

Minutes for the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park meeting of 1/5/2017 at 7 PM at the Tivoli Community Room

Attendees: Sandra Owens, Jim Ruddick, Bob Strunk, Dorothy Gray, Jim Fennell, Mel Seligsohn, Joan Markoe, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Joe Walsh, Jan Roberts, Stan Ordo and Grace Hanrahan.
Jim Fennell conducted the meeting.

December meeting minutes were approved after the correction to PNC Bank Account as of 11/30/16 to \$6,276.00.

Next park cleanup: 1/21/17

Next park meeting: 2/2/17

February park cleanup: 2/25/17

I

Joan Markoe reported that the PNC Bank Account has \$6,274.94 as of 12/31/16. Note: We can save \$2.00 per month by using online banking service instead of a paper statement. We are currently charged \$1.50 per check.

Mel Seligsohn suggested that members visit the new North by Northwest building to tour the sample apartment. You can visit the top floor for a photo of the park. Sandy Owens will follow up on the suggestion that we establish a contact at the building to publicize the Friends group for new members and volunteers for the cleanup.

Status of Petition for Stop Sign at 19th & Hamilton

Jim Fennell reported that he will follow up with Darrell Clarke's office on the status of the petition. According to Bob Sutton, the next step is to have the Councilman submit the request to the Traffic Department. If it is approved, Joan Possiel will work on getting a curb cut at 19th & Hamilton.

Smoking in the Park Enforcement

Joe Walsh reported that his wife Colleen has checked with the police at the monthly precinct meeting. Enforcing the no smoking policy in parks is a low priority. Police are focusing on homeless issues in the parks.

Rumor of Baldwin Park Becoming an "Active Park"

Sandy Owens expressed concern over a rumor that Baldwin Park might become an "active park", meaning that it might host a play ground. Jim Fennell explained that all the city parks were being evaluated because of the proposed budget. However, it seems unlikely that Baldwin's status would change because there are two other "active parks" in the vicinity: Von Colln and Roberto Clemente. Also, Baldwin Park is under the protection of the Arts Commission because of the Connections Landscape Artwork.

Neighborhood News:

The 19th Street Bridge's opening was delayed because of problems with signage and signals but should be re-opened soon.

Joan Markoe expressed concern over unleashed dogs in park, but the consensus was that it is difficult to enforce the rule that dogs be leashed. North by Northwest will have its own dog park, which may help control

the dog traffic. The Granary has a small dog park.

Jim Ruddick mentioned that the Fairmount Conservancy might be a source for park grants. Jim Fennell explained that Mayor Kenney wanted to turn over the administration of park grants amounting to \$200K to this group, but it was opposed by Councilman Darrell Clarke who wants to continue to have the city manage the grants.

The Horticultural Society will plant tulips at 20th & Arch Streets in connection with the Flower Show's theme of Holland.

New trees will be planted between Love Park and 17th Street along the Parkway. Love Park is scheduled to open in the fall.

Target is scheduled to open in 2017, either in March or October. There is a rumor that the old Granary building will be developed after Target is completed.

The topics for the LSNA meeting on 1/10/17 will include approval of signs for Manna and for the North by Northwest Apartment building. Another topic is a complaint that the Maltepes family added an extension to the back of the Odyssey Café on Callowhill Street without a permit.

Mel Seligsohn asked if there was anything we could do to replace the dead trees on 19th Street. Jim Fennell explained that it was the city's responsibility and would require removing the dead tree and planting a new tree. He will check with a contact at LSNA.

PECO has not removed the orange covers on the electric wires which were added in the fall. It was unclear if they were installed because of tree trimming or Tivoli window washing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.