing board or committee shall determine by a majority vote of the disinterested directors whether the transaction or arrangement is in FOBP’s best interest, for its own benefit, and whether it is fair and reasonable. In conformity with the above determination it shall make its decision as to whether to enter into the transaction or arrangement.

4. Violations of the Conflicts of Interest Policy

a. If the governing board or committee has reasonable cause to believe a member has failed to disclose actual or possible conflicts of interest, it shall inform the member of the basis for such belief and afford the member an opportunity to explain the alleged failure to disclose.

b. If, after hearing the member's response and after making further investigation as warranted by the circumstances, the governing board or committee determines the member has failed to disclose an actual or possible conflict of interest, it shall take appropriate disciplinary and corrective action.

Article IV - Records of Proceedings

The minutes of the governing board and all committees with board delegated powers shall contain:

a. The names of the persons who disclosed or otherwise were found to have a financial interest in connection with an actual or possible conflict of interest, the nature of the financial interest, any action taken to determine whether a conflict of interest was present, and the governing board's or committee's decision as to whether a conflict of interest in fact existed.

b. The names of the persons who were present for discussions and votes relating to the transaction or arrangement, the content of the discussion, including any alternatives to the proposed transaction or arrangement, and a record of any votes taken in connection with the proceedings.
Article V – Compensation

a. A voting member of the governing board who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from FOBP for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

b. A voting member of any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from FOBP for services is precluded from voting on matters pertaining to that member’s compensation.

c. No voting member of the governing board or any committee whose jurisdiction includes compensation matters and who receives compensation, directly or indirectly, from FOBP, either individually or collectively, is prohibited from providing information to any committee regarding compensation.

Article VI - Annual Statements

Each director, principal officer and member of a committee with governing board delegated powers shall annually sign a statement which affirms that each such persons: (1) has received a copy of the conflicts of interest policy; (2) has read and understands the policy; (3) has agreed to comply with the policy; and, (4) understands FOBP is charitable and in order to maintain its federal tax exemption it must engage primarily in activities which accomplish one or more of its tax-exempt purposes.

Article VII - Periodic Reviews

To ensure FOBP operates in a manner consistent with charitable purposes and does not engage in activities that could jeopardize its tax-exempt status, periodic reviews shall be conducted. The periodic reviews shall, at a minimum, include the following subjects:

a. Whether compensation arrangements and benefits are reasonable, based on competent survey information, and the result of arm’s length bargaining.

b. Whether partnerships, joint ventures, and arrangements with management organizations conform to FOBP’s written policies, are properly recorded, reflect reasonable investment or payments for goods and services, further charitable purposes and do not result in inurement, impermissible private benefit or in an excess benefit transaction.

Article VIII - Use of Outside Experts

When conducting the periodic reviews as provided for in Article VII, the Organization may, but need not, use outside advisors. If outside experts are used, their use shall not relieve the governing board of its responsibility for ensuring periodic reviews are conducted.

I certify that this Conflicts of Interest policy was adopted by a unanimous vote of the members of Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Incorporated at its meeting held on March 1, 2012. Signed by its Secretary on March 1, 2012.

______________________________
Paul Shay, Secretary
FRIENDS OF BALDWIN PARK
MARCH, 2012 Minutes

Present:
Mel Seligsohn, Lou Fererro, Beth & Paul Shay, Grace & Stan Hanrahan, Frank
Feingold & Seamus Kearney

Museum Tower News
Mel reported on a Museum Towers project meeting held at the Tivoli last
week. He said the Forest City group’s current plan features a continuous
wall, 6’ tall, from 19th to 18th Sts constructed on their south boundary [the
park’s north boundary]. It would not be inviting for park users and Mel
suggested we talk to them at their next meeting to discuss alternatives.
Jovida will be asked to broaden her alerting audience to allow for more of us
to know of that meeting.

Barnes Info
Mel also reported that most of the parking spaces in the near-completed
museum would be allotted to Barnes staff & “big wigs”—very few, if any, for
the public.

