

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 1, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Steve Gallo, Anne Walters, Eric Miller, Michael Civita, Gordon Woodrow, Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Linda Scott, Bill Scott, Chrissy Hinks, Rose Stancato, Veronica Balassone and Eliza Mohler, Director of Communication and Outreach at the Hickman.

---MINUTES of the last meeting were corrected to read that Mike South, not Jason Brennan, made the motion to replace the trash cans now in the park with refurbished cans from the Borough. The minutes, as corrected, were approved.

---Linda Scott gave the TREASURER'S REPORT. Net income for the first quarter was a little over \$6900. The balance in the Susquehanna bank account is \$27, 893. Of that amount, \$3748 is reserved for the fountain restoration project. In addition to the Profit and Loss Statement and the Balance Sheet, Linda distributed a detailed statement showing all transactions related to the fountain project. Total fundraising income for the fountain to date is \$9796 and expenses \$6048. Expenses to date include the excavation of the basin for study, fountain existing conditions and presentations drawings, design of the fountain mechanicals, and a rendering of the fountain.

Some discussion took place regarding the Accounts Receivable amount of \$1347. This is an amount accrued in the Paypal account. There is a limit of \$500 per month that can be withdrawn from the account. It was asked whether the funds could be spent by FMSP from the account, e.g. to pay the Wild Apricot software fee of \$50 per month. Such a transaction is possible.

---Eliza Mohler, Director of Communications and Outreach at the Hickman, distributed a flyer announcing the Hickman Friends Senior Community's 2014 Summer Concert Series on the second Wednesdays in June, July and August.

---Jeff Beitel updated the group on the HICKMAN EXPANSION plans. He continues to communicate with Pam Leland, Executive Director of the Hickman, who is working with Mike Perrone and the Borough Solicitor to determine zoning code requirements for the project, since none presently exists for a structure of this type in that location. The existing Sharpless Hall has been grandfathered in and is considered an existing nonconforming use in NC-2. The Hickman will abide by height regulations. However, parking, setbacks and total building lot coverage are all on the table for discussion. May 6th is the next scheduled meeting regarding the building project. At this time there are no public meetings scheduled.

---The Spring PARK CLEAN-UP is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 9-10:30 a.m. This year there will be a focus on clearing the soil in the swales.

---Steve Gallo reported on the FMSP SUMMER CONCERTS. They will take place on the 3rd Thursdays of the month: June 19th, July 17th, August 21st. The bands scheduled are John Grecia in June, Back to Life in July and Free Rein in August. The Headline Sponsor will be Berkshire Hathaway, The Kit Anstey Team. Sponsors are Macelree Harvey for the June event, E.B. Walsh and National Penn for July, and D.L. Howell and Stillman Volvo for August. Sponsors are still needed for face painting and the picnic. For those not

contributing food to the picnic, a \$10 fee will be charged. FMSP water bottles will be sold. There may be an Art Show component this year whereby a percentage of the proceeds will be given to FMSP.

---Jeff reviewed the MSP GROUNDS MAINTENANCE PLAN, which was developed cooperatively with Scott Wade, a registered arborist, Denise Dunn-Kesterson, the borough's urban forester, Del-Chester Tree Service, current provider of tree maintenance in the park and Jeff Beitel and Anne Walters. Although this spring leaves will be removed from the park, in the future leaves will be mulched in a designated "woodland zone." A map has been prepared by Anne and Jeff to guide the development of a mowing contract which will extend into the third week of November. Steve Gallo expressed some concern for keeping enough unmulched space for concert goers. Ronnie would like to see spring bulbs planted in the woodland zone.

---The FRANKLIN & BIDDLE STREETS entrance improvements project is out for re-bid. Deadline is April 11th. \$18,000 has been budgeted by the Borough. The desired material for the project can be found in Lancaster County. The existing conditions have been categorized as hazardous, so the Borough will pick up the cost for the project.

---Gordon Woodrow reported on the FOUNTAIN COMMITTEE. The major fundraising event has been postponed due to a change in the availability of the hosts' venue. At this time it is hoped it can take place in October. The fundraising goal is \$125,000. In addition to the major donor's contribution which has been secured, the goal is to pledge five individuals or couples to \$10,000 each, and to host an event at \$1000 per couple. The Borough has agreed to permit the dedication of the fountain to Joan Gagliardi. Two phases have been designated for the project: Phase I for the fountain, Phase II for the surrounding landscaping.

---The MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE met on March 27th. Rose Stancato reported that to move forward they must secure the ongoing payment of fees for Wild Apricot, hopefully through Paypal. They can then upload contacts and membership data. Any committee that wants to may use the program, with controls. They are suggesting that all committees designate one person as an administrator, that the intended use is clearly stated and that access be limited. This committee designee can read and post, but will have no impact on other committees. At this time, full management access is only given to Rose and Jason Brennan. There was some confusion as to the committee structure. Jeff will send the list of committees following the meeting. Rose will specify levels of access and the persons authorized to have access.

---The proposed MEDALS OF HONOR PLAQUE was discussed at length. Frank Vattelana's proposal, which seems to be embraced by the Borough's Parks and Recreation Department and Senator Dinniman, is clearly intended to be an informational display rather than one that simply memorializes the recipients. Bill Scott and Jeff developed an alternative that they consider to be more compatible with the monument and park character. The "plaque" would be a flat marker stone near the monument with a mounted bronze engraved plaque. Bill indicated that there is a significant difference between a commemorative plaque and informational or "interpretive" signs as displayed in national parks. Clearly the latter is what Mr. Vattelana is proposing for the site. At a Council work session recently, Bill expressed his opposition to such a display. Borough Council has tabled the discussion until further direction from interested parties. Jeff indicated that a Civil War Encampment event has been approved for MSP in October. There is some pressure to have the acknowledgement of the medal winners in place by then. Jeff, Gordon and Bill Scott will be involved in putting forth FMSP's proposed design to Council.

---The issue of new TRASH CANS in the park engendered a long discussion. Following the vote in March which approved replacing each existing can with two refurbished cans from the Borough, Jeff expressed his concerns about the plan, which he communicated by email shortly after the meeting. Replacing the existing 8 trash cans would place 16 trash cans in the park. The cost to the Borough for re-purposing the cans would be approximately \$4000. For that amount MSP could get 4 new cans which are the type originally requested, and which are the same as those in other borough parks (and also which are placed at no cost to those parks). For that amount also, we can re-purpose all eight of the existing cans. Discussion ensued on whether FMSP should be required at all to “buy” cans when no other parks are asked to do the same. Anne stated that the Borough owes us cans of equal value to those placed in the other parks, and that MSP is not being fairly accommodated because FMSP has offered in the past to share the expense. Gordon proposed that FMSP proceed on a path of acquiring eight 42-gallon Victor Stanley Dual Flow trash receptacles in bronze from the Borough (the original approved FMSP proposal), at NO cost to FMSP. Bill seconded it, and indicated that he would be responsible for telling the Borough that we are not interested in repurposed receptacles. Bill then stated that he would get MSP 8 free receptacles (Victor Stanley), made such a motion, Steve Gallo seconded, the motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone