The meeting was called to order by Vice President Jim Salvas at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Lane Randall, Linda Scott, Bill Scott, Holly Brown, Betsy Woodrow, Eric Miller, Lee Miller, Anne Walters, Christina Motzko, Pat Loew, Chantale Fieldhouse and Veronica Balassone.

--Minutes from the last meeting were approved and entered into the record as written.

--Linda Scott gave the Treasurer’s Report. The balance in the BB&T Bank savings and checking accounts totaled $12,800 as shown on the Statement of Financial Position. Accounts Receivable of $33,895 includes funds to come from the Chester County Community Foundation. Together the sum of Total Assets is $46,771. Liabilities of $14,085 include amounts due for landscaping and iron railing in the fountain area. The Statement of Activities shows a Gross Profit year-to-date of $94,078, Fundraising expenses of $7,325, Administration expenses of $1,146 and Park Structures expenses of $70,729. The end result is a Net Income year-to-date of $14,640. A third statement distributed by Linda was a year-to-date Statement of Activities broken down into categories for the Fountain, Garden/Fall Party, Music at Marshall and Unclassified. She pointed out that the recent Fall Party brought in less this year than last due to an unavoidable increase in expenses due to requirements the borough has now placed on block parties such as insurance.

--Anne Walters gave an update on the stair railing repair. At this time the railing was incomplete and the quality of the work done on the retaining walls and stonework is not satisfactory.

--In Jeff Beitel’s absence there was no update on the Swiss Cottage roof repair.

--Linda reported that the application for 501c3 status has not yet been submitted.

--It was agreed by all that the Tree Sculpture has been a huge success and well-received by the community. Jim reported that the project has gotten a huge positive response on Facebook. He would like to have a drone video done. His more traditional video has received 35,000 views and 300 shares. Marty Long, the sculptor, believes it is the best work he’s ever done. There was extended discussion as to how to protect the sculpture from vandalism while at the same time allowing it to be an approachable community asset. Bill Scott did point out that at the least the base of the sculpture should be protected from dogs. Anne will prepare a proposal that may include low fencing, plantings, and perhaps solar lighting. A dedication ceremony could also be considered at some point. Anne reiterated that we will have to find someone to reapply stain to the sculpture annually.

--Chantale Fieldhouse reported that the borough has unequivocally refused to fund additional playground equipment suitable for toddlers. She pointed out that every other park has equipment that is safe for little ones. The cost could be as much as $40,000. Bill Scott asked for $10,000 and was refused. The Recreation Commission believes that Marshall Square Park has received enough public funds and in light of the fundraising power of the Friends of Marshall Square Park it should receive nothing more from the borough. Veronica Balassone proposed getting data from the borough that supports their contention that we receive more than our share, and that we should be provided with the amounts spent on each borough park over the last five or ten years. It was mentioned that some parks
receive grants as well as borough funding. A motion was made that Bill Scott get numbers from the Borough as to what has been spent on each public park in the last 5 years. The motion was unanimously approved. It was generally agreed that we were not willing to offer any information whatsoever as to how much FMSP has contributed toward park improvements and that the information we seek should stand apart from FMSP monetary participation. In closing this discussion Chantale said that in any event she and Jeff are going to develop plans for such an addition to the playground.

--Anne reported that leaf mulching will be done soon by a contractor hired by FMSP who has the proper mulching mower equipment to do the job. The leaves will be shredded four times and placed around the trees and elsewhere where leaf mulch can be beneficial.

--Lee Miller reported on the Events Committee. The Fall Party had fewer in attendance than last year but those who participated had a great time. The committee is meeting on October 17th to start the planning for the Progressive Dinner on February 2nd. Three houses will be needed for the three stages: Appetizers, Main Course, Dessert.

--No one was available to report on the Membership Committee or Little Buddies. It was noted that the December membership event at Side Bar will not take place this year.

--Anne reported on the Fountain Restoration Committee. The landscaping is substantially complete. Fall bulbs still need to be planted. Flowers and More has generously donated half the cost of their work to FMSP. The leaf net was placed on the fountain to prevent debris from clogging the basin and pumps, and the fountain will be shut down shortly. This process will be carefully coordinated with Public Works, the Paragon maintenance group and our own Plumber. The restrooms will be closed as well.

--Jim reported on the Summer Concerts Committee. The four members will have their first meeting for the 2019 concerts in January. There are no plans at this time to add a fourth concert as most do not think that is feasible.

--Eric Miller is the new chair of the Park Cleanup Committee. He reported that Dick Sabo has volunteered to be co-chair. Spring Cleanup will take place on Earth Day, April 27th. The Rotary Club has agreed to participate. In addition Eric and Jen Long have approached West Chester University for volunteers. Anne is going to coordinate with Mike Dunn, the borough arborist, with regard to mulching the trees. Eric has gotten quotes for mulch from Mr. Mulch ($2200) and Weaver Mulch ($1100). Although Eric wanted to start outreach now, it was agreed that it should wait until the new year.

--Old Fashioned Christmas is scheduled on Friday, November 30th this year. Information will be forthcoming regarding the luminaries around the park and bags to be folded will be handed out at the November meeting.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Recording Secretary