501 c 3 progress
Paul gave an update on the progress of our 501 c 3 application. He has
registered us with PA as Matthias Baldwin Park, Inc. with an alias of The
Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park. We agreed on a Conflict of Interest
Policy [unanimous] & will look for a Mission Statement [our brochure?]. Paul
said the IRS application will cost $400 and that the PA application cost
$125 [Paul paid it, we will recompense]. We will check with Jim if we can
meet this total [$575] or raise it from members. Paul collected needed
signatures [Paul, Seamus] and will get two others: Jim Ruddick & Joan
Applegate to close the loop on the PA process and to continue the paperwork
for the IRS application. He hopes to complete the filing of the IRS
application by April and, if there is no pushback from IRS, it is possible we
could have 501 c 3 status later this year.
Benefits of having 501 c 3 status would include better chances to fundraise
and to create partnerships with area businesses and institutions.
FRIENDS of FRANKLINTOWN PARK
JUNE, 2010 MEET

Dorothy Gray, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Grace Hanrahan, Paul & Beth Shay, Mel Seligsohn, Joan Applegate, Seamus Kearney

JOSEPH'S GRANT: We had decided to spend the money on getting tree identification signs as well as butt cylinders in line with Athena’s concerns. Stan, however, reports that his exploration of tree ID cost finds that they are expensive. Seamus will contact Mark Focht for permission to post the signs and also to ask for the resources that FPC uses to ID trees.

He will also contact Jim Mako with a CC to Focht and Craighead querying:
1. what plans are there for the beds that are bare
2. when will the wall repair/mortar work re-commence

PICNIC: We should send thank you notes to Fedders and Kite & key

NAME CHANGE: Discussion centered why the need for the change. Mostly, it came down to:
1. Franklintown is a failed urban renewal project from the 1970’s
2. Ben Franklin is recognized all over Philly; don’t need another
3. Matthias Baldwin’s company is giant of 19th century industrialism
4. He doesn’t get enough recognition; have park in his name
We agreed to have Mel craft a petition for the name change to be presented to Darryl Clark. We agree to assist him in handing it out.
Friends of Franklintown Park
April 8, 2010

Picnic in the Park, 5/22 Noon - 3 pm

- food
- beverages
- PNC
- Hayden Mitman

Concerns of the Dog Owners

- Trace: email from dog owner
- unfounded re bulbs + intent dogs leash/poole

Who Planted

- Staining May 15 7 am
  - Inform Fairmount Park

Cigarette butts

- begin process to get more
  - Fair
  - Phoebe
  - Alina

Signs up mid May

Paul (Beverly + Ken)
Sandra (PNC)
MC (Selena + Dana) (Museum Market)
(Kate + Ken)
### INCOME

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**1/4/2010**

**1/31/09 Balance**

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Friends of Franklintown Park
Agenda, November, 2009 Meeting

From Dorothy and Sandra Banks

Benches
Schuykill River Park only at Delaware & Schuylkill

Semi vs. $1500 inc. trans + sales tax

Schuykill River Park: wood bench, wide board

Cultural programs for Summer In the Park.

Approving new cultural events

Level 1: Real (full day sec. deposit 250 day) 50-150 people

no corp sponsor, audience, stage

Ash Receptacles

work w/ Rhodie & Fairmount Park

Growing the Membership

4/30 2010 => 4/30 2011

LSNA website:

Join Ruddick has new names

Sandy's membership form: check email.

Cleanups
FRIENDS of FRANKLIN TOWN PARK
SUGGESTED AGENDA
OCTOBER 1, 2009

Working with the FPC
  - letter of clarification
  - RDA + FPC
  - leisure

Planning of future events
  - Orangize
  - Picnic
  - arts in Park

Growing our finances
  - deciding dues date; Sandie will look at need
  - December 1 due date; record keeping

Partnering with neighbors
  - Watermark
  - Hallokan
  - PNC

Clean-ups
  10/24
  11/1

Fall Park Partners Meeting [October 20]

Brenden:
  - don't approve
  - need to approve
  - new style brenden
  - new style brenden
  - on Shubert River Park

Butts:
  - cull + remove species
  - gran damage: evaluate their use
  - contact: do walkthrough

Dorothy + Sandra work of Babette

Joseph:

Jim Reddick email:
  11/1 - 11/15
FRIENDS OF FRANKLINTOWN PARK
AGENDA, JUNE, 2009

Report on Picnic
- Badminton, volleyball, games
- Music, billiards
- Larger number +450 from LSNA
- Picnic, Dooley
- Certain things PA requires

Marker Planning
- 9/26, 5pm: Philly Cultural Institute

Summer Cleanups
- June 27
- July 10
- August 25
- Sept 25

Reports on Member's Interests
- Stan has interactive plan
- put markers on them

Tree ID

Baldwin Marker Dedication
- Advocate trees on this pl.
- Franklin Tandoor
- Mel will start it
- Suit recipients
- Survey, educate
- Keep America Beautiful

Trees on Callowhill St.

