

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Anne Walters, Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Holly Brown, Jon Long, Jen Long, Gordon Woodrow and Veronica Balassone.

--MINUTES of the last meeting were approved with the addition of the following sentence in the Membership Committee report: "There was general agreement that the Membership Committee could compose a letter to be sent to lapsed members and a limited targeted number of potential new members."

--In Linda Scott's absence, Jeff reviewed the TREASURER'S REPORT. Receipts include the purchase to date of three commemorative benches. An additional fourth bench was ordered to complete the first order of 4 benches. This fourth bench is still available for sponsorship. Freight costs are approximately \$150 per bench if we don't get a free shipping special. To date expenses for the benches total \$6780. Anne moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Holly seconded and the report was accepted.

--The first concert of the Music at Marshall series is scheduled for Thursday, June 18th, 6:30 p.m. The picnic potluck will begin at 6:00. The Sin Brothers are performing. An announcement will be made regarding the fountain restoration efforts and materials about the fountain will be available at a table promoting the effort as well as membership in FMSP.

--The MSP Tree Walk with Ken Leroy is scheduled for Saturday, July 18th at 10:30 a.m. Eric Miller is expected to contact Lane with regard to email blasts about the event. These should be scheduled for June 22nd, July 6th and July 14th.

--Four commemorative benches have been installed in the park and the final four new trash receptacles have been installed.

--Jeff gave an update on the Hickman Sharpless Hall Expansion plans. At the most recent meeting it was apparent that the organization is listening to community comments regarding a lower building height and designing the building with gable roofs not mansards, and no underground parking is proposed now.

A new institutional overlay district is proposed as there is no provision in the existing zoning code that applies to the proposed development. A shared agreement for parking will be created for the whole block which includes the Friends Meeting House and West Chester Friends School. Concerns include storm water management, parking facilities, and the preservation of a large sycamore tree along High Street. A public meeting will be scheduled to give everyone an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns. The plans for the project can be reviewed on the Borough's website.

--No progress has been made on the development of FMSP By-laws due to lack of response on the proposed draft. The effort has been tabled for now.

--Ronnie reported on the FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE's meeting in late April. The 2nd Annual Run/Walk is scheduled for Saturday afternoon, September 19th. Heather Gallo is chairing the event again. Proposed plans for marketing include a banner, announcements and flyers at the summer park concerts,

advertising in FIG, e-blasts, website blog post, and contacting Malcolm Johnstone to include the run in borough announcements. Anne moved and Holly seconded a motion to approve the purchase of a banner.

The Fall Party is scheduled for the last Saturday of the month, September 26th. The hosts this year will be John Cigler and Pat McCoy at 131 E. Marshall Street.

--No one was present at the meeting to give a MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE report. Holly suggested that in the future a committee should be asked to email a report to Jeff if a representative of a committee cannot attend a meeting.

--Anne Walters reported on the FOUNTAIN RESTORATION COMMITTEE. All plant material has been removed from the site. The lower cast iron bowl will be evaluated for removal, and the fountain will be sent to Heritage Metalworks for a three-month restoration. A contract review is underway with Pebble Pools for the basin restoration.

Jeff and Anne met with Mike Perrone to update him on the project. Holly is working on a grant which requires a resolution from Borough Council showing support for the project. Holly is drafting such a resolution. The deadline for the grant application is June 30th.

Additional funding may be available from the West Chester Downtown Foundation. Holly will look into this opportunity for FMSP.

In addition to opportunities at the summer concerts for raising awareness and contributions for the fountain, Jen Long suggested making a video for Facebook when the fountain is picked up for the restoration process. In addition the fountain "pickup" event could be publicized in the West Chester Press, FIG and the Inquirer.

It was announced that Mrs. Pat Lowe has agreed to be the prime sponsor, with naming rights to the fountain, in memory of her husband Jack. This news has not yet been released to the public.

--Gordon reported on the PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE. Heather Gallo is chairing this committee. The purpose of the committee is to play an active role in shaping the future of the playground as it is slated to be next in line for funding and replacement by the Borough's Parks and Recreation Committee.

Gordon has discussed with Keith Kurowski of Parks and Recreation what the standards are for playground equipment. These include ADA requirements, 16 play functions and 17 year longevity. It is expected that it will cost about \$57,000 for demolition of the old and installation of new play structures similar to others in the borough. Gordon would like to propose a custom-built timber framed "hogwart" castle play structure by Hugh Lofting Timber, with materials provided by Tom McCoy. Jeff has created a schematic of new path designs in the park which includes path locations leading to and from the playground area.

Fundraising for playground improvement over and above what the borough may budget will at this time take a backseat to fountain restoration. Members of the playground committee, Brady Clark and Moira Mulvey may have sources that could assist in consultation and resourcing materials.

One idea that was attractive to all at the meeting was pulling the playground area back from the streets and creating a bench line with flowering shrubs such as rhododendrons and azaleas to create a buffer to Marshall Street. Also the addition of lighting of some kind for security.

The committee hopes to meet again at the end of July.

--Security concerns also were expressed about the fountain and a security camera system was discussed. Cameras could also be installed in the gazebo and at the playground area, to become part of a park-wide system.

--The next regularly scheduled meeting for FMSP will be Thursday, September 17th, 7:00 p.m.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone