Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 9/3/2026 (7 – 7:55 PM)

Attendees (15): Jim Fennell, Coree Reid, Dwight Reid, Nora Shoch, Nancy van Arkel, Roslyn Franklin, Barbara Shelly, Marc Kaufman, Rachel Smith, Jan Roberts, Sherry Claypool, Suzanne Cross, Annamarie Kaminski, Sandra Owens, and Grace Hanrahan.
Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the June meeting were approved

Calendar of Events:

September Clean-up	Saturday 9/19/26	10 – 11 AM	Monthly Clean-up **Note: change to 3rd Saturday**
October Meeting	Thursday 10/1/26	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
October Clean-up	Saturday 10/17/26	10 – 11 AM	Monthly Clean-up **Note: change to 3rd Saturday**
Howl-O-Ween Event	Saturday 10/24/26 (Rain Date: Sunday 10/25/26)	11 – Noon	Dog Costume Event Registration starts at 10:30 AM
November Meeting	Thursday 11/5/26	7 PM	Monthly Meeting
November Clean-up	Saturday 11/14/26	10 – 11 AM	"Love Your Park" Clean-up

Treasurer's Financial Report: Our new Treasurer, Rachel Smith, provided a financial report covering the months June through August. (See attached file at end of minutes.)
Rachel suggested that we remind members that some employers will match employee donations. Recently, Bank of America matched an employee's donation.

Park Maintenance: Joe Walsh designed a plan to erect bollards on the southeast park entrance to replace the temporary fencing. The Baldwin Park Friends would pay for the bollards and the labor cost of the All-Seasons contractors. We are awaiting approval of the design by Parks & Recreation's Chief Engineer. On a brighter note, the bench on the southwest entrance which was accidentally destroyed by workmen in August 2024 was finally replaced. Special thanks to Jim Fennell for his persistence in reminding Parks & Recreation of the missing bench.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Event: Jan Roberts, who is chairing the event, spoke briefly about starting preparations for the popular event which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 10/24 from 11 AM – Noon, with a rain date of Sunday 10/25. Jan solicited volunteers. She will begin the steps in the permit application process. A budget of $200 was approved for expenses.

Park Clean-ups: Instead of the usual 2nd Saturday of the month, Nancy van Arkel announced that the September and October clean-ups would be scheduled for the 3rd Saturday. The "Love Your Park" Cleanup will be on Saturday November 14th. Removing invasive grasses and plants will be the focus of that clean-up.

Park Tree Status: Nancy van Arkel gave a report on the status of the park's trees. The good news is that most are doing well, thanks in part to Joe Walsh's watering and care. These are the trees doing well: Yellowwood, Witch Hazel, Crape Myrtle, White Oak, Magnolia, and the Bald Cypress, which is up to 15' tall. While Franklinian tree near the Little Library is blooming, the other Franklinian tree on the 18th Street side is dying. Other trees in trouble include the Red Maple Beech in the northeast quadrant and the Red Bud tree on the west side

Possible Park Endowment: Athena Tacha, who designed Baldwin Park, is interested in setting up an endowment for the park. Her husband contacted Jim Fennell who put him in contact with people in Parks & Recreation. Jim is not sure if this will happen or how large it might be.

Membership: Marc Kaufman volunteered to spread the word to his neighbors in the NxNW complex about Baldwin Park membership. It was suggested that he wait until the beginning of the next membership drive which starts on April 1st.

Movie Night: Although we did not host movie night this last year, members are interested in hosting a movie next summer. We usually have about 80 – 100 attendees at a cost of about $2,000. Roslyn Franklin and Suzanne Cross volunteered to head the project.

Website News: Read Joe Walsh's recent article about the fascinating history of the Philadelphia Tabernacle Church, located at 1801 Spring Garden Street. It is the oldest non-residential building in the Baldwin neighborhood, dating back to 1863. Check out the website:

https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/philadelphia-tabernacle

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan, Secretary.

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park - Treasurer's Report

June-August 2026

PNC Checking Starting Balance 1 June 2026		**$47,874.41**
Category	**Description**	**Amount**
Inflow		**$530.75**
	Corporate Donation match (Bank of America)	$50.00
	Membership/Donation via Stripe Transfer	$480.75
Outflow		**-$113.40**
	Reimbursement - refreshments	-$74.97
	Reimbursement - flyers/posters	-$38.43
Total - June		**$417.35**
Ending Balance 30 June 2026		**$48,291.76**
Starting Balance 1 July 2026		**$48,291.76**
Category	**Description**	**Amount**
Inflow		**$406.24**
	Membership/Donation via Stripe Transfer / Paypal	$406.24
Outflow		**-$319.98**
	Reimbursement - Dog bags	-$319.98
Total - July		**$86.26**
Ending Balance 31 July 2026		**$48,378.02**
Starting Balance 1 August 2026		**$48,378.02**
Category	**Description**	**Amount**
Inflow		**$107.42**
	Membership/Donation via Stripe Transfer / Paypal	$107.42
Outflow		**$0.00**
	N/A	$0.00
Total - August		**$107.42**
Total Inflows		**$1,044.41**
Total Outflows		**-$433.38**
PNC Checking Ending Balance 31 August 2026		**$48,485.44**