

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 6/4/2020 (7 – 7:45 PM) – Zoom Session

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

Attendees (10): Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Joe Walsh, Joan Markoe, Grace Hanrahan, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Jan Roberts, Sandie Farrell, and Bob Strunk. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 5/7/2020 meeting were approved.

Calendar of Future Planned Events:

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|----------------------|--------------------|-------|---|
| June Park Clean-up | Saturday 6/20/2020 | 10 AM | Using social distancing and wearing masks. |
| July Monthly Meeting | Thursday 7/2/2020 | 7 PM | Although planned to hold in park, subsequently, decided to continue to use Zoom because of possible problems with distancing and weather. |
| Parks-on-Tap | 7/15 – 7/19/2020 | | This event may be postponed or canceled. |
| Movie Night | Thursday 8/27/2020 | | This event may be postponed or canceled. |
| Jane's Walk | Postponed. | | Tour of local sites by Joe Walsh & Jim Fennell. |
| Scavenger Hunt | Postponed | | Joe Walsh has the hunt ready for beta testing. |

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported as of 5/31/2020, a balance of \$22,590.73, with checks paid out totaling \$217.18 for doggie bags and \$957.60 in deposits for memberships. We were notified by the Parks Conservancy that we are eligible for \$4,000 in the Reinvestment Grants for the 2019 Parks-on-Tap.

Membership Drive: Despite the fact that our membership drive started on 3/21/2020 at the start of the corona virus lockdown, the drive has been successful. Joan Markoe reported that as of 6/4/2020, there is a total of 70 memberships, of which 24 were new and 46 were renewals. There are 21 existing members who have not yet renewed. The total number of memberships is up from last year's total of 66. This year's total in memberships was \$4,550, which is up from last year's total of \$3,825.

Special thanks to Jim Fennell, Joe Walsh, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts, and Grace Hanrahan who helped make the drive a success through posting signs, sending email messages, and talking to park visitors. As it is unlikely that we will host Parks-on-Tap this year, it is important to keep our membership levels high as this may be our primary source of income.

Plantings: Last month, Jim Fennell contacted Parks & Recreation to offer \$4,000 more for perennials for the planting beds. However, at this meeting, it was approved that we increase the amount to \$6,000 because of the 2019 Parks-on-Tap Reinvestment Grant. Jim Fennell will consult with Jim Mako on the best perennials that will be durable as well as attractive. The planting will occur in the fall when the sprinklers are working again.

Park Maintenance: Joe Walsh reported that the newly planted Hawthorne Trees on 19th Street are doing well with the watering by the “bucket brigade”. To repay the Tivoli for allowing us to use their water spigot, the brigade is also watering the Tivoli trees that are in the alcove off the lobby. Joe requested that Parks & Recreation remove a dead sugar maple tree on the south side of the park, as well as the protruding bolts left over from the trash can removals. Joe ordered a sample tee-shirt for Baldwin Park Friends. Also, Bob Strunk and Joe Walsh trimmed a dogwood tree. Joe will be in touch with Stan Ordo to work on the tree labels. Marion Parkinson volunteered to work with Joan Markoe on updating the EXCEL spreadsheet membership list.

Summer Events: Although we had been scheduled to host Parks-on-Tap 7/15 – 7/19/2020, it probably is not going to occur. There is talk of Parks-on-Tap being held in only 4 or 5 parks in July or August, but Baldwin Park will probably not be selected. Also, Movie Night scheduled for 8/27/2020 may not occur because our park may not have enough space for social distancing.

Trash: Because of the popularity of the park during the pandemic lockdown, trash cans have been overflowing. Joe Walsh has been emptying the cans and leaving the full trash bags for pickup by Parks & Recreation contractors. Jim Fennell has requested Parks & Recreation that we have the trash picked up twice a week.

Website News: Check out the latest history articles at <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>. This month features an article on “Oil Cloth at Bush Hill” by Joe Walsh.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.