The meeting was called to order by Jeff Beitel at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Linda Scott, Jen Long, Lee Miller, Chantelle Fieldhouse and Veronica Balassone.

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

--Linda Scott gave the Treasurer’s Report. The balance sheet shows $26,840 in the BB&T account. Accounts receivable includes the balance due for a $3000 fountain stone donation. The asset of $76 is a prepaid 2019 membership dues payment. It was agreed that Jeff would inform Linda of any receivables due that she is not otherwise aware of. The Receipts and Disbursements statement shows Music at Marshall sponsorship receipts of $2000 (four $500 contributions). Under Maintenance expense, a negative $4042 is reimbursement for expenses incurred this year for the fountain.

--Chantelle expressed concern about the lack of suitable, safe playground equipment for children younger than five. Structures were not incorporated in the new playground design, and she and other parents want to see a second structure installed for the little ones. Chantelle was encouraged to pursue that with the borough.

--A short discussion took place regarding creating a new project priority list through member survey. It was felt that it would be of little use at this time and perhaps might be revisited in a couple of years.

--Jeff reported on the brick sidewalk repair project and expressed concern that improper construction procedure was narrowly averted; the sidewalk will be properly laid as planned with regard to the base.

--Three bids have been received for the restroom repairs. There’s $7500 in the borough budget for wood repair, painting, caulking, polymer trim and a new roof. Jeff would like to be involved in discussions with the contractors whose bids ranged from $6950 to $9500. Jen Long made a motion to throw out the low bid and talk with the two other bidders and to donate funds to bridge any gap. Lee seconded and the motion was approved. With regard to restroom door locks, the borough has only budgeted $1500 for all three parks with restrooms. The bids came in much higher than that $1500. After discussion, the Borough Council voted to provide access to restrooms seven days a week, dawn to dusk, by having employees open and close them. Responsibility was assigned to Keith Kurowsky of the Parks and Recreation Department to coordinate that effort. However, there has been minimal follow-through and there have been limited offers of help from Public Works or the Police Department due to union work rules.

--Jeff is hoping to get bids in June for the Swiss Cottage roof repair project. There is $5000 in the borough budget for this for 2018.

--The Little Library project has been approved for installation in the park.

--Linda reported on the 501c3 status for FMSP. The ByLaws still need work after review and editing by a legal team. Linda requests officers’ input and consensus by email by the end of May, in particular, the highlighted sections. A motion was made to review and adopt the ByLaws by email consensus by the end of the month and was then approved.
Discussion took place regarding the Events/Meeting Calendar and Communications Schedule. Lee Miller has outlined her preferences for communication for Events Committee events, and Jen will do the same for Little Buddies’ events. Coordination with Jim and Lane is instrumental if the communications timelines are to be effective.

--The park clean-up on Earth Day was a disappointment this year. Only nine people showed up. Jeff would like someone to volunteer to be a Park Clean-up Coordinator and perhaps utilize flyers or social media to spread the word and get greater participation. Chantelle indicated that the Friends of Everhart Park created an event shared on Facebook that brought people in to help and we could do the same.

--The Tree Sculpture proposal was warmly received by the Parks and Recreation Department. FMSP will need to go through the proper channels to get approvals. Anne Walters will follow up. Preference for designers was discussed. A motion was made and approved to choose to work with Marty Long who will provide basic design sketches, is less costly, and hopefully can make a presentation to the Public Arts Commission for approval.

--Lee reported for the Events Committee. The Fall Garden Party will take place on Saturday, September 29th from 5-8 p.m. The committee is choosing a block party format this year. The location will be on East Virginia between Walnut and North Matlack Streets. Mizuna Catering will be contacted to provide the food. It is hoped that a postcard notification can be distributed at the Music at Marshall concerts this summer. Cost will be $55 for members, and $65 for non-members. It was decided that there will be no increase in price based upon an RSVP deadline.

--The Potluck which Chantelle Fieldhouse organizes at the Music at Marshall concerts will be set up so that membership promotion will be placed between the main food table and the drinks/dessert table.

--Jen Long reported on the Little Buddies program. A Puppies and Popcicles event is planned for children 12 and under on Saturday, June 2nd from 10-11:30 a.m. She is also planning a leaf rubbing event in the fall.

--Jen reported that Eric Miller is working with the Chestnut Square Apartments to offer a wine-tasting event at which he will promote FMSP membership.

--Jeff reported that the landscaping plan around the fountain which requires tree removal has received approval from the Tree Commission and Public Works. The Borough Council working session on the 16th and Council meeting on the 17th are the final stop for approval. Pricing for the landscaping plan includes $13,000 for the low aluminum fencing, $750 for tree removal, $2000 for grading and approximately $20,000 for planting materials and installation.

--The park will finally be getting a new standard borough sign at Marshall and North Matlack. Two new marker stones are to be carved with Marshall Square Park 1848 at both Franklin Street corners. Two bronze historical markers, one on the history of the park and the other about Humphry Marshall will be installed in the fountain area next year.

--There is one $500 sponsorship left for the Music at Marshall concerts. Jim will order all the banners/signs. Bands are signed up.

--Aqua PA will be placing a water sampling station in the park.
--The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14th.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Recording Secretary