

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Virtual Meeting Minutes: 1/6/2022 (7 – 7:40 PM) via Zoom Session

Attendees (15): Joe Walsh, Jim Fennell, Sandra Owens, Bob Strunk, Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts, Ed Boehner, Frank and Mary Feingold, Nancy Van Arkel, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Stan Ordo, and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Calendar of Events:

January Clean-up	Saturday 1/8/2022	10 AM	Monthly Park clean-up
February Monthly Meeting	Thursday 2/3/2022	7 PM	Meeting via Zoom
February Monthly Clean-up	Saturday 2/12/2022	10 AM	Monthly Park clean-up

Treasurer’s Report: Joan Markoe reported the following information:

PNC Bank Statement for Period Ending December 31, 2021

Beginning Balance	\$30,720.35	
Deposits	\$ 331.54	(All from dues/donations.)
Deductions	\$ 274.00	
Ending Balance	\$30,777.89	

Note: Deductions are: \$274.00 to Green Estates Lawn Sprinklers for 2022 Service Contract which will cover sprinkler turn-on in the spring and fall winterization.

Membership Report:

As of December 31, 2021, we have received the following for the 2021-2022 membership year.

Total Members/Donors	200	(We had five additional members/donors in December.)
Dues/Donations Collected	\$13,650.	

Holiday Lights: Stan Ordo reported that currently only one of the three strands of solar lights is working on the tree. This may be caused by battery failure, lack of sun, or vandalism. However, the lights that were around the Matthias Baldwin Birthday Banner were cut off by someone. Stan will check if the lights are repairable. A motion was approved to pay for the replacement of the lights for next year.

Little Library: As we failed to get a grant, Peg Szczurek said the funding will come from the park’s treasury. Some members have volunteered to help with donations of money and books. Peg estimates the library kit will cost about \$500. The location will be the northwest entrance on top of the tree stump. Stan Ordo volunteered to check the adjustments needed to level the stump. Peg mentioned that we might place cork board on the blank sides of the library for announcements. The library kit will be ordered closer to the installation date of April.

Gardening/Planting Committee: Nancy Van Arkel, as well as several other members, have expressed an interest in planting annuals on the east side of the park. A Gardening/Planting Committee is being formed for those interested in volunteering. Joe Walsh suggested that we might consider other committees such as: Development, Programs, Membership, and IT Support.

Park Maintenance: To Joan Markoe’s question, Jim Fennell replied that Parks & Recreation has not responded to his repeated emails about the problem of the disintegrating paths, which is especially bad on the east side. Jim has even brought up that we have a large population of seniors for whom it is trip hazard. Joe Walsh volunteered to contact Parks & Recreation on this path problem and a blinking park light in the Northwest corner.

Neighborhood News: Jim Fennell reported that DGX, which is an upscale Dollar General Store selling beer and food on the 1900 block of Callowhill, opened on Christmas Eve. Interestingly, Google Maps lists the location as between the Barnes Foundation and Baldwin Park. The Baldwin Building has resumed construction after the steel supply problem was resolved.

Friends of Baldwin Park Growth: Joan Markoe and Joe Walsh gathered data on our growth:

Year	Treasury	Members
2021	30,720	200 member
2020	23,272	124 members
2019	19,074	66 members
2018	13,595	30 members
2017	8,777	17 members
2016	6,275	16 members

In the discussion, it was mentioned that much of the increase in the treasury in the years 2018 - 2020 was because of Parks-on-Tap Happy Hour Payments and Reinvestment Grants Reimbursements, which amounted to about \$18 thousand dollars. Also, in 2016, we received a contribution of \$2,500 from the developer of North-X-Northwest. In the future, we will depend on memberships and donations for revenue.

Website News: Check out the latest history article on our website by Joe Walsh on the shafting works at 18th and Hamilton Streets. More information on shafting can be found at the Carpenters Union Museum in the 1800 block of Spring Garden Street.

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/philadelphia-shafting-works>

Note: In 2021, our website had 17K users and received 22K hits. Since the inception of the website in February 2018, the number of website users is doubling each year.

Listed at the end of the minutes is a summary of 2021 accomplishments that Joe Walsh put together. They are also listed at our website at:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/accomplishments-of-friends>

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.

2021 Accomplishments: Joe Walsh put together a list of our activities in 2021:

- Sponsored a new street tree in a new tree pit on 19th Street near the historical marker. The crabapple was planted by the Tree Tenders from Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on November 20, 2021 and will be nurtured by the Friends.
- Monthly Park cleanups (second Saturday at 10 am) including spring and fall Love Your Park events (May and November 2021) continued
- Invited families with children to stop at sixteen stations throughout the Park to read *May I Pet Your Dog?* at our autumn [Story Walk](#) on October 29-31, 2021
- Welcomed over 100 dogs and 300 human guests for our third [Howl-o-ween Costumed Dog Parade](#) on October 30, 2021
- Although not a Friends event, we welcomed the [Philly Naked Bike Ride](#) on August 28, 2021 at the finish line in Matthias Baldwin Park.
- Hosted [Movie Night in the Park on August 26, 2021](#) (*A League of their Own*)
- Added almost \$4,000 worth of plantings in the landscaped beds in August 2021
- You do not exist unless you are on Wikipedia, which as of July 2021 we are. See [here](#).
- The tree identification tags were placed on the trees in June 2021, as mapped [here](#).
- Stop sign installed at the northwest corner of 19th and Hamilton Streets on May 20, 2021, after request by the Friends. The pedestrian signs and crosswalk painting had been done in 2019 per Friends' request. The curb cuts are pending.
- Held our [second neighborhood scavenger hunt](#) May 15, 2021
- Held our first [Story Walk](#) in the Park April 23 to May 2, 2021.