

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15, 2022**

INTRODUCTIONS:

Karen Grossman, Marshall McCloskey, Lally Stowell, Sarah Zadova, Megan Chrisman, Adrienne Landry, Phinney Morrison

MARCH 20 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS:

The meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sarah Zadova

The past few months have been quiet, but we anticipate more activity after the solicitation letters go out (the envelope stuffing for the solicitation is this week). The main expenses were T-shirt printing and newsletter printing. Network For Good names/contributions may not be available yet, but by the end of the year Karen can send a copy of all the NFG names for Sarah to be able to send end-of-year donation acknowledgements.

Bank Account Balance as of 03/19/22: \$32,794.57; \$32,030.37 after outstanding reimbursements			
Bank Account Balance as of 05/15/22: \$31,597.56; \$31,295.08 after outstanding transactions			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG (Network For Good)	\$20.00	T shirt printing (75 units)	\$599.00
Memberships & Donations	\$185.00	Newsletter printing	\$275.08
		Solicitation letter printing	\$63.21
		Miscellaneous / other	\$2.99
TOTAL REVENUE	\$205.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$940.28

BEAUTIFICATION:

Anne Ellinger continues to do a good job maintaining the FSPP and community sides of the three bulletin boards: the locked bulletin board, the one at the playground, and the one at Linwood St. and the end of the bike path.

On the park maintenance front, Parterre, the contractor who was taking care of the Edge Protection and Erosion control plantings and getting rid of invasive growth in those areas, is in negotiations with FSPP and the Conservation Committee (ConComm). We hope they will work with us on re-planting to replace invasives with natives and prevent them from coming back, so that the shoreline can be reinforced with root systems that hold the soil.

Lally will reschedule the September Workday from 9/17 to 9/10 because Town Day will now be happening on 9/17. Karen has contacted Jenny Babon and Julie McBride to communicate the change on social and web. We're low on volunteers for the 5/21 Workday; the bulk of whom will work with Adrienne and her team on planting projects. If there are enough volunteers left over, Lally will take a few to work on Linwood Beach to continue to separate the tiny plastic pieces on the shoreline from the wet leaves, so that the leaves can be decomposed in the area behind the shed. The other major project (not for May, but possibly June) will be weeding the grass between the cobblestones, which needs to be done at least twice a year, along with digging narrow ditches along the fenceline between the grass and the planting beds to keep grass from growing up behind them. Wednesday before every Workday, Lally, Adrienne and Sharon Greene walk through to confirm the work to be done.

Adrienne wants to recruit leaders during the Workdays to take a group of volunteers to work in the beds. Seth and Julie came by yesterday to learn more about good plants; Julie will supervise the cleanup around the day lilies and the addition of mulch. The inaugural run of the weed wrench resulted in two or three stem breakoffs, before Seth was able to pull weeds up gradually by inching up first the stem, then the roots, of about five mulberry seedlings/saplings in about 30 minutes. It used to take one hour to dig one out, so this is a great improvement. The temporary fencing at the end of the beds that Joe Connelly got us will work, but the installation ended right before the coir fascine so people are using this gap to get into the beds. Joe has ordered more fencing and we may try to get the volunteers to put this up.

Adrienne would like to get two new winterberry plants. These provide food for birds and other animals in the fall, and may also bloom in the spring, which would be good for bees and butterflies. Cheryl gave Adrienne a winterberry red sprite male for pollination. She would also like a couple button bush to put behind the coir fascine, which will contribute to the root system (it can grow in water), as well as flowering native perennials for ground cover, which won't be too high while still providing a large root system. All these plants are from the ConComm list of suggested plants. Karen suggested that Parterre could help us with the plantings. Adrienne spoke to David Morgan, liaison/Agent for the ConComm, and thinks that Joe may be able to pay for these. Sarah will process the reimbursement for the weed wrench from FSPP funds. There are two large gaps that need plants; one is to the left of the stands of lilacs against the bike path embankment, and the other is about halfway down the embankment. These spaces require very large plants rather than shrubs. Overall, a ratio of 70/30 shrubs and flower/perennials would probably be ideal; Adrienne and Lally will discuss further before presenting this later. Adrienne is taking many webinars and considering Monrovia for plant sourcing (Monrovia is the supplier to both McCue and Mahoney's Garden Centers). Karen knows the executive director of Garden in The Woods; Adrienne has the tax-exempt information that Karen provided. Karen, Lally, and Adrienne will chat more about coordinating with Parterre; Karen is still waiting for their proposal and has reached out to David Morgan.

The Spy Pond Park playground renovation bid has ended but a bid has not been selected yet; Joe thinks it will be soon. The length of the playground closure will be better known after that. The closure may affect access for the Workdays, as we expect it to happen this spring or early summer.

WEBSITE:

Julie McBride is posting the minutes, changing links, updating Workday info, and posting meeting notices on the website. Karen will work with Julie to create a new photo gallery for 2021 and reach out to Sally Hempstead for help selecting the photos.

OUTREACH:

Lauren Bonilla has received interest emails, but she has not received waivers from all volunteers; we generally require them by the Friday before the Workday. We may allow signups with on-site paper waivers if people show up who have not sent in a waiver yet. Adrienne asked if the high school community service coordinators were in the loop; Karen responded that Jenny was tasked with posting this at the local Arlington and Belmont high schools. Lauren understands that we don't need or want more than 25 volunteers.

Daniel Jalkut continues to do a good job of keeping email generation and acknowledgement data up to date in the database. Sarah can now get into the database for addresses. The envelope stuffing for the solicitation is this week. Karen will notify Marshall when the envelopes are stuffed and ready to send out (the letter is dated May 23). Marshall is ready to print the labels. Jenny is taking good pictures in the park and getting captions.

FSPP recently applied for a poster to be designed by Arlington's spring artist-in-residence, Kari Percival, and the application was approved. The poster will focus on FSPP's maintenance of the park to keep it looking beautiful. Individual Workdays won't be listed, but Jenny will include them on separate decorated posters that Lally will post.

We still have an open assistant mailing coordinator position to help Marshall. We are also looking for an assistant to sit with Lauren on Workdays and help volunteers sign in, and communicate to them about donating/membership, t-shirt sales, etc. Lauren will not be available for the July Workday, but Karen may be able to step in. Lally or Adrienne may be able to suggest someone. These positions are posted on VolunteerMatch.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The deadline for the summer newsletter is June 15; Lauren will send out a notice in the next week or two soliciting our input for articles, photographs, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS & NEXT MEETING DATE: July 17, 2022, 7 PM location TBD

Respectfully submitted,
Megan Chrisman
Recording Secretary