

BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING August 7, 2017

Albany Public Library--Bach Branch

Meeting Attendees: Felton McLaughlin, Marsha Penrose, Gabi Sarhos, Anne Savage, Grace Bennett, Elisabeth Draper, Morgan Talbot, Jason Cortes, and attorney Kathleen Baynes

The minutes of the July 10 Board meeting were accepted.

The Treasurer's report was presented. Figures dedicated to projects and those not allotted to other things were quoted. Funds available were seen to exceed owed expenses, and the revised budget showed an excess. The figures for a new guard rail fence and crosswalk correction are still unknown, but there is a verbal commitment from Rachel McEneny that the City will pay for these improvements in the new playground area. The Treasurer's report was then accepted.

Kathleen Baynes, neighbor and attorney, spoke on matters involving the memorandum of understanding between the City of Albany and the BPC regarding the new playground. Copies of the memorandum were distributed, with markups by the City differentiated from Kathleen's by color coding. Her major concern is over liability during actual community installation. She strongly recommends buying a general liability policy for those occasion(s), even if covered by Kompan's policy. MOU now only requires that Kompan have a policy, and it was noted that rejection by the City is likely. Kompan's policy would only cover what they do wrong. The City is self-insured and covers any liability after installation.

There was a suggestion that all volunteers should sign waivers, and Kathleen said she would put a form together. Such waivers at least serve as a deterrent to frivolous lawsuits. Kathleen then distributed her contact information to the Board members, along with a handout on individual liability for members of Not-for-Profit-Corporations. The likelihood of this becoming a problem was downplayed.

Copies of the sales proposal were then considered. There were five changes, all but one being a reduction, which could be used to pay for insurance. Fifty percent of the total is due to process the order, and fifty percent should be paid when construction is complete, rather than on delivery of equipment to the site. Anne noted that there should be no boring of holes until the equipment is on site because redrilling would be necessary if measurements are off, even slightly.

She also stressed the need for lining up a construction manager very soon, and some possibilities were mentioned. Volunteers can be recruited at the upcoming ice cream social. The necessity of obtaining a permit was reiterated, and Elisabeth said she would submit the application.

There have been 49 small and 29 large bricks sold. Morgan suggested posting signs around the pond to elicit more sales, and Anne brought up the fact that such signs cannot say that bricks will pay for the playground. The possibility of using excess money for benches was mentioned again.

Gabi shared a computer presentation of possible ways to mount donor plaques. These included boulders, panels on wooden posts, and curved posts with panels. The large donors to be listed would have to approve of the final choice.

A vote passed which authorized the signing of the MOU, if the City accepts it, and the payment of the deposit, as well as authorizing Felton to spend up to \$3,000 on insurance. Anne proceeded to move the necessary funds from savings to checking.

Jason Cortes distributed templates for improving the BPC website. The new site is structured and now the navigational and categorization decisions will have to be made. Gabi has worked on content and will distribute her ideas for comments and feedback. The website committee consists of Gabi, Anne, Morgan and Jason.

The ice cream social will take place on Sunday, Sept. 10 from 1 to 3. Ice cream will be provided by Stewart's with Marsha, Grace and Nancy volunteering to take shifts scooping. Grace mentioned that she would contact Marjorie Geiger as a possible scooper as well. Marsha volunteered to make and sell hot dogs, and she will contact Mark Bechard about the equipment used last year. Acoustic music possibilities were discussed. Then a vote was passed authorizing up to \$200 for Elisabeth to order a table drape.

Grace reported that knotweed still presents a problem.

There were no BLNA or Jewish Federation updates to report--still awaiting AWD scope of work.

Membership count is at 181.

Elisabeth said she would pass around a traffic department e-mail. There was discussion of the request for a letter of support concerning a Washington-Western Rapid Transit Bus. It was felt by some Board members that such support is beyond the scope of the BPC mission.

Morgan Talbot was nominated and welcomed as a new member of the BPC Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m. The next BPC Board meeting will be September 11 as the first Monday is part of a holiday weekend.