

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

Minutes of Meeting on June 8, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Linda Scott, Holly Brown, Pat Loew, Jen Long, Anne Walters, Bill Scott, Chantelle Fieldhouse, Mike Matheny, Wendy Wallace and Veronica Balassone.

--Approval of the minutes of the last meeting was postponed as they were only distributed at the beginning of this meeting.

--Linda Scott reviewed the Treasurer's Report. The current balance in the checking account is \$40,917. She mentioned that we owe West Chester Parks and Recreation \$500 which was overpaid to FMSP. On the Receipts and Disbursements statement receipts from Music at Marshall totaled \$6,405, which includes \$2,405 from last year's concerts and \$4,000 to date from this year's concert sponsorships. No expenses have been recorded yet for this summer's concerts.

--Wendy Wallace was invited to address the meeting as the President of the Board of the Care Center Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that serves families and individuals that live and/or attend preschool in the southeast area of the West Chester community. Wendy would like to publicize the organization's \$35,000 fundraising campaign to provide upgrades to their structure located at 127-129 South Matlack Street. The upgrades include an outdoor mural to be painted by Paul Santoleri, a world-renowned artist, on the building wall facing the children's playground. It is hoped that this mural will spark an interest in West Chester for more mural projects in the borough. Holly commented that there is a group currently trying to put a mural ordinance together. Wendy would like permission to publicize the project at our summer concerts. There is no intention of raising funds but rather raising awareness. A motion was made to allow Wendy Wallace to come to the July or August summer concert to set up an information table, distribute information to the crowd, and address the group about the project. It was specifically stated that this was not going to be a solicitation for funds (an "ask"). The motion was approved. It was also clearly stated that FMSP's email list would not be given out for use by the Care Center Foundation.

--Jeff gave an update on the brick sidewalk and restroom repairs. Anne Walters and Jeff met with the Department of Public Works Director O'B Laing, Assistant Director Mike Taggart and the Supervisor in charge of parks, Don Anderson. They were informed that Keith Kurowski, Director of the Recreation Department was responsible for the buildings in the park. The restroom needs to be repainted, the roof needs new shingles, and "time locks" are supposed to be installed so that the restrooms can actually be used. Repainting and new shingles are in the budget for this year. The "time locks" are being researched at this time.

The brick sidewalk repairs have been allotted \$100,000 in the 2017 budget for the Matlack Street side. There are no funds in the 2017 budget for Biddle Street. The borough is considering a 5' wide sidewalk to replace the current 8' wide sidewalk and does not want to use the existing brick. Jeff and Anne are opposed to this plan. They want an 8' wide sidewalk using the old brick, with a properly laid base. They intend to price this option out. It was agreed that this preference should be strongly voiced. Chantelle moved that drawings prepared by Jeff showing an 8 foot wide sidewalk replacement using the original

bricks, and laid upon a properly prepared base, along with stair replacement on Matlack, be presented to the Public Works sub-committee to be financed by the money currently allotted in the borough's budget. Pat Loew seconded and the motion passed.

--Public Works completed the mulching project started by the members on the day of the spring park cleanup.

--Work continues with Pat Loew's solicitor on the application for a 501(c)(3) status for FMSP.

--Veronica Balassone reported on the Events Committee's plans to host a members-only guided tour by artist Adrian Martinez of his joint exhibit with the Chester County Historical Society "The Visionary World of Humphry Marshall" on June 21st. An informal gathering is planned afterwards at the Warner Hotel lounge. Details will be emailed to members shortly. This is a free event for members.

--Jen Long reported on the Membership Committee. Five hundred copies of the new membership brochure will be printed and distributed in time for the first summer concert in June. Anyone who signs up at the concert will receive a free tote bag. Stickers for the "little buddies" program may be available at that time as well.

Chantelle Fieldhouse will be organizing the picnics for all the summer concerts.

--Lane Randall made a motion to condense membership levels from the current number of 5 to 3 levels. This would eliminate the Full-time Student and Senior 65+ levels. The three remaining levels would be "Household - \$40", "Individual - \$30" and "Organization - \$75". The motion passed unanimously.

--Anne Walters reported on the Fountain Restoration Committee. The landscaping plan around the fountain area will need approval from the Shade Tree Commission for removal of existing trees and the installation of six new trees. She suggested that in place of a 2-D plan for landscaping a 3-D rendering be prepared for presentations. This will cost approximately \$600-700 but may be worthwhile as it will foster a better understanding of the proposed landscaping design. Jim Salvas moved to authorize Anne to spend \$750 for creation of such a rendering. The motion passed.

--Anne and Jeff met with the Humphry Marshall Trust Fund committee members who voiced support for funding ground granite markers honoring Humphry Marshall at two corners in the park. They are also interested in funding a ground monument with Humphry Marshall information at the fountain.

--Tom Gavin at the Chester County Hospital is not able to authorize a donation for the fountain, but is willing to go back to the Board to discuss options. The hospital is celebrating its 125th anniversary on September 14th, and is hosting an event at Marshall Square Park.

--The West Chester Area Downtown Preservation Award is to be announced in October. Anne and Jeff have prepared an application in the Bricks and Mortar category for our fountain restoration.

Anne and Jeff also are working on getting Marshall Square Park registered as an Historic American Landscape. If successful, the park would be designated as such in the Library of Congress. The application is due by the end of July.

--Jeff asked that he be compensated for his work on the drawings required for several projects in the park. Mike Matheny moved that Jeff be paid \$2000 for his drawings. The motion was seconded and passed.

--A framed print of the Swiss Cottage will be raffled off by Holly Brown at the first concert on June 15th. The large park banner has been put up to announce the dates of the summer concerts. The picnic organized by Chantelle will begin at 5:30.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Recording Secretary