

Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 8/1/2024 (7 – 8 PM)

Attendees (11): Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Roz Franklin, Bob Strunk, Sherry Claypool, Jan Roberts, Lisa Hastings, Deb Schweon, Suanne Wright, and Grace Hanrahan. Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the June meeting were approved. There was no July meeting.

Movie Night: “Back to the Future” is scheduled for Wednesday 8/14. There is no rain date. Jan Roberts mentioned that movie group from City View plans to attend.

For the full list of free park movies, go to:

https://myphillypark.org/movies-in-philly-parks-summer-fall/?mc_cid=32024c2a9d&mc_eid=15dddce237

Parks-on-Tap: This program is partnership between Parks & Recreation and FCM Hospitality which provides the food and drink. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the parks.

The dates are **Wednesday 8/7 – Sunday 8/11**

For more details, check out the website: <https://www.parksontap.com/>

Treasurer’s Report: In Joan Markoe’s absence, Sandy Owens presented the Treasurer’s report through June 28th. The July report was not available before Joan left for vacation.

Statement for Period 06/01/2024-06/28/2024

Beginning Balance	\$40,953.79
Deposits	\$ 7,122.52
Deductions	\$ 8,844.60
Ending Balance	\$39,231.71

Deposits

Deposits of \$7,122.52 were: \$122.52 dues and donations; and \$7,000.00 Fairmount Park Conservancy reimbursement of our payment for the new park signs from our accumulated Parks on Tap credits, including the credit for our upcoming August POT. (All credits are now extinguished.)

Deductions

Deductions totaling \$8,844.60 were: \$299.98 for dog waste bags; \$17.75 for POT signs; \$24.37 for Rose Tone fertilizer; \$8,502.50 for the remaining 50% balance on the new park signs. (Total cost for the signs was \$17,005.00, with \$7,000.00 reimbursed to us by the Conservancy.)

Membership Drive: Since the membership drive began on April 1st, Roz Franklin reported that we currently have 99 members.

Parkway Signs: Sandy Owens reported that our request to have Baldwin Park added to the signs on the Parkway has been put on hold until the fall when the city decides who will take responsibility for maintenance of the signs. Currently, the signs are the responsibility of the

Center City District. The signs will be useful especially in 2026 as Philadelphia celebrates 250 years of freedom.

Baldwin Park Application for Arboretum Level 1 Status: In July, Joe Walsh applied to ArbNet for Arboretum Level 1 Status for Baldwin Park, which meets the requirement of having 25 different tree species. Also, the educational requirement is covered by the Joe Walsh's work on the tree inventory which is posted on our website and the tree identification tags. In the next few months, we should hear if the park made the grade.

Pesticide Spray: Lisa Hastings voiced the concerns of neighbors who were alarmed by signs warning of the danger of pesticides to children and pets for 48 hours. Jim Fennell explained that this was routine maintenance ordered by Parks & Recreation and done by their contractor All Seasons. The Friends of Baldwin Park are not consulted or warned of the spraying beforehand.

Calendar of Events:

Parks-on-Tap	Wed 8/7 – Fri 8/9	4 – 10 PM	Benefits Parks & Recreation
	Sat 8/10 – Sun 8/11	12 – 10 PM	
August Clean-up	CANCELLED		Conflict with Parks on Tap
Movie Night	Wednesday 8/14	Dusk	“Back to the Future”
September Meeting	Thursday 9/5/2024	7 PM	Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli
September Clean-up	Saturday 9/14/2024	10 AM	Monthly Clean-up

Documentary Video on Creation of Baldwin Park’s “Connections”: If you ever wondered how the environmental sculpture in Baldwin Park, “Connections”, came into being, on our website you can now view a 16-minute documentary by its creator, multi-media artist Athena Tacha. Although Athena was awarded the project through a competition in 1981, because of financial and political problems, the project was not started until 1991 and completed in 1993. It documents the extraordinary story, highlighting the difficulties they experienced. As the plan was reduced to 25% of the original, a waterfall and amphitheater were cut. The video shows the securing of the nine clusters huge granite boulders which Athena believes is central to this artwork. Special thanks to Joe Walsh, Nancy van Arkel, and Jim Fennel for making the video available to the public. You can view the video at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/183HPZpBQO0-ajedAePLw0gahKT0YWmdG/view>

Website News: Joe Walsh has added a new history article on the Third Philadelphia Mint:

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/third-philadelphia-mint>

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.
Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.