

**Friends of Matthias Baldwin Park Meeting Minutes: 9/5/2024 (7 – 7:50 PM)**

**Attendees (9):** Jim Fennell, Sandy Owens, Nancy van Arkel, Joan Markoe, Roz Franklin, Bob Strunk, Sherry Claypool, Suzanne Cross, and Grace Hanrahan.

Jim Fennell moderated the meeting. The draft minutes of the August meeting were approved.

**Plant Maintenance:** Jim Fennell and Nancy van Arkel will check on whether additional yarrow plants are needed in the spring. Also, the aster plants may need to be cut back.

**Movie Night:** “Back to the Future” was enjoyed by over 80 people in the park on Wednesday 8/14. The weather was great. We received some complaints from neighbors about the volume of the warm-up music, which we will try to avoid in the future.

**Parks-on-Tap:** Despite some rain, there was a large turnout for our second Parks-on-Tap which occurred Wednesday 8/7 – Sunday 8/11. Special thanks go to staff from Parks-on-Tap and Parks & Recreation who were very prompt in removing the Redbud tree which had fallen on opening day.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Joan Markoe presented the August report.

**PNC Bank Statement for Period 08/01/2024-08/31/2024**

Beginning Balance	\$39,809.95	
Deposits	\$ 24.01	(From dues and donations)
Deductions	\$ 94.33	
Ending Balance	\$39,739.63	

**Deductions**

Deductions of \$94.33 were \$25.00 for the Howl-O-Ween permit and \$69.33 for posters and flyers for Movie Night and Parks-on-Tap.

**Calendar of Events:**

September Clean-up	Saturday 9/14/2024 10 AM	Monthly Clean-up
October Meeting	Thursday 10/3/2024 7 PM	Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli
October Clean-up	Saturday 10/12/2024 10 AM	Monthly Clean-up
Howl-O-Ween Event	Saturday 10/26/2024 11 AM (Rain Date: Sunday 10/27)	Dog Costume Event Registration starts at 10:30 AM
November Meeting	Thursday 11/7/2024 7 PM	Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli
November Clean-up	Saturday 11/9/2024 10 AM	“Love Your Park” Clean-up
December Meeting	Thursday 12/5/2024 7 PM	Monthly Meeting at the Tivoli and Baldwin Birthday Celebration
December Clean-up	Saturday 12/14/2024 10 AM	Monthly Clean-up

**Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Event:** We are waiting for Parks & Recreation to issue the park permit for this event which is scheduled for Saturday 10/26 from 11A M to Noon, with a rain date of Sunday 10/27. Beginning at 10:30 AM, dog owners will be required to register their dogs as being up to date with their shots. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. Co-Chairs, Jan Roberts and Grace Hanrahan plan to take care of most of the preparation in September, as both have vacations scheduled in October. Volunteers offered to handle some tasks done in mid-October, such as hanging the banner, posting flyers, and cleaning up the sweet gum balls. Based on past years, we expect about 100 dogs and about 150 people to attend.

**Baldwin Park Application for Arboretum Level 1 Status:** Good News! Nancy van Arkel announced that based on the application Joe Walsh submitted in May to The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program, Matthias Baldwin Park has achieved Arboretum Level 1 Status as of August 7, 2024. Our park meets the requirement of having 25 different tree species. The educational requirement is covered by Joe Walsh's work on the tree inventory which is posted on our website and individual tree identification tags. We join the 728 other accredited arboreta in the world on their register. Our listing for the arboretum on the Morton Arboretum site is here:

<http://arbnet.org/morton-register/matthias-baldwin-park-arboretum>

**Park Maintenance:** A diseased Honey Locust tree is in the process of being removed from the northwest 19<sup>th</sup> Street entrance. Also, Parks & Recreation has turned off some of the sprinklers as they troubleshoot a problem with the system.

**Membership Drive:** Roz Franklin reported that we currently have 101 members (89 renewals and 12 new members). New members averaged paying \$52, while renewals averaged paying \$73. The total amount from membership dues and donations is about \$7,175. Joan Markoe mentioned that we have tested Give Lively software which simplifies processing memberships. Before adopting the system, Joan is waiting for a promised update to the system in the handling of payments.

**Website News:** If it's September, it's back to school! Read Joe Walsh's two-part article about the largest school and employer in the neighborhood

<https://www.baldwinparkphilly.org/community-college-of-philadelphia>

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.  
Minutes submitted by Grace Hanrahan.