

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK
MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Betsy Woodrow, Nicole Singh, Jen Long, Linda Scott, Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Sarah Finnaren, Joe Finnaren, Gordon Woodrow, Pat Loew, Phil LaRue and Veronica Balassone.

--The MINUTES had been revised at Jen Long's request to clarify the Membership Committee report. Betsy, moved, Jim Salvas seconded and the motion passed to enter the revised minutes into the official record.

--Linda Scott gave the TREASURER'S REPORT. Since the last meeting, FWCP & R has given to FMSP what had been owed, bringing the Fountain Fund on the balance sheet to \$27,869 and the total checking account balance to \$67,854. Currently we have liabilities of \$34,195. The Fixed Assets number of \$13,500 represents the deposit made on the iron fence to enclose the fountain area. The accounts receivable figure of \$16,537 is the balance of outstanding donation balances yet to be received.

The Receipts and Disbursements Statement showed a net income of \$9181.25 for 2016 to date.

--Jim Salvas would like volunteers to help with the Summer Concerts this year as several key volunteers are no longer able to assist with the event. Jen Long offered to help

--This meeting was designated in the by-laws as the one at which nominations would be taken for offices currently up for a new term. This year it is the offices of President and Treasurer. Jeff announced that Anne Walters recently stepped down as Vice-President, so it was necessary to fill that office as well. He explained the eligibility requirements to be nominated as well as to nominate. The issue of allowing participation through email was discussed. As a result, Linda Scott made the motion to amend Article 5. Section a.6. of the By-Laws to "allow nominations and votes for officers to be made by email to the Corresponding Secretary within 48 hours of the March and April meetings." Phil LaRue seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Jeff opened the floor for nominations. Betsy Woodrow nominated Jeff Beitel for President. There were no other nominations put forward for president. Lane Randall nominated Linda Scott for Treasurer. There were no further nominations for Treasurer. Ronnie Balassone nominated Jim Salvas for Vice-President. Jeff nominated Phil LaRue for Vice-President. There were no other nominations for this office.

--Jeff updated the group on the commemorative bench program. The new order is expected in April. All plaques for it have been approved but one. Only two will be installed right away, as the installation of the balance needs to wait until the brickwork is completed around the fountain.

--The Swiss Cottage roof repair is being paid for by both FMSP and the borough. We are paying for the underlying structure of the roof and the borough for the roofing material and installation.

--This spring's park clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, April 16th at 9 a.m. We will not be raking but rather picking up sticks and branches, cleaning out the swales and spreading wood chips for mulch. Keith Kurowski will try to find a group to help with the work. 8 x 8 Signage has been ordered to alert the

public to the locations of the bulb drifts planted last fall. 2000 bulbs of different varieties of daffodils were donated by Dutchgrown Bulbs, a wholesale company that is a 4th generation family business from Holland. Their North American warehouse is located in West Chester.

--Betsy Woodrow reported on the Events Committee. The Fall Party is scheduled for September 24th at the Wilcomes' home on Ashbridge Street. Because of the many steps and turns in the landscaping, the party will be catered and the food truck idea will be saved for a future year. It is still possible to coordinate the Fall Party with the Fountain dedication.

--Phil LaRue reported on the Membership Committee event, "Pints for the Park" scheduled for April 16th, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sprout. Music will be provided by Sprout. Discussion centered around the cost and how to pay for drinks and/or appetizers. A table will be set up by the committee at the entrance to encourage non-FMSP members to give their emails to get further information about the park group and to encourage them to become members. The event will be publicized on Facebook and flyers distributed to the Chestnut Street Lofts and Sharpless Works apartment complexes and at Sprout. It was agreed that people should buy their own drinks, but Jim Salvas moved that FMSP budget \$10 per head for food for the event. Pat Loew seconded and the motion was approved.

Jen Long met with Jim Salvas to develop a second brochure targeting the 30-45 year-old and young family demographic in the five-block radius around the park. Also the membership committee is considering promotional items for members such as t-shirts and tote bags with the name of our group and our logo. Jim Salvas urged us to work toward creating budgets for committees so that it becomes unnecessary to bring every small funding request to the board meetings. Linda Scott thought that could be better estimated after analyzing a 12 month spending cycle. Tote bags will be produced prior to the summer concerts as an incentive to become a member. Gordon moved that the Membership Committee order 100 tote bags in khaki and green, Phil seconded and the motion carried.

--Jeff reported on the Fountain Restoration Committee. The stone coping is ready to ship. The fence is going into production, and the electrician is scheduled to come in a week's time. Pebble Pools plans on setting the stones at the end of March. About \$60,000 is needed to finish the brickwork. Jeff urged everyone to get the word out about the stone engraving opportunities as only 9 of the 36 stones have been sold. We are still waiting to hear about the state grant applied for last year. A decision is expected sometime this month.

--Gordon Woodrow reported on the Playground Committee progress. Their next meeting is March 22nd. In addition to options being considered such as a plastic playground or wooden play village, Gordon has developed concept drawings for a custom play castle that could be submitted to Andrew Scheer, a structural engineer, to develop plans that would meet stringent safety regulations. The cost for the engineering work would be around \$5000.

The castle has a series of towers and includes a Plexiglas oculus, spiral slide, drawbridge, a high slide and a lower cottage with a small slide. He spoke with Karen Delaney, the new director of the Chester County Art Association, about engaging area artists to create a periscope, forest horn, geared whirligig, carved owls, wildlife and dragon. He hopes to have an estimated cost by the March 22nd meeting. It is understood that the structure would have to meet every certification requirement applicable to playground equipment, and receive Borough approval. The Borough has budgeted \$85,000 for our park's playground upgrade this year. Discussion regarding maintenance and lifespans of the different

options ensued. Also it was mentioned again that some FMSP members want to see a bocce court installed.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone