

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

Minutes of Meeting on January 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Anne Walters, Steve Gallo, Heather Gallo, Taylor Gallo, Pat Loew, Eric Miller, Chantelle Fieldhouse, Holly Brown, Betsy Woodrow, Lee Miller, Glen Sweet and Veronica Balassone.

--The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

--The Gallo family presented their daughter Taylor's proposal to place a "Little Free Library" in Marshall Square Park. Their plan is to request permission from the Borough to do so, and asked that FMSP support their proposal. It involves placing a small wooden "house" library (22x12x28 inches) on a post which will contain adult and children's books that are free to the public to borrow on an honor system. The Gallo's will provide oversight and maintenance of the library. Taylor's grandfather has built the structure. An aluminum "charter" sign can be purchased for \$39 which will display our unique charter number and will read "LittleFreeLibrary.org Take a Book Return a Book A Nonprofit Organization". Inclusion in the registry will give access to tips, press releases, etc. Everyone present was in support of the idea. It was discussed that a location in the northwest "playground" quadrant of the park such as at the bottom of the Lafayette Street stairs would be appropriate. Holly made a motion that FMSP pay the \$39 cost for the plaque, Eric seconded and the motion was approved.

--In Linda Scott's absence, Glen Sweet, our new Assistant Treasurer, gave the Treasurer's Report. The Receipts and Disbursements Statement January 1 – 18 showed a net income of \$4190. This number was almost \$2000 less than last year at this time due to the difference in dues collection and Progressive Dinner responses to date.

On the Balance Sheet Glen noted the dedicated Fountain Fund figure shows a negative \$14,017 attributed to landscaping payments. The checkbook balance is \$14,391. Accounts receivable of \$6730 include Paypal receipts and a prepayment for an engraved fountain stone. Accounts Payable include charges from Paragon Pools for December which have not yet been recorded, resulting in a slight overstatement of the equity figure of \$21,968.

--Jeff gave an update on the brick sidewalk and restroom repairs. All the paperwork is in place for the brick sidewalks so as soon as the weather permits the work will begin. Lack of access to the restrooms was discussed and Chantelle related her positive experience at a Philadelphia park whereby one can email a request to be given a code to open the public restroom. She was encouraged to attend a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Holly suggested she call the Recreation department and ask to be put on their agenda to push for new accessible locks.

--Jeff is unsure as to when the Swiss Cottage roof will be repaired as the borough's initial reaction is that our proposal is too costly.

--Application for FMSP 501c3 status is still in progress.

--Lee Miller gave the report for the Events Committee. The Progressive Dinner is scheduled for February 3rd. To date 46 members have signed up. There will be 2 appetizer locations, 3 dinner homes and one

dessert home this year. Name tags will be color coded to avoid any confusion as to where guests are expected. Lee would like to see the event promotion begin much earlier next year to avoid a last minute scramble to arrange houses for the annual gathering.

--Eric Miller gave the Membership Committee report. More brochures need to be printed as they have run out of those distributed to area apartment buildings. Jeff reiterated his request to have a mailable insert added to facilitate membership signup. The holiday meeting at Side Bar was discussed, and some disappointment was expressed at the lack of participation. It was noted that it is a difficult time of the year for scheduling an event. Eric moved that the event be put off for a year, Anne seconded and the motion passed.

--Anne Walters gave the Fountain Restoration Committee report. A meeting arranged by Eric Miller with Longwood Garden staff who are responsible for the fountains there was extremely helpful. They are willing to come to MSP in the spring when the fountain is running to offer their advice and assistance.

The focus for 2018 is the landscaping around the fountain. Anne has developed a plan for the area and has incorporated suggestions of members in a revised plan. She would like to conduct a "site visit" prior to which Jeff and she will stake out where garden beds would be and new trees planted. The proposal includes removal of three trees for which permission must be granted by the Shade Tree Commission. Their meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 7th. Jeff, the chair of the commission, will need to recuse himself from this issue. Anne and Jeff are anxious for support from FMSP members. Anne will develop a petition to be circulated at the Progressive Dinner to present to the commission as a show of support by FMSP.

--Jeff reported on the Summer Concert series for 2018. Michael Civita has made the arrangements for bands. Chantelle Fieldhouse will once again take on the potluck organization. Pat Loew has generously offered to be the event sponsor again as "Southdown Homes". Individual concert Picnic and Face Painting sponsors are still needed.

--The need for a Global Calendar was discussed to formalize our event calendar and schedule notices to the membership. Once again it was felt that a review of the software used by FMSP for communications and membership data is crucial for the long term health of FMSP.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. The next meeting and remaining meetings of the year will fall on the second Thursday of the month, rather than the third. The next therefore will be February 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Recording Secretary