Mel's Exciting Announcement

Sandy's Proposal from Fringe Festival
- Couple wants to do a play
- Summer festival 2010
- Music
- Dance
- Puppet shows
- On 18th St. side
- Portable stage

September early
June 3, 09

Report to FFP on conversation with......Athena

I spoke with a very pleasant Ms. Tachas this afternoon. She is delighted that we are taking an interest in the park. She’s very active and is currently working on a major installation in Washington, DC where she lives. Basically, she was never happy with how the RA handled the commission. The funding was cut in half and the plantings were not done to her design.

She hasn’t been here in years but is aware that Franklintown was abandoned in the mid 90’s. She said the park was meant to be a secluded place in a densely developed area. She understands the problems of urban spaces and suggested we plan more activities to have it used more. She said that originally she planned a platform stage at the sw corner of the park in the large circle but the money wasn’t there for it.

Her current project is keeping her very busy at the moment but she said we should keep in touch with her. I told her the park here looked wonderful.

I mentioned the historic marker. She didn’t know anything about Baldwin but was quite interested. She asked that we send her a photo of the marker and where it will be placed. I doubt she will object. But if she does it’s better that we know now.

If you google her name, you’ll understand how prominent she is. We are very fortunate to have her work in our park. She wants to have a productive relationship with us.

Mel
FRIENDS OF FRANKLINTOWN PARK
AGENDA, APRIL, 2009

Picnic in the Park 5/30
Bill Dooley:
- Check on food; program; vendors
- Make sign-up sheet; need chairs from Tivoli
- Staff flyer: May 24 –
- Fairmount Park Day 5/16
- PNC Bank: 
  - Sue & Adriel

Member's Reports of Interest

Comm. Service
- Family Court
- Yahoo Group "Connections"

Getting the word out
- Get letter for KYW, CCP, More

Historic Marker
- Need hand-held GPS to mark location
- Rich Martinez in Traffic Dept
  - OK'd
  - LSNA grand cover
  - State re-embroider is possible
  - Sept 19 Pick: Sandra + Bill or Sue 2pm to 5pm

Tree ID
- Bruce and Stan will have

Clean-ups 4/25, 5/16
- CEP
- KYW
- Matter Clark
- Check and history of Baldwin
- Model RR
- descendants of Baldwin workers: family
March, 2009 Minutes
Friends of Franklintown Park

Brochure: Jim and Sandra presented a draft of a brochure. It looked GREAT! and their work was lauded. It did not need many improvements but one suggestion was to have a map of the park’s location. Jim also created a flyer for meeting announcements.

Yahoo Group "Connections": Seamus provided details on the Connections group at Yahoo. It can be used to provide info and to allow across the board communication to members who subscribe. He will begin process of including member’s subscriptions to the group.

Tree ID: this project is on track. Grace and Stan have photographed every tree and have created a photo book and a CD with all photos in them. Seamus is creating an Excel spreadsheet for the trees & their care and upkeep. Jim Mako provided a plot plan that names the trees. This info will allow us and Grace and Stan to confirm the ID of every tree in the park.

Getting the Word Out: The brochure and flyer for meetings will help us with informing the public, FPC and any organization that has interest in our mission with the park. Another effort will be outreach to area institutions among them: Day & Zimmerman, Community College & KYW. We’ll ask them for an evaluation of the walls, volunteers and publicity, respectively.

Historic Marker: Sandra said the state historical commission will make a decision to go ahead with the Baldwin historic marker at the end of March. She warned that the process is competitive and might not happen this year. The funding is still there with the grant from LSNA.

Spring Picnic in the Park: We are still proceeding to have this event on May 30 from Noon to 3pm. We’ll precede the event with a cleanup at 10am. Sandra will ask PNC to help again. Mel and Seamus will ask area food establishments for contributions. Beth and Paul will provide another banner for the advertisement. We will also create a flyer for distribution.
Fairmount Park Day: May 16 we'll have a gigantic cleanup of the Park. Seamus will send in an application for it. We'll ask for volunteers from PhillyCares and equipment from FPC.

