

BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING October 2, 2017

Albany Public Library Bach Branch

Meeting Attendees: Felton McLaughlin, Anne Savage, Marsha Penrose, Grace Bennett, Nancy Costello, Gabi Sarhos and Elisabeth Draper

Absentee: Morgan Talbot

The minutes of the September 17 board meeting were accepted.

The treasurer's report began with highlighting the Jewish Fund Donation #2 which was not earmarked. Possibilities involving \$10,000 for the park and \$5,000 for the playground were discussed based on specific needs. More coir logs could be done, but dredging would not be covered by funds available. The disturbance involved in a path widening, which was included on the Water Department concept plan, would require an Army Corps permit.

Now that the City will take responsibility for installation by Kompan, and we're responsible for the spreading of wood chips only, funds for insurance are not an issue. Benches remain a popular consideration, but Elisabeth suggested waiting to see how everything else plays out. Dan's input on the benches needs to be considered, but the City was said to be on max at present.

Anne brought up the fact that there has been no big fundraiser event for two years, and some thoughts were exchanged about future occasions. Then the Treasurer's report was accepted.

The updated work schedule was discussed, as well as the separate new invoices which had to be signed. A revised MOU is now necessary and one is currently pending, although the timeliness was questioned. Construction will be in keeping with our timeline, with City removal starting on the 16th for three days, and one day for bobcats. Work will be done straight through, with no weekends off.

A completion day is necessary in order to round up a work crew for the wood chips, although this is difficult to determine definitely at this point. Ann said that 10 people can

be ready to shovel at short notice without a problem. The public call for volunteers on the website must now be changed, and an e-mail should go to the membership. An attachment to the meeting agenda from Amy Walsh described the Water Department's work on the knotweed problem.

The use of boulders for permanent playground signage was discussed, and the problem of graffiti was again a concern. There are boulder monuments in Washington Park where there's no graffiti, so it was thought that the signage office must be cleaning them. A bronze plaque riveted into a boulder would have a natural look.

Placement of the permanent sign is important, and it was agreed that it should be within the boundaries of the playground. The area near the tree with a large trunk was discussed, and the fact that tree roots might tip the boulder was mentioned. Signage should relate to the entrances, which can be determined by us, but it was noted that ramps must come off the path. Agreement was reached that permanent location should be decided after playground installation is completed.

The NO MOW ZONE signs were described in a positive manner, so the temporary signs could be similar. Anne wondered whether donors would think a metal temporary sign is permanent. Perhaps a banner would be a better idea.

It was suggested that people could bring in new ideas for signs and placement at the next meeting. We should come up with a master plan for signage and then get a reading from the City. Elisabeth said that there are no signage "rules" from the City. Felton will reach out to major donors about the changes in plans, and proofs will be provided for them to determine their listing preferences.

St. Sophia's and Holy Names will remove some of the equipment, probably on Sunday the 15th. We have no say in this matter as the equipment belongs to the City.

Gabi is at work on the website, and she brought up the fact that we must decide what stories we want to tell. Jason has been consulted, screenshots are being developed, and color configurations are being considered. The logo is NOT being changed, but it may be possible to fill in the eyes. The safe migration of membership data is considered imperative. A projector was requested for website presentation at the next board meeting.

There is a resident of Stonehenge who expressed some interest at the ice cream social, and Gabi will talk to her about joining the board. Felton will check to see if the board is at capacity, but it is possible to vote an increase in the number of board members.

Marsha reported that there is no new information about the BLNA.

There was discussion about the expense of a table drape purchase, and some new ideas about using plain tablecloths with iron-on transfers or tabletop signs were offered.

C-SLAP is still slated for next spring, but there are no guarantees due to missed years. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00. November's meeting will be on the 6th.