

FRIENDS OF MARSHALL SQUARE PARK

Minutes of Meeting on January 12, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Beitel at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Anne Walters, Jen Long, Betsy Woodrow, Nicole Singh, Gayle and Les Silberman and Veronica Balassone.

--Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

--Jeff Beitel gave the Treasurer's Report in Linda Scott's absence. Current assets total \$28,922, significantly less than prior year primarily due to expenditures for the fountain restoration. Linda has a 30-page report detailing all transactions available to anyone interested in reviewing it. Funds earmarked for the fountain total \$16,098 and unreserved funds total \$8,492 as of January 11th. Jeff has a couple of checks totaling around \$3000 yet to be deposited.

--The Chester County Historical Society's Humphrey Marshall exhibit will run for the whole year. Malcolm Johnstone is encouraging FMSP to hold some sort of event there during the exhibit. Ronnie suggested that perhaps the Events Committee could consider organizing this sometime during the spring.

Also, a social gathering called "History on Tap" is scheduled for January 24th at the Marshallton Inn. Marshall's Microscope and painter Adrian Martinez will be featured. Reservations are required. Lane can put the event on the FMSP website.

--The Silberman's have attended to discuss the Barclay Office Building expansion being planned. They are encouraging community members to get involved as there are major concerns about the design and disruption to the surrounding area. The plan will be presented and discussed at the Smart Growth Committee meeting scheduled on January 17th at the Borough Hall. Neighbors are extremely concerned about property values, parking, lighting and other issues. Office use is permitted in this location since it is in the professional office overlay district but it is outside of the town center district subject to HARB review.

--Significant Marshall Square Park projects have been included in the 2017 Borough budget. This includes brick sidewalk repair on Matlack and Biddle Streets, replacement of the Lafayette Street stairs, painting the restrooms, installing time access locks and and new roof shingles.

--Jim Salvas reported on the Summer Concert Series. Phil LaRue has agreed to chair the committee. Mike South will manage sponsorships. The concerts are scheduled for three Thursdays: June 15, July 20 and August 17. Rain dates are always the following Thursdays. Michael Civita will continue to book the bands.

These concerts are now events sponsored by FMSP. If our group moves forward to become a 501c3 organization, we could keep 100% of the proceeds; however, at this time, proceeds still need to pass through the Friends of West Chester Parks and Recreation which will retain 15% of the funds.

Nicole Singh will try to find someone to replace her to plan the potluck that has become a tradition at the concerts.

A concert committee meeting is planned for January 29th at 9:00 at DeStarr's.

Jim Salvas will advertise the concerts in the Borough's Spring/Summer Guide – ads are free and need to be submitted by the end of March. Jen suggested also advertising in Senator Dinniman's office window. Flyer drops are very effective but time consuming and will require many more volunteers to accomplish.

--Betsy gave the Events Committee report. The 11th annual Progressive Dinner is scheduled for February 4th. The dessert house has been changed to the Pastino's home on Walnut Street. Appetizers will be at the Eberts' and Luzzi's; main course at the Woodrow's, Tirk's and Knapp's. 43 tickets had been sold at the time of the meeting.

--Jen Long reported on the Membership Committee. The Side Bar gathering resulted in four new memberships. The "Little Buddies" program for children 12 and under is not ready yet for rollout, although a rough draft has been prepared. Perhaps at the time the new playground is completed they could initiate the program for "junior" FMSP members.

A Pints for the Park event will probably not be planned for April. The new brochure with younger families in mind is still in progress.

--Anne Walters reported on the Fountain Restoration Committee. They are getting started on Phase Two with drawings for the brick path to the corner, landscaping and grading. A meeting is to be scheduled with the masonry contractor to discuss the scope of work. It is likely that the work will be started in late summer with a fall landscape installation. There are a number of contracts to be worked out for brickwork, bollards, landscaping, irrigation and a historical marker. More funds are needed to complete the phase, but total costs are not yet estimated as plans are not yet completed. It is imperative to sell more stone inscriptions as there are about 20 left; also one \$10,000 plaque for placement on the fence is still available. Benches are also available for purchase.

Another source of funding could be the Humphrey Marshall Trust with whom FMSP has a good working relationship. Anne and Jeff are following up with them.

Ronnie suggested approaching CCHS and Adrian Martinez to see if something similar to the Philadelphia Museum of Art's recent outreach program whereby reproductions of important paintings were placed in public spaces could be done with the Humphrey Marshall portrait. It would be an educational effort to let the public know who the namesake for the park was and what his contributions were to the world. It could also lead people to attending the exhibit at the Historical Society.

--The playground equipment is in and will be installed likely in the spring when the ground can be graded and prepared.

--Two new trees were planted to replace a sugar maple and an oak tree that had to be removed. However, they need to be replanted as the root balls were set too high. Jeff is now chair of the Tree Commission. A three-year contract for mowing and mulching is ending this year and Jeff is trying to work on getting bids out for the work so the leaves in the park are properly mulched in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m. The next meeting is February 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone

