The meeting was called to order by Jeff Beitel at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Jim Salvas, Anne Walters, Chantale Fieldhouse, Glen Sweet, Lane Randall, Eric Miller, Lee Miller and Veronica Balassone.

--Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written and will be entered into the record.

--Glen Sweet, Assistant Treasurer, gave the Treasurer’s Report in Linda Scott’s absence. On the Statement of Financial Position the checking account balance is $36,928 as compared to last year’s balance at this time of approximately $25,000. This includes the recent Humphry Marshall Fund donation to FMSP of $13,000. Currently $6,234 of the checking account funds is dedicated to fountain use and $3,074 will be reserved for the toddler playground project. The receivable balance of $740 is primarily prepaid membership dues. The Statement of Activities and Statement of Activities by Class for 2019 shows a net profit of $13,163 year to date as compared with $6,795 at this time last year. Glen pointed out that the “Park” class on the Profit and Loss by Class resulted in a negative number. Income was $3,000 while expenses totaled almost $5,400 resulting in a net loss in that category of approximately $2,400. However it was noted that reimbursement for some fountain expenses will occur at the end of the year. Linda Scott’s written report broke down the expense total of $2,853 into supplies for tree sculpture preservation, one round of mower leaf mulching, holiday decorations for the fountain area and expenses for closing the fountain. In addition she reported that it will take about four months to process our sales tax exemption application. Also that we still need an audit committee and a committee for the Annual Report to Donors. Required number of members of these two committees can be as small as one or two people, although two or three are preferable. It is hoped that outreach to the general membership via an email blast will bring in members for these committees outside of the board or currently involved monthly meeting attendees.

--Jeff reported on the toddler playground equipment and general playground landscaping project. It appears likely that Marshall Square Park will retain the $40,000 in the borough budget that had been allotted for other projects which no longer need funding. This will free up the money for the playground project. There was some discussion as to potential disparity in disbursement of borough funds for playground upgrades in other borough parks. Jeff encouraged FMSP member participation in the upcoming Borough Council work session to make our voices heard in support of our playground goals and funding.

--Jeff is discouraged by the continued delay of a MSP 5 year Tree Management Plan. Glen Sweet offered to contact Gary Biederman at Bartlett to see if he can be of help. Mike Dunn has left Bartlett but is going to continue his association with the borough. It is hoped that Scott Lavorotino can meet with him to develop a proposal for tree labeling and management. In addition Mike Dunn will oversee the Tree Commission’s goal of planting one thousand new trees in the borough in the next five years. A group of borough residents called Tree Tenders will hold an organizational meeting on November 22nd. Their aim is to nurture newly planted trees to insure their survival and healthy growth.
--Jeff has the sealant for preservation of the tree sculpture. Cockerham will make the application as soon as the weather is warm enough. In addition he has the borate rods which will stop rot and insect infestation.

--Rustic trim repairs have been completed on the gazebo. The floor patch in the gazebo should last 8 to 9 years. The floor will be powerwashed and sealed with a protective coating as well.

--The beaded board soffit has been installed on the Swiss Cottage and will be painted in the spring.

--Additional “No Smoking” signs have been installed in the park on the doggie bag posts.

--Commemorative bench installation is up-to-date. There are still old concrete and tubular steel benches in the park that hopefully one day will be replaced by newer cast iron commemorative benches.

--A discussion regarding a continuing vagrant problem in the park resulted in a decision to review the existence of any ordinances or laws regarding loitering or restrictions regarding sleeping in borough parks. FMSP will contact the mayor and the chief of police to get more information.

--Jim Salvas reviewed our participation in the Activities Guide currently and in the past. We had always had a half page membership piece in the past and now we only place a full page ad annually to publicize our summer concert schedule. A December 6th deadline for entry in the Winter/Spring issue is coming up and Jim would like the group’s input as to whether we want to promote membership or the Progressive Dinner on February 1st. Lee Miller made a motion that Jim place in ad in the Activities Guide publicizing the 2020 Progressive Dinner. Jim seconded. The motion passed with all but one yes vote.

--Lee reported on behalf of the Events Committee. There has been quite a bit of difficulty finding enough houses for the Progressive Dinner. The committee continues to work on this. Glen suggested sending a special letter to the many new members to gauge their willingness to host.

--Jim reviewed the proposed images for mugs that will be distributed with an FMSP welcome package to new residents in our area. Also they will be available for sale on our website. The cost to place an order is $6.00 per piece for 72 mugs plus set up and shipping for a total cost of about $7.00 per piece. The image garnering the most votes was of the fountain. Chantale made a motion to appropriate $500 for an initial order of 72 mugs with the fountain image, Glen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

--Anne Walters reported on the Jack Loew Fountain Committee. Gary and Tammy Milos of Crystal Vision Pools have closed the fountain for the winter. There may be a crack in one of the water blocks. Flowers and More will do two more cleanups, one before December 1st and the second just before Christmas. In addition they will install our new lit garlands and bows on the fence and our older ones on the gazebo. This installation will be done the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

--December 6th is West Chester’s Old Fashioned Christmas and help will be required again to set up the Luminaries. Private residents around the park will pay $1.50 per bag this year and $3.00 if they wish to have them set up as well. Any one interested in helping the Boy Scouts should be at the park at 3 p.m. that day.

--Eric Miller reported on the Spring Clean-up. He contacted the Rotary Club regarding their assistance again this year but was told they were probably not interested in participating. Chantale will try to get
older Girl Scouts to help. Glen will try to discuss with the Rotary Club. Jeff suggested approaching West Chester University.

--Andrews Landscaping has completed the first mulch cutting and the second is scheduled. Public Works will blow the debris out of the swales.

--The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Balassone, Secretary