Finances: We will ask Fairmount Parks Conservancy to be our fiscal conduit for any monies that we get for fixing up the park [benches, wall restoration, walkways, lights]. Seamus will begin that process.

Art in the Park: this will be a Fall event and we need to get moving on it. We need to set a date and get support for it. Seamus will contact Moore and CCP Art Department [Valerie used to teach there]. A letter of invitation will be sent to Athena.

Actions:
Beth will ask Jim Mako who is the restorer of the walls, contact and get an evaluation of the cost of restoration
Mel & Seamus will ask food establishments about Picnic in the Park
Frank will be asked to get musicians for Picnic
Sandra will ask PNC for help w/Picnic
Seamus will contact Fairmount Parks Conservancy, Day & Zimmerman, CCP Art, Moore, get names into "Connections", write letter to Athena
Beth & Paul will provide banner for Picnic
Jim and Sandra will revise brochure and more flyer announcements.
FRIENDS of FRANKLINTOWN PARK
Report on February Meeting, 2009

Members agreed to hold our annual Picnic in the Park on Saturday May 30 from Noon to 3pm. Beth will set-up our sign well before the happening and we will publicize through a variety of media.

We set Cleanup dates for March [21], April [25] and May [23] all of which to start at 11am.

Treasurer’s report revealed that we have $480 in our PNC account. Dues are $25.00 a year. To renew or join write checks c/o Friends of Franklintown Park and send to PNC at 2001 Hamilton Street, 19130.

We want to begin to identify the trees in our park. Some work has already begun with Grace and Stan photographing all the trees. Seamus will contact Jim Mako to get the park’s schematic of the original plantings. Seamus and Grace will combine the schematic and Grace’s photos to start the project. Seamus will contact Friends Select School to ask students to help with identification.

A discussion to explore ways to increase membership was wide-ranging and decisive. We will make our efforts more public:
* Beth will create a sign to hang a week before cleanup dates to alert the public
* Seamus will contact Home News to publicize each meeting of the Friends
* We will ask PNC to include us when they do booth work in season
* A recruitment flyer will be created with the idea to expand into a brochure
* Tivoli’s internal communication, Yahoo Groups and leafleting of Museum Towers will be explored

One exciting idea resonated with members: Since the park already is a work of art, we will schedule an Art in the Park show for September of 2009. We will contact Moore College, University of the Arts and CCCP’s Art Department for inclusion. We will ask PNC to sponsor.

Friends mentioned that damage occurred to the park in January: a tree and a bench were destroyed either by vandals or by a car accident. Mel will contact FPC
to report the damage and have tree removed [Mel will also approach FPC about attaching butt cans to benches].

NEXT MEETING IS THURSDAY, MARCH 5 AT 7PM AT THE TIVOLI.
FRIENDS OF FRANKLINTOWN PARK
AGENDA FOR MEETING APRIL 3, 2003, 7:45 PM

Introduction of members, new members, observations from floor (10 minutes)

Actions to discuss:

1. Tour of park and resulting action plan to be presented at meeting with FPC. What are our priorities, wish list. Do we form a horticultural task force? Choice of 4 members to meet with Park Commission.

2. Picnic in the Park idea.

3. Historical marker status; Name change. We will need a petition for City Council.

4. Report from Maintenance and clean up group (next clean up?)

5. Status of effort for more street trees around park and on Callowhill St.


7. Sandy’s mission statement

Meeting to be concluded at 9:00. Next meeting May 8. 7:45 pm; Tivoli

Thank you for your interest and for attending.
Friends of Franklintown Park
March, 2008 Meeting

Committee Meetings

Clean-up Day, March 15

Planting Day

Tree Identification Report

Fairmount Park Partnership Agreements

Fairmount Park Day, May 17  Picnic in Park

Fairmount Park Meeting, April 9  9am

Income

Idea:

Buy a plant

Deer

need message

Bill Martin
425 N 20th St
19130

$20

Join Stan Vaninc
Sandra K
Bette Jo
Paul Frank

- Picnic in Park
- Sun and hot
- Rob Stewart on
  demo/education
- Ask to post on
  their website
- Laurel: check out Whole
  Foods

* Jovita: Committee person
* Keep off regime

* Picnic in Park
  * Helon posts
FRIENDS of FRANKLINTOWN PARK
Meeting Agenda
February 7, 2008

Rob Stuart—Logan Square Neighborhood Association

Reports of Tasks/Committees
Lights
Marker
Community Comm Survey
Cleanup Comm - 3/15

Schedule Committee Meetings

Park Commission Meeting
Report on Partnerships/FPC

Preparations for FFP meeting 2/7

LSNA - Stuart President, Logan Square Neighborhood Assoc.

