

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 12/6/2018 (7 – 8:15 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (16): Sandra Owens, Joan Markoe, Joe Walsh, Stan Ordo, Grace Hanrahan, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Bob Strunk, Jan Roberts, Mel Seligsohn, Mary and Frank Feingold, Joan Applegate, Sandie Farrell, Joan Lukas, and Seamus Kearney. Sandy Owens moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 11/1/2018 meeting were approved.

Calendar: Next Meeting: Thursday 1/3/2019 at 7 PM
 Next Cleanup: Saturday 1/12/2019 at 10 AM

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported the treasury total is \$13,701.68. The increased amount represented a payment of \$2,456.06 from the 2018 Parks-on-Tap. We received \$1,000 in dues in November. For all of 2018, we received \$2,690 in dues. Recent deductions included: Doggie Bags (\$99.99); Halloween Dog Parade (about \$100); website domain for 2 years (\$264); and Baldwin Birthday Party (about \$70).

Grabbers: Bob Strunk reported that the new grabbers are excellent. A motion to purchase two additional grabbers was approved.

Other Neighborhood News: The LSNA December (12/11) meeting will include a discussion of Orens' development plans for the apartment building planned for 18th and Callowhill Streets, which would involve tearing down Franklin Beverage and the Rose Tattoo. Their permit was for a five-story building, but they now want the building to be as tall as the Granary which would require zoning changes.

Recently, work has started on the old Granary building which has a permit for 20 apartments and 2 floors of retail.

"Love Your Park Day": The clean-up on 11/10/18 was successful with a record number of 17 volunteers showing up. Check out the river stones near the 19th Street monolith.

Park Friends Network Meeting: Sandy Owens and Marion Parkinson attended the 11/7/18 meeting. They reported on an interesting discussion of problems at FDR Park in South Philadelphia which was converted from a swamp to a park for the Sesquicentennial in 1926. The park has considerable water problems. They are having community meetings to discuss the possibility of converting it to a wetland.

19th & Hamilton Street Crosswalk Update: Although two pedestrian crossing signs were installed on the south side of the intersection of 19th & Hamilton Streets, there is no schedule yet for painting the white crosswalk stripes or removal of parking spaces. Jim Fennell called 311 and opened a case (#12328572) with the city to check on their progress. Also, Jim approached Joan and Scott Possiel to check with their contact in Councilman Clarke's office on the status.

Geocaching: To attract more people to Baldwin Park, Marion Parkinson suggested that we might try "Geocaching" which is popular with young people but attracts people of all ages. This is an outdoor recreational activity, in which participants use a GPS receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches. It is like a scavenger hunt. Small strips of paper are placed in the geocache container which might be in the shape of a rock. Rule: Only two geocache sites are allowed within 1/10th of a mile. Baldwin Park is a good site as the closest geocache sites are the Ben Franklin Sculpture at the Vine Street Expressway overpass at 17th Street and

under the Paintbrush outside the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. A motion to follow up on this idea was approved. For more information, check out: <https://www.geocaching.com>

Matthias Baldwin Birthday Party: At the end of the meeting, Sandy Owens gave a brief description of Matthias Baldwin's life. Joan Markoe summarized the 2018 accomplishments of the Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park. The Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park celebrated the 223rd anniversary of his birth with a cake and refreshments after the meeting.

Web Site News: Check out the Baldwin Birthday Party photos under Events and articles by Joe Walsh on "Baldwin Park in Maps" and "1600 Callowhill Street" under History at: www.BaldwinParkPhilly.org.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.