The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Jeff Beitel. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Lane Randall, Glen Sweet, Lee Miller, Eric Miller, Chantale Fieldhouse, Mark Podob, Dianne Ammons, Rick Ammons and Veronica Balassone.

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

--Glen Sweet gave the Treasurer’s report in Linda Scott’s absence. On the Statement of Activities for the Year 2018 she noted the significant increase in Fundraising Income over prior year primarily attributable to $66,994 in contributions in contrast to $1619 in 2017. Total Expenses in 2018 were $55,666 more than 2017. Net income for 2018 was $4160 compared to a net loss in 2017 of $8888. As a result our position on the Statement of Financial Position shows an increase by that amount for Total Liabilities and Equity of $26,363 in 2018 compared to $22,202 in 2017.

--Jeff reported that the Swiss Cottage finally has a new roof, the cost of which was partially shared by FMSP. In addition we paid to have a new roof put on the message board. Granite ground signs have been installed at the park’s corners. The Humphry Marshall Trust Fund has offered to donate the cost of the markers and their installation and up to $10,000 towards the cost of the fountain landscaping.

--FMSP is now officially a 501c3 organization. This status requires election of a Board of Directors that will include members in addition to the Officers. Nomination of officers and board members will take place at the March meeting. Jeff would like to develop a special announcement regarding the nomination and election of board members. Now that the process is complete it will no longer be necessary to route donations through the Chester County Community Fund.

--It’s been decided that wood chips will be placed around the base of the tree sculpture, and that the source will come from removal of a tree that’s been condemned near the playground. This tree is scheduled to be taken down sometime in February.

--Eric Miller reported on the Spring Park Clean-up scheduled for Saturday, April 27th. This year the event will not take place on Earth Day, as that falls on Easter weekend in 2019. Eric believes it is very important to market the event more aggressively and would like to send out a Save the Date as early as the middle of January, with a repeat each month. He would like a postcard mailed out and wants to emphasize not only the need for volunteers for the Park Clean-up but to remind members that FMSP relies on the efforts of volunteers. The Rotary Club has committed to help that day and Eric has been in contact with the Volunteer Association at WCU to seek additional assistance. That day’s work includes not only clean-up but extensive mulching.

--Jeff discussed the need for additional playground equipment for children younger than five years. Chantale Fieldhouse has worked with the designer of the new playground on a matching design for the younger children. It would cost about $30,000 plus $5,000 for grading. Jeff and Chantale would also like to install a new swing set at a cost of $7,000. Jeff will draw up a design for new pathways made of Flexipave (a porous pavement composed of recycled rubber on a stone base), fencing and plantings at the intersection of Marshall and North Matlack and hopes to have a complete plan for the playground
area by the spring. In future he would like to see all asphalt paths removed in the park and replaced with Flexipave. It’s hoped that Storm Water Fund money can be earmarked for this purpose as it will help with storm water runoff in the park.

--Jeff reported that the leaf mulching as contracted has been done twice and has been fairly successful. The purpose is to return nutrients into the soil. Mike Dunn of Bartlett Tree is now the borough consulting certified arborist and will be responsible for cabling, pruning and lightning protection, and is working on a 5-year tree management plan. He will advise FMSP as to actions we can take to preserve our park trees including air spading and placing charcoal and nutrients in bore holes around trees in addition to mulching.

--Lee Miller reported on the Event Committee’s preparations for the Progressive Dinner scheduled February 2nd. Six homes have been secured for the evening: two for appetizers, three for the main course and one for dessert. There is no limit as to the number of participants. An extensive discussion took place regarding opening the event to nonmembers. The traditional syncing of dues collection with the event and characterizing it as a benefit of membership was questioned. Jim Salvas made a motion to open both the Progressive Dinner and Fall Party events to nonmembers with tiered pricing for nonmembers and pricing to be determined by the Events Committee. The motion passed with one “no”. The event will be promoted on Facebook and perhaps a postcard, as well as through email blasts and on the website.

--Following a discussion regarding when to bill for dues if not coordinated with the Progressive Dinner, a motion was made by Veronica Balassone that dues, going forward, will be payable on July 1st annually beginning in 2019. Any payment made in a calendar year will be credited until July of the following year. Lee seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

--The Summer Concerts Committee will meet in late January. Michael Civita will again book the talent. Efforts are being made to install a more robust temporary banner pole system to ease the process of raising the concert banners. A bid from Elmark was too high. Angelo’s Ironworks will do the job for approximately $1000. Chantale moved that we contract him at that price, Jim seconded and the motion was approved unanimously. The committee currently includes Jeff Beitel, Jim Salvas, Chantale Fieldhouse and Michael Civita. Rick Ammons volunteered to join the Summer Concerts committee.

--At this time there are no members on the Membership Committee and with Jen Long’s resignation the Little Buddies program has been discontinued. Rick Ammons offered to join the Membership Committee. Outreach to new residents in the neighborhood will include free membership in FMSP for the first year. We still have FMSP tote bags available for new neighbors. Jeff would like to develop a much more complete welcome package.

--Jeff reported for the Fountain Committee. There are two marking stones left to install. One will include the history of the park which FMSP will finance; and the other honors Humphry Marshall. That stone will be financed by the Humphry Marshall Trust.

--The gazebo has been decorated for Christmas this year. Our cost was $200 for materials and $250 for installation. Storage containers need to be purchased to store the artificial garlands used to decorate the fountain area. Next year we would like to add lighting to the fountain area decorations.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.