Tree tenders [via Grace Hanrahan, FFP, and Mindy Maslin, PA Hort. Society]
3 or more people to take the free Tree Tenders Training: three 3-hour sessions at the PA
Horticultural Society at 20th and Arch Street on May 7, 14 and 21 and again on
October 15, 22, and 29.

1) If 3 or more people from the Friends of Franklintown Park attend the Tree Tenders
Training, we will be considered a group. Groups get tools at the end of the training and are
eligible for trees through the Horticultural Society's group buys. Attached is the
brochure.

2) Also, through Mindy, I was contacted by email by Natalie Mayer, the Biology teacher at
Friends Select, who may be interested in having her class work with the group to help
identify the trees in the park. Her class had started a project in the Fall identifying trees
near the school. That project was put on hold until Spring, but this may be a better project
for her students to work with a group

FPC Partnership Guidelines
Jan 9 Meeting of Partners
*plan and implement minimum of 2 community workdays each year
*apply for a permit [Stewardship Office] 4 weeks in advance for all workdays and projects
*meet with FPC periodically: programs, maintenance issues & future plans

Meeting Space
Twelve

Join Sandy Bill Sandy
Milk & me
Clean Up Comm
1/28/08

Wet clearing

Observations

Planned events

Input from other happenings:

Mitro FPC: need input

Observations:
- Tall socks > other students
- Make messengers hang out
- Need resign on wells (ask FPC)
- Stone well: FPC for maintenance plan

- Plantings: coordinate w/ FPC or seasonal planting
- Lemons: find plot/planting plan & coordinate
- Apples: clean
- Trees: label them

Lead tour
- Trash bucket near fence/parking lot: on 18th/9th sts
- Cigarette butt holders
- Pit holes on pathways
Steering meet FFP
1/10/2008

Publicize
- clean-up
- FPC meet: Tom Dougherty
- invite w/ LSNA

Fundraising
- next meeting agenda
- membership

Agenda
- Member
  - let tour guy create working

FPC meeting
- invite others
- let Palin know of steering comm.

Organization structure
- ask for leadership help
- committee work: create schedule of meetings
- create a mission outlook
- LSNA:
  - Rob Stewart to speak to us
FFP
Meeting 1/3/2008

Baldwin (Scott Donohue)
died in 1865
keyday of loco co was after he died
post WWll city tore down bridge
? can we get the statue moved from CH

Resume Park? nearly unanimous

Cleanup Comm.
Monthly cleanup in January 19 at 11 w 26th or backup

Beautification Comm of LSNA
- get plantings + stationary

Pedestrian lighting co: probably need to get w/Darrell Clarke

Get info on strip: Turnmount Park Comm.

Fundraising:
- org, structure my accountability
- use LSNA as fiscal conduit ($300 for member)
- ask companies + organizations for donations
- "sidewalk fund" for cleaning
Planning Committee
12/20/07

On Dog Run:
- owned more, run more effective
- fee
- need interest group to help form

Money issues:
- should we set up fee structure
- use LSNA as a broker
  - needs LSNA approval

On Land Strip:
Sawgrass S: call Tom Dougherty & Susan Davis
- find out how to get it
- safety of supports

Membership:
- get list of neighborhood assoc'
- flyers should be attractive (Lauren)

Park name change:
- in political process
  - need to go to Asenovic or Daniel Clark

Marker:
- application
- set goal of getting marker in by January 2009

CoI Park
Dennis Angel
VP LSNA
Margaret Tinker
Committees

Community Concern Survey
Clean-up Committee
12/17/2007

Mary, Seamus, Frank, Mel

Clean-up
  schedule monthly
  work w/ Tom Dougherty

auxiliary
  decks
Dear Ms. Davis,

The Friends of Franklintown Park [FFP] organized on November and founded four committees [Planning, Clean-up, Community and Financial] to help decide the Friends’ future courses of action. We are writing to you as members of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is empowered to explore what FFP can do to enhance the appeal of the park to its users.

