

## **Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 6/7/2018 (7 – 8:20 PM) - Tivoli Community Room**

**Attendees (10):** Bob Strunk, Jan Roberts, Sandra Owens, Jim Fennell, Joan Markoe, Joan Applegate, Frank Feingold, Joe Walsh, Stan Ordo and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 5/3/2018 meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Joan Markoe reported that we have \$8,620.62, as of the end of May. In 2018, we received about \$1,400 in dues from 23 membership forms for 38 members. This is an increase from \$820 in dues received in 2017. Joan applied for a credit card from PNC which would be more secure than using the debit card. However, it is not clear if our organization would be eligible for a credit card.

**Parks on Tap:** June 6th, the first night of Parks on Tap, was very successful with great weather and many people. It is possible that if our park is popular, they might consider us for a third year of Parks on Tap.

**19th & Hamilton Street Crosswalk Update:** As a result of Jim Fennell's presentation at their May 8th meeting, LSNA voted to support this effort. LSNA drafted a letter of their support which Jim sent to City Council.

**Park Maintenance:** Joan Markoe asked if we had plans for the Home Depot gift card we received for "Love Your Park". Jim Fennell suggested that we might use it for a storage bin if we get a key from Parks & Recreation for the locked fence on the south side of the park. The purchase of cigarette picker-uppers was another suggestion.

Jim Fennell reminded Jim Makoe that the park sprinklers have not worked for two years because of problems with the pumps. The damage to the plantings was apparent in Jim's comparison of past photos to the current photos. Jim Fennell also asked that we be included in the list of parks getting free annuals.

(Note: Subsequently, the sprinkling system was fixed and is now functioning. The problems were with the sprinkler heads and not the pump.)

**2017 Parks of Tap Reinvestment Grant:** Although we planned to use the 2017 Parks on Tap money to purchase large park signs, this project has been delayed while Parks & Recreation comes up with a design for park signs. Joan Markoe expressed concerns that we might miss out on using the money that we are eligible to apply for. The rules for eligible expenses are confusing and vague but some of our recent expenses (website development, brochures, laminated posters, doggie bags) may be considered eligible projects. Although we missed a recent deadline, Joan volunteered to contact them to see if the deadline might be extended if these expenses are covered. A sub-group will meet with Joan before the next monthly meeting to discuss this.

**Doggie Bags:** The doggie bag dispenser is very popular. We are using about 150 per week. Joan Markoe suggested that we might get a sponsor for the bag supply such as one of the pet shops or the new vet moving into City View.

**Tree Inventory:** Although we volunteered to participate in a pilot workshop to perform a tree inventory, we were not chosen by Parks & Recreation to be in the program this year but will be eligible for next year's tree inventory process. Meanwhile, we need to update the tree inventory which Stan Ordo created several years ago.

**Park Flora:** Jim Fennell spoke with Jim Makoe of Parks & Recreation on their plans for the park. They plan to do a full turf remediation. This may involve removing the foot paths in the grass on the northern tier which have developed because of foot traffic. There is an estimate of \$20K to replace the planting beds. They have removed much of the echinacea and diseased roses. These may be replaced with grasses.

**Cigarette Butt Disposal:** Jan Roberts researched cigarette recycling and the cost of cigarette butt disposal units with "Keep Philadelphia Beautiful". Receptacles cost \$100 with a generic sticker or up to \$500 for a sleeker design. However, it involves someone cleaning out the butts and sending them to Terra Butts which will then recycle them. The consensus was that this is not a feasible idea for Baldwin Park.

**Calendar:** Next Meeting: Thursday July 5th at 7 PM

Park Cleanup: Saturday July 14th at 10 AM

**Park Friends Network Meeting:** Sandy Owens mentioned that the next meeting is Wednesday August 1st at the Horticultural Center. As Grace Hanrahan and Stan Ordo who usually attend will be away, she asked if someone else wanted to attend with her. Dinner is included.

**Website News:** Added to our website are two new history articles: "The Gardens at Springettsbury" by Sandy Owens and "Why Hamilton Street?" by Joe Walsh. Check them out at: [www.BaldwinParkPhilly.org](http://www.BaldwinParkPhilly.org).

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.