

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK
MINUTES OF MEETING ON November 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Betsy Woodrow, Eric Miller, Lee Miller, Holly Brown, Pat Lowe, Jen Long and Veronica Balassone.

--MINUTES of the meeting on September 29th were approved with revisions incorporated prior to November's meeting. Revisions were read aloud to meeting attendees.

--Lane requested adding clarification of committee membership to the agenda under Business Items.

--The TREASURER'S REPORT was distributed. It was noted on a Fountain Project Cash Flow Report that Unpaid Pledges amounted to \$25,000 and the amount yet to be received from FWCP & R totaled \$5000. Jeff urged anyone with questions to feel free to contact Linda Scott who was unable to attend the meeting.

--Once again Luminaria in the Park will be organized by the Walters with BSA Troop 14. They will be placed on Friday, December 4th for West Chester's Old Fashioned Christmas celebration. Adult supervision and assistance is needed that afternoon at 3:30. Homeowners around the park are welcome to have luminaria set up by the scouts for a payment of \$1 per bag and candle plus an additional \$1 per bag for set-up.

--Jeff reported that the burr oak in the park has been cabled and extensive pruning was done. Also the sweet gum near the playground was assessed by Dean Diehl by boring the core. It is not in significantly poor shape but some pruning was done as needed. Tree labels are being damaged by tree growth and occasional vandalism and need maintenance. Dean Diehl is recommending loosening badly compacted soil around trees with an air spade and mulching to protect tree roots, especially around the burr oak. We hope to have his company perform this work in the spring at no charge as a demonstration project.

--Commitments for four commemorative benches have been received. Jeff will place the order in February, hoping to receive free shipping if offered again this year. He noted that the installation of benches around the fountain will naturally be delayed until Phase II, the brick hardscaping repair, is completed.

--Jeff Beitel's architectural firm is drawing up plans for repair of the Swiss Cottage roof. It is hoped to be comprised of wood shingles.

--Betsy Woodrow gave the FUNDRAISING/EVENTS COMMITTEE report. Planning for the Progressive Dinner on February 6th is well underway. Four houses have been secured for the appetizer/dinner courses; the search was still on for the final dessert course house, which must accommodate 100 guests.

The Fall 2016 party will be held at Christina and Eric Wilcome's house on Ashbridge Street.

--Eric Miller reported on the Membership Committee. A Wild Apricot template is to be created to provide a billing platform for membership dues. He currently has information from Linda, however, it is in a different format. With Wild Apricot most members will pay by credit card and their payment status will be automatically updated. By linking membership dues to signing up for the Progressive Dinner

each year, it is believed that FMSP is losing members. Annual dues are payable by January 1st. New members joining after July 1st will be considered paid through the following calendar year. Jen Long is the only other member of this committee.

--The Membership Committee is planning a general membership gathering at the Side Bar on December 1st. There will be a brief formal presentation with updates for the group, followed by social interaction. There will be a cash bar. Holly moved and Lee seconded that FMSP provide \$400 to purchase food for the gathering. This motion was approved.

--Jeff Beitel reported on the FOUNTAIN RESTORATION progress. The basin is in place and the fountain's cast iron restoration is coming along well. The foundation is in for the shed enclosure and then trenching can be done and the conduits and pumps put in place. A stone company and fence contractor have been secured. The basin finish was upgraded to acquire a 20 year guarantee. He explained that the basin was 8 inches out of level because it followed the grade of the land. The basin has been leveled out so the new water level will be level with the new coping stones. The new spray pattern at the top of the fountain will be as close to the original as possible with the modern nozzles available.

Holly Brown is checking the status of a grant application for \$90,000 from the state.

Thirty-six donor stones will be available for inscription. At this time only 7 and a half stones have been sold. We were urged to promote this feature of the design.

--Heather Gallo and Jen Long are looking into grants to fund new PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT. The committee met in August. Pat Lowe asked if we were to design equipment (e.g., Gordon Woodrow's castle design) and a child were to get injured, can the committee or FMSP be sued. Holly responded that the project would be vetted through the borough to insure that it meets state and federal standards prior to approval.

--Jeff pointed out that the By-Laws approved at the September meeting do not establish the years of officers' elections, including which officers and how terms will be staggered. Holly offered to come up with suggestions for voting at the January meeting.

--Eric moved and Betsy seconded the motion that "New member dues received before October 1st will be applied to the current calendar year. Dues received after that date will apply to the following calendar year." This motion carried, 8 in favor and 1 opposed.

--Lane distributed her current committee member lists. Corrections were made and the lists will be updated appropriately.

--Jeff received the go-ahead to renew the post office box rental.

The next meeting for the board will be January 14, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone

