

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 5, 2023**

INTRODUCTIONS: Karen Grossman, Lally Stowell, Megan Chrisman. Jenny Babon joined the call after introductions.

January 29 MINUTES ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS

The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank Account Balance as of 12/31/2022: \$34,126.11			
Bank Account Balance as of 02/28/2023: \$34,101.61; no outstanding transactions			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG ¹ (Network For Good)	\$897.50	Portable toilet rental fee ⁴	\$(770.00)
Membership dues ²	\$430.00	Reimbursements for craft supplies and tools & supplies ⁵	\$(632.46)
Donations ³	\$520.00	Amount to be credited back ⁶	\$(469.54)
Total Income	\$1,847.50	Total Expenses	\$(1,872.00)

Also, 2 checks totaling \$75 were received and will be included in March's bank statement.

¹Out of this amount, \$777.50 was included and reported in FY2022.

²Out of this membership due amount, \$400.00 was included and reported in FY2022.

³Out of this donation amount, \$435.00 was included and reported in FY2022.

⁴The portable toilet rental fee of \$777.50 was included and reported in FY2022.

⁵The reimbursements for crafts & supplies and gardening tools & supplies were included and reported in FY2022.

⁶ Out of this amount, \$435.17 will be credited back in the account next month.

Karen presented the treasurer's report on behalf of Susan Saw. We gained \$1847.50 and spent around the same amount, also, so our finances remain at roughly the same level.

Regarding the certificate of deposit, Susan sent Karen a comparison of what she investigated. CD rates are closer to T-Bill rates (~5%) than what we had heard from Citizens Bank on Saturday. We would aim to make an investment around March 25. Lally moved to allow Karen and Susan to decide where to invest the money, and how much to invest (either \$10k or \$20k).

Bank of America CD Rate* (Term)	Metro Credit Union CD Rate* (Term)	Treasury Direct T-Bill Rate* (Term)
3.25% (7 month)	4.25% (6 or 9 month)	2.56%^ (26 week)
3.80% (13 month)	4.55% (13 month)	5.10%^ (52 week)

*These (final) rates could vary at the time of investments.

^These rates are the recent investment rates from the 20 most recent auctions on [Treasury Direct](#).

Susan has started the PC filing process and will get more info from Karen for the May 15 filing deadline for 2022 and 2021. She is still waiting for some info from Sarah Zadova, the former Treasurer.

BEAUTIFICATION

Adrienne Landry was not able to attend, but she sent Karen an update via email before the meeting. She asks whether we should continue to use Parterre as there have been communication issues, and where the \$5k should come from, allocating \$1600 for the upper beds including plant revegetation. Karen replied that those questions should go to David Morgan and the Conservation Commission (ConComm), who set aside the funds for Parterre. Lally noted that there should be line-item designations for specific tasks within the lump sum. Lally also suggested that upkeep of the park be done by David Morgan in consultation with Adrienne.

Anne Ellinger continues to do a great job of posting the newsletters and now has the Winter/Spring 2023 newsletters posted.

On the park renovation front, the handicap ramp has been completed with the pervious surface, like the walkway through the park. The timing of finishing the sealing of the path through the park is still up in the air. This needs to be done so that the rubber particles do not get washed into the pond and so that the path can be vacuumed, which has not been done in over three years. Karen posted in the newsletter that the town should chip in some money for this; otherwise, the path will become impervious. The original funding for that surface was separate from the edge protection and control project. The contractor has not finished the job the right way and the town would not be aware of this issue without FSPP drawing attention to it. We want to find out how much the cost is and may need to figure out alternate funding.

We are waiting for 5 consecutive days of over 50-degree weather to finish the rubber pouring. There is no signage regarding the rain garden for children and adults, which is concerning. Jenny saw children and parents in the playground on the equipment while it was still closed. Karen confirmed that per Joe Connelly, director of Arlington Recreation, the playground is not open and is dangerous. This information is covered in the upcoming newsletter and Jenny will also post about it on the FSPP Facebook page so that it can be propagated to the FSPP website via the social media widget.

Lally reported that the Workdays for 2023 will be May 20, June 10, July 22, August 19, September 30, and October 14. Fun Day will be on September 9. The rain days for each Workday and Fun Day are the day after the scheduled date.

WEBSITE

Daniel Jalkut continues to add updates about news and donations to the FSPP website, as well as Mailchimp notices. Julie McBride has been posting the minutes and the Workday notices. Another related objective for 2023 is to add signs to the planting beds in the park to explain why walking in them is off-limits, with a QR code that sends people to the website for more background. Julie could also feature this update in the News box on the home page.

OUTREACH

Jenny will do publicity for the Workdays with the high schools and local list serves. We will publish articles for Fun Day and work on getting a QR code for the Workdays. Lauren Bonilla can give the information for the FSPP general email address to whoever is taking over for her. We will create posters with all the Workday dates and have email contact lists for guidance departments for sharing this information. Karen has not yet heard from Phinney Morrison and Lauren what they have worked out for outreach in the park and communication with volunteers on the Workdays. Karen asked Lally if we want to move back to paper waivers. It may be easier to stick with online waivers if we can have someone handling the waivers before the event. Karen will check with Phinney about recruiting someone to do this. Jenny spoke with a Save Arlington Wildlife representative and asked if we could distribute some postcard collateral during the Workdays. Karen will share a phone number for the BU Days of Service reps with Lally to prepare for their April 15 Workday. Jenny will try to have the materials ready by then.

Fun Day is in early September and preparations will begin in May. Karen spoke with a nature book distributor who provides children's prizes for Fun Day and was also at the Kari Percival art reception. Kari's first book, which is about worms, could be available for sale at the park; we would receive 30% of the price of each \$20 book. Lally asked if there is a policy about this and Karen replied that if it's for the benefit of the FSPP and not for the author, this should be fine. On a related note, Oakes Plimpton, brother of George Plimpton the philanthropist, has self-published the ice harvesting booklet that we have previously made available and is going to reissue more copies for us.

Kari's reception "There's No Place Like Home" had many attendees, including organizations for whom she has created posters. There were also many people present to discuss the rodenticide issue. Every bit of publicity helps.

Karen is running low on 2022 brochures that are distributed from library kiosks so she will make more copies. We also do outreach through bulk mailing, reaching 133 members last year, along with end-of-year solicitations. Marshall McCloskey is still looking for someone to replace him as mailing coordinator, so Karen has posted an opening on VolunteerMatch and is vetting candidates. It would be nice to have a replacement for the next mailing exercise in the spring.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Winter/Spring 2023 newsletter is now in mailboxes. We have also placed 50 copies in the Arlington Fox and Robbins libraries, along with places in the park. Nearly all of the previous issues have been taken from those locations, so we seem to have good distribution. The summer newsletter deadline will be announced shortly. Karen is hoping that Phinney might be able to send out the next newsletter.

Karen is still looking for a General Vice President trainee.

Jenny mentioned that to use PayPal/Venmo, FSPP would have to sign up as an official organization and pay fees. She shared a link explaining the pros/cons of each for nonprofits: <https://givewp.com/venmo-vs-paypal-for-nonprofits/> Having payments available on something like PayPal or Venmo could increase T-shirt sales, donations, and memberships. It would be great to announce upcoming T-shirt sales at Workdays. Susan would need to be the one to set this up.

Karen encourages sending letters to the editor for the FSPP newsletter. Maybe we can feature the memorial for Dr. Yood in an upcoming issue.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING DATE: April 30, Zoom TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Chrisman
Recording Secretary