

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK
MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Anne Walters, Rose Stancato, Lane Randall, Steve Gallo, Jim Salvas, Kristin Gerling and Veronica Balassone.

--MINUTES of the last meeting were corrected at Eric Miller's request with regard to arborist Ken LeRoy's invitation to lead a group for a tree walk in Marshall Square Park. The paragraph is to read: "A friend of Eric Miller's, an arborist by the name of Ken LeRoy, would like to invite a group from Tyler Arboretum to take a "tree walk" in MSP on May 23, 2015. Our members would be invited to join them from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants would bring their own lunch and water. Eric was encouraged to move forward with this and send the tree plan to Mr. LeRoy. This will be announced in April and May via Lane Randall sending out notice to FMSP members." Anne moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Rose seconded, and the motion carried.

--Jeff gave the TREASURER'S REPORT in Linda Scott's absence. Current assets total \$31,780.39. The item labeled "Accounts Receivable" (\$1102.84) was explained to be Paypal receivables. It was pointed out that an additional receivable should be recorded for our share of the summer concert receipts to be received from the Friends of Park and Recreation. This amount is \$2063.77. Jeff is currently holding checks received to date for Commemorative Benches.

--An additional agenda item was requested by Ronnie: replacing aging playground equipment in the park. Steve Gallo informed us that he has learned from Keith Kurowski, Director of Parks and Recreation, that our playground is the next scheduled to be replaced. The budget is being worked on now. Steve offered to get a committee together of parents in FMSP with young children to address their wishes and communicate with Keith. Jeff also would contact Keith.

--Jim Salvas reported on the success of the Plein Aire event in the park. Awards were given for the best photograph and painting in the park. Catherine Carney's painting won first prize in the MSP Painting Competition and Jim won first prize in the MSP Photography Competition! Both the painting and the photograph will be auctioned off at the Progressive Plates event and the proceeds will be given to FMSP for park improvements. Rose suggested that raffle tickets be sold instead, which would likely bring more money in than an auction. Those unable to attend the Progressive Plates event could still buy raffle tickets and have a chance to win the painting or photograph. Rose would be willing to create the tickets. The drawing could be held at the final dessert stop of the February 7th event. There could be two price levels. One ticket for \$20, three for \$50. A motion carried that Rose create the raffle tickets for the purpose of raffling the painting and photograph off at the Progressive Plates event on February 7th.

--There was nothing new to report on the Hickman Expansion project. A borough council presentation is scheduled for November 19th.

--An email blast was sent by Jeff to FMSP members regarding the Barclay Turkey Trot to be held on Thanksgiving morning; Marshall Square Park is one of the stops on the "trot".

--Ronnie reported on the FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE. The venues have been secured for the Progressive Plates event on February 7th. Appetizers will be served at the homes of Sylvia Veitia and Scott Baker and Sandy and Mark DePhillips; main courses at the homes of Kevin and Stephanie Cornell and Brad and Lisa Strode and dessert at the home of Wendy and Bob Nelson. The two groups at the appetizer stops will be "shuffled" into new groups for the main course, unlike last year, where groups remained intact until the dessert course. Everyone will attend the dessert stop. The price stays the same at \$75 per person, and participation limited to 100 persons.

--Rose reported on the MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE. A Holiday Party is planned for December 9th at the Side Bar. The limit is 75 people. It's hoped that this will be the beginning of less structured general membership meetings that provide an opportunity to gather and present short, informative programs to update members on park issues, and encourage others to join. Holly Brown and Rose Stancato are involved in planning this first meeting. Rose would like to see frequent email blasts and advance reservations for the party.

--The brochure developed by Jim Salvas for realtors and others to use -- "Welcome to Marshall Square Park" -- was distributed. Eric Miller has asked for an address to receive membership dues, and Rose moved, and Jim seconded a motion to get a post office box. The motion carried. Jeff will secure the post office box for FMSP. A discussion followed with regard to current membership dues levels. Upon review, Anne moved and Jim seconded, to raise the corporate/organization membership dues from \$60 to \$75. The motion carried.

--Anne reported on the FOUNTAIN RESTORATION project. There has been no progress since the cancellation of the fundraiser. It is expected that the committee will regain momentum after the holidays.

--LUMINARIA IN THE PARK on December 5th will require volunteers to assist the Scout troop in their placement that afternoon. An email blast will be sent to members to inform them of the cost of the bags and candles if they wish to have them placed on their properties surrounding the park. At this time those who will assist include Anne and Greg Walters, Jeff, Jim, Holly and Ronnie.

--Jeff reported that the first order of COMMEMORATIVE BENCHES is ready to be placed for January production. Steve and Kristin indicated that the Parks and Recreation Commission Committee expressed concern about the project and need to be given more information from Jeff. Jeff will follow up with Keith Kurowski.

--Rose has sent a first draft of proposed By-Laws to Jeff. She indicated that the election of officers should be agenda items at the January and February meetings, and that the election should take place in March. The membership should be informed and included in the process. A discussion followed addressing the difficulty of getting members to be actively involved in park projects. It was suggested that members be polled electronically to determine how they might wish to volunteer. That might allow targeted mailings when a particular project is scheduled, e.g., park clean-up.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone

