

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 12/7/2023 (7 – 7:30 PM)

Attendees (16): Jim Fennell, Nancy van Arkel, Joan Markoe, Bob Strunk, Sandy Owens, Jan Roberts, Sherry Claypool, Stan Ordo, Mel Seligsohn, Mary Feinstein, Frank Feinstein, Peg Szczurek, Suzanne Cross, Grace Hanrahan, Bernard Mason, and Jane Mason. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Joan Markoe submitted the November monthly bank report. We have not yet received proceeds from Parks-on-Tap, but we may receive them by the end of December.

PNC Bank Statement for Period 11/01/2023-11/30/2023

Beginning Balance	\$42,475.39	
Deposits	\$ 100.00	(From dues and donations)
Deductions	\$ 382.47	
Ending Balance	\$42,192.92	

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$382.47 were: \$200.00 donation to LSNA/Tree Tenders; \$47.70 renewal for WIX website support; \$134.77 Howl-o-Ween supplies.

Year-to-11/30/2023:

Income	\$10,581.03
Expenses	\$ 2,225.17
Net Income	\$ 8,355.86

Park Sign: Jim Fennell received no update from Parks & Recreation on progress on the two park signs we are interested in ordering. He has requested a current invoice but expects the price will be about \$7,000 for each of the two signs, for a total of about \$14,000. One sign will be at the Northwest entrance but the exact location of the second sign still needs to be determined.

Membership Committee: Nancy van Arkel and Joan Markoe met with Roz Franklin on the membership processing. Roz will evaluate the possibility of automating the membership data processing. Initially, Roz will continue updating the database manually. Joan Markoe will send out thank you letters to members who pay by check instead of using Pay Pal, which generates a basic thank you. Many thanks to Peg Szczurek and Marion Parkinson for their past service. Suzanne Cross will check the current membership posters in the park and possibly update them.

Park Maintenance: On the park’s maintenance list for Parks & Recreation are:

- 1) Repairing a light which is out on the south side of the park.
- 2) Removing two trees which are in danger of falling.
- 3) Patching the gravel paths.

Joan Markoe mentioned that the Winter Garden at City Hall has a very similar gravel to our paths and perhaps Parks & Recreation could check with the Center City District on their source. Mel Seligsohn suggested that at the corporate level the Fountain View (formerly Watermark) may be interested in providing some financial support to the park.

Little Library: Peg Szczurek announced that donations of adult level books and magazines for the Little Library are needed.

Park Clean-ups: Nancy van Arkel announced that the December 9th clean-up will focus on removing vines from the fence and shredding mulberry plants on the other side of the fence.

2023 Accomplishments: Briefly, members talked about our accomplishments, which included: holding monthly meetings and park clean-ups; supporting the Little Library; hosting two well-attended Parks-On-Tap; creating two Story Book Walks; and sponsoring the Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume event.

Calendar of Events:

December Clean-up	Saturday 12/9/2023	10 AM	Monthly Clean-up
January Meeting	Thursday 1/4/2024	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
January Clean-up	Saturday 1/13/2024	10 AM	Monthly Clean-up

Website News:

For more information about Matthias Baldwin Park, visit our website:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

This was followed by a celebration of Matthias Baldwin's 228th Birthday, complete with a birthday cake and toast to the gentleman. This was organized by Sandy Owens, who had researched his history and worked to have at the park re-named and a historic marker placed at the 19th Street entrance.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.