

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

Minutes of Meeting on September 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Holly Brown, Phil LaRue, Lane Randall, Jim Salvias and Veronica Balassone. A quorum was not present.

--Minutes of the May meeting were accepted as written without a formal vote. Jeff pointed out that at that meeting the playground recommendations formed by the Playground Committee were accepted as there was an urgency to this decision to move the project forward to meet the Borough's deadlines.

--Jeff gave the Treasurer's report in Linda Scott's absence. \$36,865 is in the fountain funds and \$9,915 in general FMSP fund. Jeff has a check from FWCP&R for \$9400, and there is an outstanding receivable from them for \$1500. It is expected that in future the turnaround time for funds sent to the FWCP&R for FMSP will average 45 days or less.

Jeff noted that a significant amount, around \$33,000, is yet to be invoiced for fountain brickwork. This will leave about \$13,500 in the fountain fund and \$10,000 in the general fund. Phase I expenses are covered and some Phase II brickwork has been shifted to Phase I and will be paid at this time. This reduces the amount that will be necessary to complete Phase II. Phase II needs to be put out to bids to determine the exact cost to finish the project.

--Jim Salvias discussed the expense to date for the fountain project. Approximately \$175,000 has been spent. \$25,000 of this can be categorized as fundraising costs: the cost of the commemorative benches, plaques and coping stones and inscriptions, brochures and event expenses. These costs comprise about 12-1/2% of the total fountain costs.

Fundraising is still necessary to complete Phase II scheduled for the spring. There are 21 coping stones still available for inscription. A minimum order of 4 stones is required for the engraver to schedule his work at the fountain.

--Five of the six Commemorative Benches have been installed around the fountain. The remaining final fountain area bench will be installed following completion of Phase II brickwork and removal of the asphalt path. One other bench in storage will be installed once the new playground is completed.

--Repair of the Swiss Cottage roof is delayed until next year. Additional projects discussed with the Borough include sidewalk repair along North Matlack and Biddle Streets, the stairs and railing at Lafayette Street, and the restrooms near the fountain.

--The Summer Concert series were fairly successful again this year. We are at a turning point as major committee participants, including Steve Gallo, are no longer able to devote their time to the endeavour. In addition, Kit Anstey will no longer be a major sponsor. FMSP members Jim Salvias and Nicole Singh were major organizers and plan on continuing their involvement. Jeff suggested that it may be necessary to take the concerts on as an FMSP sponsored series. It would be hoped that Michael Civita would continue to be involved as he has been instrumental in securing the musicians for the concerts. If FMSP does sponsor the series, 100% of the funds raised would go to our group.

--Ronnie reported on the Events Committee. At this time 68 people were signed up for the Fall Party, to be held on September 24th at the Wilcomes' home on Ashbridge Street, following the fountain re-dedication. The committee has preparations well organized, and are hoping for a turnout close to 100.

Plans for the Progressive Dinner the first weekend in February are coming along, although a house has yet to be secured for the dessert gathering. There will be two houses for appetizers – the Eberts' on Virginia Avenue and the Luzzi's on Walnut. We are hoping to have three houses for the main course. To date we have the Woodrow's and the Tirk/Balassone home, both on North Matlack.

The committee will meet again following the Fall Party.

--Phil LaRue reported on the Membership Committee. Phil's fiancée, Allie Dolinsky, has joined FMSP and the committee. They are planning a general membership meeting/party on Tuesday, December 6th, from 6-8 p.m. at the Side Bar in West Chester. Again the restaurant will contribute small plates to the gathering. The Keynote Presentation will introduce the "Little Buddies of MSP" program developed by Jen Long. Next spring the committee will plan a second "Pints for the Park" with a change in venue from Sprout. Perhaps the Couch Tomato rooftop will be an option.

The trifold FMSP brochure for a younger demographic is still being developed, as well as a welcome letter for new members.

--A discussion took place regarding the extreme difficulties Lane Randall and others are experiencing with the Wild Apricot software. It will most certainly be re-evaluated and likely abandoned.

--All is ready for the Fountain Re-dedication scheduled for September 24th, with the exception of installment of the bronze donor plaques, which will be in place by that time.

--An update on the playground replacement was given by Jeff. The old equipment has been removed, and the preparations are moving forward by the borough to install the new. This installation should begin around the first of October.

Our next meeting is Thursday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone