

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 2/6/2020 (7 – 8:30 PM) - Tivoli Community Room

Attendees (11): Sandra Owens, Jan Roberts, Suzanne Cross, Grace Hanrahan, Joan Markoe, Joe Walsh, Bob Strunk, Mel Seligsohn, and Jim Fennell, as well as special guests from the Rail Park, Shawn Sheu (Director of Community Engagement and Programs) and Sierra Pullano. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. Minutes of the 1/2/2020 meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Joan Markoe reported a total of \$18,523.26 in the account. The only expense was \$551.00 for liability insurance for Directors and Officers. In her review of the annual report on expenses and membership, Joan highlighted the fact that we received from Parks on Tap \$1,000 more in 2019 than in 2018. Also, the number of dues paying members doubled in 2019 with most residing in either Tivoli or City View

Membership Committee: This committee needs a new chair as Joan Markoe is stepping down as chairwoman. Last year, the committee began the membership drive process in February with renewals due in April. Joan Markoe will continue to take care of the dues. Jim Fennell will send out the email request for renewals. There is a separate email box for renewals and PayPal. Most of the preliminary procedures were established last year so it will be much easier for the next chairperson. Let Jim Fennell know if you are interested in volunteering.

Tree Planting on 19th Street: Joe Walsh announced that we will be getting five Hawthorne trees on the 19th Street side of the park in the spring. This type of tree can be seen in front of 423 N. 20th Street or on 15th Street by the Friends Meeting House.

Future Events: The Friends Network meeting will be at the Horticultural Center in Fairmount Park on Wednesday, 3/11/2020, at 5:30 – 7:30 PM. We can send two representatives. Contact Jim Fennell if interested in attending.

Joe Walsh is planning the 2nd Annual Scavenger Hunt which will take place on Saturday 5/16.

Also, Joe is also working on a tour of the park as part of Jane's Walk which takes place the first weekend in May (5/1 – 5/3). The exact date and time are to be determined.

Clean-up Volunteers: It was decided to take advantage of Parks & Recreation's offer to post the dates of our clean-ups on their website as a way of getting more volunteers. Joe Walsh will direct the new volunteers as to what tasks they might do.

Calendar:	February Clean-up	Saturday 2/15/2020	10 AM
	March Meeting	Thursday 3/5/2020	7 PM
	March Clean-up	Saturday 3/21/2020	10 AM
	City-Wide Clean-up	Saturday 4/4/2020	10 AM

Website News: Check out the latest history articles at <https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/history>. This month features an article on "The Tivoli" by Joe Walsh.

The Rail Park: Shawn Sheu (Director of Community Engagement and Programs) and Sierra Pullano presented an update on the Rail Park which has been open for about two years. Currently they are in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and are creating a Community Board to help make decisions. There are no definite plans for Phase 2. Although they had originally planned to go north, they may now consider the Callowhill Cut. They have hosted special events such as the Site and Sound events in the Lunar Garden in October and the Chinese New Year's Party in February.

To connect the Rail Park with Baldwin Park, Jim Fennell suggested horticultural tours of both parks. Sandy Owens indicated the need for more steps to connect the underground Callowhill Cut to street level. To attract more people, Suzanne Cross proposed "Family Fun Days" with such activities as demonstrations of Tai Chi, Martial Arts and Ethnic Dancers. Joe Walsh suggested considering the Rail Park as one of the "String of Pearls" of parks and have tours and activities with other nearby parks, including Baldwin, Von Colln, and Sister Cities.

In the brain storming session on what we would like to see in the future of the Rail Park and especially in the Callowhill Cut, the following ideas were mentioned: greenery such as hanging gardens; sculpture; good lighting; water management; security video cameras; posted park hours; refreshment kiosks; more access points; murals; separate bike and pedestrian lanes; natural landscaping; signage pointing to street level businesses and cultural sites; artistic and musical performances; and equipment for games such as chess, checkers, bocce, and ping pong.

Attendees enjoyed refreshments courtesy of the Rail Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM. Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.