



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

October 24, 2022

Virtual Meeting 7:00

Meeting Minutes prepared by Nancy Costello.

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Marsha Penrose, Jenny O'Neil, Grace Bennett, Felton McLaughlin, Ceiligh McLaughlin, Ted Kolankowsk, with guests Justin Wallace (CSO Officer), Janet Dwyer Stutzman, Laura Andrea Leguia

Absentees: Anne Savage, Kate Carleo, Jeanette Carioto, Mark Schlessman

Officer Wallace spoke first.

- There have been recent "party pit" complaints about an uphill stretch near Davis.
- The area is littered with debris and heavy indoor furniture.
- Campfires have been built and there's graffiti on some of the trees.
- Police have been working on the problem for two weeks.
- Parents of juveniles found using the area were called, and DGS cleaned up.
- Police will continue to monitor the site, especially for weekend activity.
- Can be viewed as a teachable moment, with further action taken if needed.
- Car break-ins continue to be a neighborhood problem, as in many other areas.

Officer Wallace and his partner Dan Webster welcome emails with concerns from the public.

Laura Andrea Leguia, who joined the BPC at the Ice Cream Social, introduced herself as an ecological gardener. Gabi and Ted would like to meet with her offline to talk about pond projects.

1. Minutes 8/22

Felton expressed concern about the mention of snow shoveling in the stewardship initiative worked on by Ruth Pelham and Laura Shaddak, which was reported in August's Board meeting minutes. Gabi noted the concern for future consideration.

VOTE: The August 2022 Board meeting minutes were accepted.

2. Treasurer's report

- The bank total of \$57,400, with \$3,170 promised for various projects, was noted.
- There are no outstanding payables or loans.
- Membership is at 255—Jenny will meet with Grace to clarify and agree on figures.
- Need to distinguish \$100 two single memberships from one single plus donation.
- The Ice Cream Social yielded \$70 to the good.

VOTE: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

3. Grants Follow

CFA:

- Waiting for the results of the application submitted at the end of August.
- Involved are native plantings, green infrastructure, and help for City project.
- If awarded and fully executed by Comptroller, contractor can be hired.
- Problems with the path will be addressed as part of green infrastructure.
- Can reach out to DGS to pinpoint specific problem areas.
- Laura can look at the submitted papers.

County grant:

- Review by Ted, Grace Felton, and Marsha--seems like a good deal.
- They need information on the ask of \$2,500 for shoreline stabilization plantings.

4. Park Updates

Vegetation pruning and stewardship:

- Nothing to report from Ruth on the possible stewardship program.
- Need for a landscape plan beyond the area for the grant was emphasized.
- Should someone be hired to accomplish this? City lacks resources.
- A DGS walk-through would help to determine how, when, and who does what.
- Original scope of keeping vegetation off the path has been expanded.
- Approval by DGS and organization by BPC would be necessary.
- The scope of services for park management could be done by a consulting firm.
- Laura Shaddak started an initiative and presented it at the August board meeting.
- There is a list of possible volunteers and a map of areas for improvement.
- For cleanups, membership is notified and signs are posted around the pond.
- Laura Leguia would like to be involved in organizing volunteers.

Next clean-up:

- Should be scheduled for November; Felton has tulips to be planted.
- Nov. 6 looks good for the date with the 13th as a rain date.
- Clean-up will involve tulip planting, Mark's ideas for invasives, and litter.
- Janet said that Kim Judy can get the word out to BLA members.
- Gabi will make the flyer, get info on the website, and contact Kim Judy.
- Filling in the party pit with dirt as part of the clean-up was considered.
- Sergio was in charge of the City's clean-up so he could be consulted.
- Ferns or flowers would transform the area but might encourage more use.
- A new steward is needed for the little garden at the bottom of Lenox.
- Two or three volunteers should help Janet with this area during clean-up

Playground maintenance:

- Nancy will check to see if the big slide's temporary barrier has been fixed.

CSLAP:

- Results should be received by March or April.
- DEC wants to cut back the number of tests from 8 to 4 and may charge more.
- The summer after next is in question.
- Laura would like to be trained in May for work on the shore part of testing.

DGS coordination:

- Need to follow through about the Port-a-Potty with Sergio.
- Removed during the summer and there is no good solution.

- Company can't put it where it used to be because the truck needs access.
- Deb Zamer arranged a neighborhood discussion with the City Forester.
- James LeVine will discuss the City's tree removals.
- Discussion will not be on Zoom but Deb can let us know what's said.
- Mark said he'll replace the pond tree tags that have disappeared.

5. Membership

- Was discussed during the treasurer's report.

6. Social media update:

- Ceiligh sent tree tag posts to Mark and will finish those that aren't done.

7. Website update:

- Anne says that the website is slowly falling apart and will report next time.
- Gabi will send some suggestions to Nancy for the required website Privacy Policy.

Next meeting 11/28

Meeting adjourned @ 8:29