

## Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 5/1/2025 (7 – 8 PM)

**Attendees (13):** Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Roz Franklin, Sueanne Wright, Bob Strunk, Suzanne Cross, Sherry Claypool, Joan Markoe, Amelia Barnes, Bob Davis, Pam Stites, Rick Rowe, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the April meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joan Markoe reported the April financial statement.

### PNC Bank Statement for Period 04/01/2025-04/30/2025

Beginning Balance	\$37,815.10	
Deposits	\$ 4,721.83	(From: Dues and Donations)
Deductions	\$ 81.62	(For Purchase of one tree)
Ending Balance	\$42,455.31	

### **Calendar of Events:**

May Clean-up	Saturday 5/10/25	10 – 11 AM	"Love Your Park" Clean-up
Parks-on-Tap	Wed 5/14 – Fri 5/16	4 – 10 PM	Benefits Parks & Recreation
	Sat 5/17 – Sun 5/18	12 – 10 PM	
Tree Tours	Thursday 5/15/25	3 – 4 PM	Meet at 19 <sup>th</sup> Street Entrance
	Saturday 5/17/25	10 – 11 AM	
June Meeting	Thursday 6/5/25	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
June Clean-up	Saturday 6/14/25	10 - 11 AM	Monthly Park Clean-up

**Membership:** The 2025 membership drive started in early April with Jim Fennell sending out an email on Monday 4/7. This year we started using an automated system, Give Lively, which is used by over 9,000 non-profits. It eliminates back-end manual processing and paperwork connected with memberships. So far, members have adjusted easily to this new method. Give Lively will accept, credit cards, PayPal, and Venmo. **Personal checks and cash will no longer be accepted.** So far, we have 65 members contributing about \$5,400 in membership fees and donations.

If you would like to make a donation from your **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** or from your **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)**, please contact [baldwinparkmembership@gmail.com](mailto:baldwinparkmembership@gmail.com), and we will let you know where to send that.

Suzanne Cross replaced old membership signs in the park with new ones.

**Parks-on-Tap:** We are hosting Parks-on-Tap this year on Wednesday 5/14 – Sunday 5/18. For more details and the schedule, check out the website:

<https://www.parksontap.com/>

**Note:** On Sunday 5/18 from 3 - 5 PM, the Park Friends Network will treat people wearing a "Love Your Park Tee-Shirt" to a free beer in gratitude for their volunteer service.

This is a Park Friends Network event inviting all Friends groups to celebrate at the end of spring cleanup.

**No Additional Park Sign:** Because it was too expensive, the board decided against purchasing an additional park sign for the southeast entrance.

**Movie Night Status:** Because of limited budget, Parks & Recreation turned down our request for a free movie night. If we want to sponsor a movie night, we will have to fund it ourselves. Joan Markoe volunteered to check into what is involved and how much it would cost us.

**Tree Tours:** To celebrate Baldwin Park attaining Arboretum Status, Joe Walsh has volunteered to give two tree tours of Baldwin Park. Participants will meet at the northwest entrance on 19<sup>th</sup> Street.

Thursday May 15 <sup>th</sup>	3 - 4 PM
Saturday May 17 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 11 AM

**Athena Tacha Turns 89:** Athena Tacha, the designer of Baldwin Park, recently celebrated her 89<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Her husband has arranged with the Woodmere Museum in Chestnut Hill to create an archive of her work on Baldwin Park which will include her original model and all her drawings for the park. We hope they will be digitized to make them accessible.

**Website News:** Here is Joe Walsh's latest history article.

In honor of the May birthday of urbanist Jane Jacobs, May's article analyzes the developments in the Baldwin Park neighborhood as she might have seen them. Her 1961 book *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* provides the basis for the analysis.

See [www.baldwinparkphilly.org/jane-jacobs-and-baldwin-park](http://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/jane-jacobs-and-baldwin-park)

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.