At a Planning Committee meeting on November we decided that it would be in the best interests of the Friends to inform Athena Tacha, creator of Connections, of our interest in Franklintown Park. And, following up a conversation with you in October, our committee is giving you a list of “concrete” suggestions regarding improvements to the park. May you use this list as a means of beginning a conversation with Athena Tacha. We would like her to understand that our wish is to preserve and restore the beauty of Connections and to make it a worthy park in the Fairmount Park Commission’s stewardship of Philadelphia’s parks.

The Friends of Franklintown Park would like to upgrade the park and bring it back to its former beauty. We hereby present to you our “concrete” suggestions to make it more usable for users of the park. We would like:

*more pedestrian-type lights along walkways moving away from the central garden of Connections
*the surrounding walls of the garden area be repaired, rebuilt and properly maintained
*to have an upgrade of the plants & trees and to ensure that they are properly maintained
*to upgrade the existing benches by restoring the wood and removing graffiti
*to add additional benches, but not in the central design garden area by creating a semi-circle or circle of benches on the 18th & 19th sts. lawn/sidewalks
*an addition of pedestrian-style lighting along both 18th & 19th sts. sidewalks
*the creation of a 3-6 foot paved walkway on the southern perimeter of the park to facilitate foot/bike traffic between the two streets and open up the narrow vacant area between the park and the railroad cut for a variety of community uses.
We understand there is a concern for cost and time for these improvements and wish to convey that the Friends will explore means to partner with the Fairmount Park Commission and to raise funds to realize our goals.

Please convey to Athena Tacha our desire to partner with her and to make this park beautiful again. We would like to get feedback from her as soon as possible so we can continue with our efforts in rejuvenating Franklintown Park. Please understand that if we do not hear from you we will explore ways to contact the artist herself, we feel she has a right to know of our desire to help her creation.

We hope that our efforts and resolve to work with you and the Fairmount Park Commission bear the good fruit that all community improvement efforts should.

May there be peace in your life,

Mel Seligsohn
Seamus Kearney,
Planning Committee
Friends of Franklintown Park

c.c.: Tom Dougherty
Fairmount Park Commission
Summary of FFP Planning Meet

We met and decided to focus on two components within the park area:
* the current park and work of art [known as Connections] and
* the strip of land along the RR cut from 18th to 19th streets

There were other aspects considered as well:
* getting historical markers for the area around the park
* get the city to install pedestrian-type lights along 18th & 19th sts

"Connections"
We would send a letter to Susan Davids to share with Athena Tachsa that the Friends of Franklintown Park would like to upgrade the park and bring it back to its former beauty. We would also present our "concrete" suggestions to make it more usable for users of the park. We would like:
* more pedestrian-type lights along walkways
* get the walls repaired
* upgrade plants & trees
* upgrade existing benches
* add additional benches, but not in the design area
* create a semi-circle or circle of benches on the 18th & 19th Sts sides

The letter will be drafted by Mel & Seamus and given to the committee for input.

Land strip
We will begin the process of getting that strip become part of the park but not part of the art project. Some suggested ideas:
* create a dog run
* create a community garden
* create a socializing circle
* create a play area

Three members volunteered to perform some tasks and report back:
* Lauren will search the internet for dog run info & determine city regulations on dog runs
* Mark will get info on how to get lights along 18th & 19th sts
* Sandra will contact the State Historical Society for marker info

Seamus
12/6/02

Planning Comm.
Hein. Markers

City marker 27" x 41" + 40 words
apply 1/5 - received by panel 1st deciders
announce April
approval:

- cost: 1300 (1/2 reimbursed
- celebration
- Phila Heil Comm. responsible for upkeep

FFP
provide documentation
person favored one body or event
text written by use + Heil Comm.
need bank account

Money issues
worker
Logan Squ.
Neigh Assoc.

(Sandra: park named after Becklovin?)

Name changes - motion OK
Join

Street lights
Joseph Doyle:

- FPC needs in
- Planning Comm. needs OK
- inventory request for Franklin Tovm Park

Letter to
Community Comm
- met 11/20
- drew up survey
- created user groups

- survey on homeless (bill)
- write to agencies?
- some vets from Iraq + Afghan
- what is future population of area
- high socio?

