

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

Minutes of Meeting on April 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Beitel at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Anne Walters, Pat Loew, Glen Sweet, Jen Long and Veronica Balassone.

--Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

--Glen Sweet gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance in the checking/savings account totaled \$21,213, less than this time last year. The negative \$14,130 in the dedicated Fountain funds represents the amount of pending pledged donations. The \$1600 of undeposited funds includes \$1500 from Summer Concert music sponsors and \$100 member donations. Jeff has \$7500 in checks for coping stones which are to be deposited through the Chester County Community Foundation. There are no Accounts Payable at this time. The Treasurer was encouraged to consider changing banks to a more local one such as M & T, Citadel, or Franklin Mint.

--Jeff reported that the brick sidewalk project will begin on April 16th. The borough will begin on the North Matlack Street side and then proceed to the Biddle Street side. The locked fenced storage area for the bricks will be on Matlack. The rebuilt stairs and sidewalk work should be completed by the third week of May. It was noted that the YMCA is expected to use the park on Earth Day for a celebration of National Healthy Kids' Day.

--It has been decided that someone from the borough or the police department will be unlocking and relocking the restroom door in the park on a daily basis to allow access. Jeff is setting up meetings and getting three bids and will go to the borough in order to expedite the long-overdue repairs of the restroom. \$7500 has been allocated in the borough budget and he does not want to see it go unused because of borough delays.

--In addition Jeff will do what is needed to move forward the Swiss Cottage roof repair as there is an allocation of \$5000 in the borough budget.

--The Little Library proposal from the Gallo Family has been approved by the Borough. The Gallo's will see to its maintenance. Jeff has scouted out a location in the grove of pine trees near the playground that will contain the Little Library box built by a Gallo family member. Pat Loew moved to approve the location he had chosen, Jen seconded and the motion carried. The plaque can be ordered and will be paid by FMSP as approved at a prior meeting.

--Application for 501c3 status for FMSP is progressing with legal assistance. It is expected to be completed by end of summer.

--Jeff asked again that a global calendar be prepared for FMSP events and meetings. Ronnie offered to get the process going.

--Discussion occurred regarding easing the process of communications for FMSP and the need to relieve officers of routine informational emails to members. It was suggested that Jim Salvas and Lane Randall meet with the Events Committee to plan future communication schedules and responsibilities for annual fundraising events.

--The annual park clean-up scheduled for April 21st will require an email blast to encourage members to help out and bring wheelbarrows, rakes and gloves. It was determined that spreading mulch will not be part of the work that day.

--Jen Long reported on the Little Buddies program. She was unable to secure coupons from Buddies' Burgers for a Little Buddies event and will approach Couch Tomato to see if they might be interested. Jen's plans for a Puppies and Popsicles event on May 12th have been cancelled as the puppies are not available on that date.

--Jen Long reported that membership brochures have been distributed at the Chestnut Square apartments, 124 Market and Sharpless apartment complexes. They have not been supplied yet to the Chestnut Street Lofts. Chestnut Square has agreed to permit Eric Miller to conduct a wine tasting at a Friday Night Happy Hour and Jeff Beitel can give a presentation about FMSP at the event. More inserts need to be printed for the membership brochures. Glen Sweet was asked to work with Linda Scott to create an annual budget for such expenses.

--Anne Walters reported that the Tree Commission approved the proposed plans for landscaping around the fountain which required tree removal. The plan now has to go before the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Public Works Committee and the Borough Council for approval. Then quotes will be finalized for the low iron fencing, grading and prep work. Schedules will be prepared for installation in September.

--The bands have been secured for the three Summer Concerts in the park. Southdown Homes will be the main sponsor this year. Second tier sponsors include Stillman Volvo, Hazley Builders, Brandywine Valley Heating and Air Conditioning and D.L. Howell. There are two \$500 sponsorships remaining or one \$1000 sponsorship. This year the Face Painter will be paid \$100. Gemelli Gelato owners will have their food truck there. Dates are always the third Thursday of the summer months. This year that is June 21st, July 19th and August 16th with rain dates scheduled for the following Thursdays.

--Anne proposed consideration of contracting a Tree Sculptor to carve the 20 foot tall Red Oak tree trunk on Franklin Street. The removal of the tree was incomplete, and the remaining portion has left FMSP an opportunity to create a sculpture that will add a whimsical, fun feature to the park environment. She has communicated with two sculptors and received two proposals. One is from Marty Long, who has done work at the Morris Arboretum at Swarthmore; and the other is Roger Wing, who has worked in Philadelphia and also does ice sculptures. She was encouraged to continue to explore the idea and get on the agenda at a Public Works Commission meeting. In addition, she was encouraged to find someone locally who also has experience in this skill.

--At this time the borough no longer has an urban forester, or a contractor for tree trimming. FMSP has engaged a board-certified master arborist to "geo" locate trees in the park, and create a five-year management plan for the park's trees.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Recording Secretary

