

**BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING**  
**November 6, 2017**

**Albany Public Library - Bach Branch**

**Meeting Attendees: Felton McLaughlin, Anne Savage, Grace Bennett, Elisabeth Draper, Morgan Talbot, Nancy Costello**  
**Guests Ruth Pelham, Jason Cortes and Celia Evers**

**Absentees: Gabi Sarhos, Marsha Penrose, Marjorie Geiger**

**The minutes of the October 2 board meeting were accepted. Anne requested copies of previous board meetings.**

**The Treasurer's report showed membership increased by three, from 177 to 180. The report showed a total of \$24,824.64 available for allocation, after earmarked and encumbered funds are considered. It was stressed that allocation of funds will honor all intentions of donors. Brick sales have reached 93 and are expected to continue to climb, especially through the holidays, with the final order occurring after the general meeting.**

**Budget detail section of the report showed an excess of approximately \$8,000. Anne reiterated the fact that there has not been a major fundraiser event for at least two years, and that these occasions had always been very successful. The Treasurer's report was then approved.**

**Details for the playground's ribbon-cutting ceremony were discussed. The mayor will speak and Felton will introduce board and playground committee members, as well as acknowledging many others who contributed to the success of the project. He may also promote brick sales in his remarks. If approved by the mayor, Music Mobile's Ruth Pelham will organize a sing-along of one song, perhaps "Love is All Around" as was suggested.**

**There may be a way to involve children in holding the ribbon for cutting, and this should be done within the playground itself. Amplification is needed, and running power by extension cords will be a backup for any sound system provided by the City. The program should be no longer than a half hour.**

**A temporary sign should be finished for the ceremony--one pole, one sign probably backing up to the tree. Ideas for signage promoting brick sales were suggested and various materials were discussed, along with possible lamination. About 5 would be needed, with some being attached to the age-appropriate signs. Anne will work with Gabbi on these "Support the Park" (not playground specific) brick sale signs.**

**Agreement was reached that discussion of permanent signage should be held off until Gabi can participate. It was reported that there have been no problems with boulder graffiti in Washington Park.**

Acquisition of new benches with concrete footings was brought up, and Morgan reported that Bob Ellis has provided the name of the company used before. Felton requested that more bench ideas be brought to the next meeting so the board can vote. The city must approve, and Elisabeth said they would provide installation.

The 10K park donation of the Wildflower Foundation, known to the board as the Jewish Federation, could be used for various needed projects. Joe Coffey of the Water Department noted that other parts of the park could be treated in a similar way to the work which has been done. Coir logs act as natural filtration and could be used for the area near the parking lot, but perhaps their effectiveness over the course of a year needs to be evaluated. There is a need for a more sustainable surface. And widening of the path at the curve would be desirable if accomplished without negative impact. Felton stated that the path is in the master plan, as is the shoreline.

Ruth Pelham described the peace poles she suggested for the playground and pond areas. She provided pictures featuring the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in several different languages. The idea was popular with board members, and there was a suggestion that languages prevalent in our area should be ascertained, perhaps through the school system.

Jason Cortes spoke about the new website, stating that board members will have the ability to leave notes on a mockup to be sent around after consulting Gabi. Everything will be migrated correctly and preserved, with progress said to be moving fairly quickly now. He also mentioned that he knows of a photographer who will volunteer to take pictures occasionally for the site. The hope was expressed that she might attend the Friday ceremony.

It was thought that something may be coming up soon for the BLNA, but specifics are not known.

Elisabeth quoted a price of \$280 for a six-foot table drape, which is above the amount allotted for this item. The possibility of using a table sign was discussed again, as well as the suggestion from Anne about a pop-up, with metal legs and a roof, that would accommodate a banner.

Some dissatisfactions with the playground were voiced. The age-appropriate signs are not where they should be and they could be lifted right out of the ground rather than being cemented--but DGS took care of that. Also, there was a lack of sufficient border, as well as some concern about the instability of an infant swing. It was agreed that Bob and Dan should be at the walkthrough, and Ann said that we should hold the money for Kompan until everything is right.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17.