- mark
- survey →

Homeless Lives

Strip of Land
- how to get it
- how to use it

more than 1 acre, dog run, garden => could be costly, incursion into conservation
- playground
- social area
- planning Comm. → check out land strip
- sub a trial
Railroad cut built as a canal; private

How to get the land: FPC; Dept. of Public Property

Dog Park Land Strip
- build conference
- use it as establishing an impression

Letter to Davez
  cc Tom Dougherty
  Michael Neuter

Meeting

Reports of Committees
  feedback

Strip of Land
"CONNECTIONS" - THE FRANKLIN TOWN PARK

ARTIST’S STATEMENT

Commissioned and conceived in 1981, this is perhaps the first park designed as an environmental sculpture, a two-acre sculpted landscape. I "modelled" the land through terraced gardens, while coloring and texturing it with plants, trees and rocks. Franklin Town Park is also a pilot project in other ways. Partly in the tradition of rock gardens, it brings to Philadelphia a unique experiment in exclusively perennial and low-maintenance "monoculture" plantings -- as close as possible to a self-sustaining park. While pursuing this artistic concept and its practical rendering, I tried to be sensitive to human and social factors: I aimed to serve and "connect" the various new neighborhoods that will surround the park, from low-middle-income retirees, to families with children, to people walking daily to work.

The design consists of a central group of curvilinear planted terraces, surrounded by paths with benches, and lawns with tree clusters. The terraced planters, rising at half- to two-foot intervals, reach a maximum height of seven feet from the south, forming a gently stepped irregular pyramidal mound. The curves of all the terraces converge into nine clusters of primeval vertical rocks, which function as nodes of energy for the rhythmic pulsation of the forms. (Indeed, visualizations of energy and subatomic particles gave me the initial sparks of inspiration for the design.) Views of Connections from above, from all the surrounding high-rise condominiums and office buildings, were especially taken into consideration. At ground level, the park, which can be entered from the four corners of the block, on 18th and 19th Streets, offers a visual terminus to Franklin Town Boulevard.

The retaining walls of the terraced gardens are built with large, roughly quarried pieces of Pennsylvania brown stone, meeting at (and encircling) the nine clusters of huge granite boulders. The planters will be covered by carpets of long-lived, blooming groundcovers that are mostly evergreen and easy to maintain in the city's polluted atmosphere. Clumps of yuccas and rows of seasonal lilies (at selected planter edges) will accent the otherwise unified fields of color and texture. I selected the plantings meticulously, in order to provide a variety of effects and colors during every season, even at wintertime. The park's fifty trees were also chosen and positioned to offer, in every area of the park, shade, evergreen foliage, handsome blooms in spring and summer, berries and colorful foliage in the fall, and a variety of size, shape and leaf texture.

I hope that the park will offer a quiet atmosphere for relaxing in nature, as well as for picnicking, jogging and children playing. More than that, I hope it will offer a magical and healing environment within the stressful fabric of the inner city.

Athena Tacha ©

June, 1992
FRANKLIN TOWN PARK: CONNECTIONS

- Designed by Athena Tacha, 1992

- Donated to the City of Philadelphia by Franklin Town Corporation

  President and Chief Executive Officer & Director:
  Chairman Board Of Directors:
  Board of Directors:

  Chairperson of The Franklin Town Art Committee:
  Counsel:

- City Counsel President:
  Legislative Assistant:

- Commissioned in Cooperation with the Redevelopment Authority of the
  City of Philadelphia, One Percent Fine Arts Program
  Chairman:
  Executive Director:
  Chairperson Art Committee:
  Director:
  Attorney:

- Project Management: Gaudet Associates, Inc.

  Senior Vice Presidents:
  Senior Design Manager:
  Project Manager:

- Contractor: Heyser Landscaping, Inc.

  Chief Executive Officer:
  President:
  Estimator:
  Secretary:
  Project Supervisor:
  Foreman:
  Operators / Workmen:

  Stone Masons:

- Plant Advisors:
  The Fairmount Park Commission - Executive Director: William Mifflin
  Ed Thompson, Landscape Architect
  Richard Simon, Horticulturist

  Artist's Assistant: Robert Weissbord