

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK  
MINUTES OF MEETING ON MAY 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Holly Brown, Heather Gallo, Moira Mulvey, Jen Long, Linda Scott and Veronica Balassone. As a quorum of eight members was not met, voting would not take place at this meeting.

--Minutes of the April meeting were accepted as submitted.

--Linda Scott reviewed the Balance Sheet. At this time, funds in the Susquehanna account totaled \$70,422, \$31,174 of which were earmarked for the Fountain project. Accounts receivable totaled \$8,092. More than \$5,000 of the receivables are due from the Friends of West Chester Parks and Recreation. Current liabilities totaled \$15,968.

On the Profit and Loss (Receipts and Disbursements) statement, total income to date was \$43,932. Expenses year to date totaled \$22,402. Net income was \$21,530.

--Jeff reported that the shipment of eight Commemorative Benches had been received and that the five which are to be placed around the fountain will be stored in the Swiss Cottage until the fountain area is complete and ready for bench installation. Any of those five donors who request it could have the bench installed somewhere else in the park until the fountain placement is possible.

--The Swiss Cottage roof repair was moving at a slow pace. It's been more than a year since it was damaged by a falling limb. FMSP has completed the preparatory work possible at this point. We are waiting for the wood roof shingle contract to be approved by the borough, and we will coordinate our work to reinforce the roof sheathing with their roofing contractor.

--The Spring Park Clean-up was successful. Volunteers completed a majority of the mulching that day. It was necessary to pay a landscaper \$480 to finish the mulching around the park trees. Holly suggested making park clean-up a two weekend event the next time, and that also more attention should be paid to putting mulch in other locations around the park that seem to get somewhat neglected.

--Pints for the Park was attended by about 30 people and resulted in 5 new memberships. The report from the organizers summarizing the financial result was not available in time for the meeting.

--The MSP Summer Concerts on the third Thursdays of June, July and August (with following Thursdays as rain dates) will continue to include pot luck dinners which this year will be coordinated by Nicole Singh. These concerts are events sponsored by the Friends of West Chester Parks and Recreation. FMSP's contribution is hosting the potluck. To participate one must pay or bring food. Volunteers will be needed to distribute concert flyers the weekend prior to each event.

--Jen Long reported on Membership Committee activities. The park was one stop on the Urban Hike and although no new members signed up, it was an opportunity to inform people about FMSP membership.

Eric Miller and Lane Randall are working on billing membership dues through Wild Apricot. At this time there are 155 members, 138 of which are active with paid-up dues.

The Membership Committee plans a meeting at the end of May to discuss FMSP presence at the summer concerts. They are also working on a trifold brochure.

--The Events Committee will be using Mizuna Catering for the Fall Party. There is no "theme" this year. A meeting of the committee is scheduled for June.

--The Fountain Restoration Committee report was given by Jeff. It will be mid-June before the test run is done. The coping stones are in and the basin is tiled. The exposed plumbing needed to be redone as it was to be black not grey. The fence still needs to be painted. Additional funds are required to complete all the brickwork. This amount is estimated to be about \$25,000. Discussion included the continuing delay in a decision about our grant application and consideration of applying for a loan for this shortfall. Holly offered to discuss the situation with the borough.

--Heather Gallo reported on behalf of the Playground Improvement Committee whose members include Moira Mulvey, Colleen Brennan, Adriana Trajtenberg, Pat Loew, Gordon Woodrow, Donna and Craig Jordan, Mary Kay McCann and Dina Ciccarone. The group considered several different options for the \$85,000 budgeted this fiscal year by the borough for the project. It was critical in light of liability issues that the installation be fully certified, and that it also be as free of maintenance issues as possible. The committee had also decided against installations that might result in the playground becoming a "destination" with resulting parking and crowding problems.

The recommended installation will be in neutral colors and include monkey bars, two slides, a climbing tree, bridge, four toddler and two big swings. They would like to see a new pathway developed following the installation. The borough is anxious to receive FMSP's recommendations in order to proceed with bidding and a fall schedule for the project. Others would like to see a bocce court developed near the basketball courts along North Matlack Street. In addition, all would like to see landscaping and fencing installed along Marshall Street to shield the playground area.

All members present agreed that the playground plan should be recommended to the borough due to critical timing issues and in light of the fact that FMSP would not meet again until September.

--The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone