

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 3/7/2019 (7 – 8:30 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (12): Sandra Owens, Peg Szczurek, Marion Parkinson, Jim Fennell, Jan Roberts, Joan Markoe, Bob Strunk, Grace Hanrahan, Stan Ordo, Mary Feingold, Joe Walsh, and Suzanne Cross. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 2/7/2019 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe was informed by Parks & Recreation that we will receive \$4,000 for the 2018 Parks on Tap Reinvestment Grant, which must be spent by late 2020. This is in addition to the remainder of the 2017 Reinvestment Grant (\$1,189.05) must be spent by 12/1/2019. With Board Approval, Jim Fennell increased our offer to P&R from \$4,000 to \$6,000 for park plantings in the spring. We will pay for the plants and P&R will pay for the labor which would be done by the contractor, All Seasons.

Joan Markoe reported the current treasury total is \$14,273.80. The only expense was \$38.85 for the website. Joan worked with Joe Walsh to set up Pay Pal on the website to accept membership dues and donations. The cost will be 2.2% and 30 cents per transaction.

Membership Committee: Joan Markoe, Suzanne Cross, Jan Roberts and Mary Feingold devised plans to increase membership. The membership form was revised and includes the link to Pay Pal. One drawback of Pay Pal is that it only captures one person's name. Joan suggested that she may ask for other household members names in the thank you note. This led to a brief discussion of allowing only one vote per household membership.

Jan Roberts and Suzanne Cross designed a flyer which will be posted in neighboring stores, apartment buildings and condominiums. Laminated versions will be posted in the park.

Joe Walsh announced that Matthias Baldwin is now a member of Next Door Franklinton.

As part of the membership drive, the committee plans to set up two card tables in the park on Saturday May 11th which coincides with "Love Your Park Day". Stan Ordo volunteered to create a banner for the tables.

Other ideas included making a pitch at the next LSNA meeting and setting up a membership table if we do host Parks on Tap again in late June. Jim Fennell will include a link to the membership web page in an email to his contact list.

By-Laws Committee: There was no update on this committee.

Outreach to Rail Park: Although Sandy Owens and Jim Fennell had met with Friends of the Rail Park on the possibility of collaborating on combined tours of the Rail Park and Baldwin Park, no decision has been made yet. Stay tuned for further updates. At the Friends Network Conference, Sandy met with Nancy O'Donnell, the P&R Horticulturist, who may be willing to give a tour of the park in the future. She is Jim Mako's supervisor.

Park Maintenance: The Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park will pay for the plants for a spring perennial planting this year to be done by P&R's contractor, All Seasons. Jim Fennell displayed a 2009 photo which visually showed how many plants have died in 10 years. More river rocks will be purchased but we will look for darker stones.

Web Site News: Check out the recent article by Joe Walsh on “Empty Lot at 18th & Callowhill” under History at: www.BaldwinParkPhilly.org.

Park Friends Network Meetings: Mary Feingold reported on the Park Friends Network Quarterly Meeting that she attended with Suzanne Cross and Jan Roberts on Wednesday 2/13/2019 at the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center. Mika Perez is the contact for park permit application. There is a Park Friends Network Facebook page where groups can share ideas. Grants of up to \$1,000 are available for projects. Many parks are involved in the Movie Nights.

Movie Night: Joe Walsh volunteered to apply for a Movie Night at the park in late August.

Parks on Tap: It is possible that we may host Parks on Tap in late June.

Park Friends Network Conference: Sandy Owens attended the conference on Saturday 3/2/2019 from 8:30 AM to 2 PM at the University of the Sciences. One of the topics was the ways that parks and neighborhoods can combat the decline in civic engagement and distrust in government. Some ideas included making the neighborhood walkable and increased use of public transportation instead of cars. We can help by maintaining public areas, eliminating litter and incorporating nature into the neighborhood. To foster democracy. Sandy suggested that we might hold our monthly summer meetings in the park. Sandy also met several P&R officials, including Nancy O’Donnell, P&R Horticulturist; Laurie Hayes, Director of Urban Forestry and a tree expert; and Gerald White, Assistant Deputy of Operations.

Calendar:	Next Meeting:	Thursday 4/4/2019 at 7 PM
	Next Cleanups:	Saturday 4/6/2019 at 10 AM (Spring Neighborhood Cleanup)
		Saturday 5/11/2019 at 10 AM (“Love Your Park Day”)

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Submitted by Grace Hanrahan.