

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 8/7/2025 (7 – 7:30PM)

Attendees (13): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Jan Robets, Roz Franklin, Suzanne Cross, Mary Feingold, Frank Feingold, Bob Davis, Judy Johnson, Steve Denning, and Grace Hanrahan.

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

Note: There was no July meeting.

Calendar of Events:

September Meeting	Thursday 9/4/25	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
Movie Night: "E.T"	Friday 9/12/25	Dusk (about 7 PM)	Bring chairs, blankets, & insect repellent
September Clean-up	Saturday 9/13/25	10 - 11 AM	Monthly Park Clean-up
October Meeting	Thursday 10/2/25	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
October Clean-up	Saturday 10/18/25	10 - 11 AM	Monthly Park Clean-up Note: change to 3rd Saturday
Howl-O-Ween Dog Event	Saturday 10/25/25 (Rain Date: Sunday 10/26/25)	11 AM	Dog Costume Event

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe submitted the July and June financial statements

PNC Bank Statement for Period 07/01/2025-07/31/2025

Beginning Balance	\$45,507.70	
Deposits	\$ 858.64	(From Dues and Donations)
Deductions	\$ 167.69	
Ending Balance	\$46,198.65	

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$167.69 were: \$40.87 for Movie Night supplies, and \$126.82 for Arboretum signs.

PNC Bank Statement for Period 06/01/2025-06/30/2025

Beginning Balance	\$44,392.45	
Deposits	\$ 1,115.25	(From Dues and Donations)
Deductions	\$ 0.00	
Ending Balance	\$45,507.70	

Park Sign: As we have sufficient funds, Jim Fennell will request a quote from Parks & Recreation for a third park sign to be placed at the southeast entrance at 18th Street.

Membership: The 2025 membership drive started in early April. So far, we have 107 members contributing about \$8,725.00 in membership fees and donations. Special thanks to Roz Franklin and Joan Markoe for their work in tracking memberships.

This year we started using an automated system, Give Lively, which eliminates back-end manual processing and paperwork connected with memberships. This system will accept credit cards, PayPal, and Venmo. However, personal checks and cash will no longer be accepted.

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, and we will let you know how to send that donation.

Movie Night: Baldwin Park's Movie Night will be showing "E.T." on Friday 9/12 at dusk, which is about 7 PM. Bring your own chairs, blankets and insect repellent. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park. Special thanks to Joan Markoe and Joe Walsh for organizing this event, especially after an earlier date had to be canceled after it was rained out.

Baldwin Park in the News: On 8/7/25, the on-line New York Times had an article about Athena Tacha, designer of the park, and her husband's efforts to find homes for her work. Matthias Baldwin Park gets a mention. Jim Fennell was interviewed for the article. This article was published in the print edition of the newspaper on 8/8/25.

Here is the link to the article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/07/arts/design/athena-tacha-legacy-richard-spear.html>

Park Maintenance: Mary Feingold mentioned that signs warning people not to walk on the walls and plantings have disappeared. As vandalism seemed to be the cause, Jim Fennell is reluctant to invest in more signs. However, he is open to someone volunteering to research possible new signs.

Website News: Joe Walsh's latest history article is on the Church of Latter-Day Saints.

"Joseph Smith was a teenager when he claimed he experienced divine appearances and revelations in New York state. In 1830, he wrote the Book of Mormon. This led to a religion with 15 million worldwide adherents and in 2016, to four buildings filling two whole blocks in the Baldwin Park neighborhood." Check out the history of this complex at:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/latter-day-saints-complex>

Also, don't forget to click on the link in the article for a brief review of other US grown religions with a presence in Philadelphia.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.