



BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

July 24, 2023

ZOOM Meeting 7:00

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Anne Savage, Felton McLaughlin, Mark Schlessman, Ted Kolankowski, Laura Andrea Leguia, Linda Wagner, Therese Joyce, Marsha Penrose, Jeanette Carioto, Al Lawrence, and Neighborhood Specialist Alex Word.

Absentees: Jenny O'Neil, Grace Bennett, Kate Carleo, Sara Hart, Ceiligh McLaughlin

1. May Board Meeting Minutes:

VOTE: The May 22 Board meeting minutes were accepted after one correction.

2. Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of Jenny O'Neil, the Treasurer's report was presented by Gabi.

- Decision was made to have \$835 remain specified for the playground.
- **Gabi will let Jenny know to pay half of \$1325 to website manager now.**

VOTE: The Treasurer's report was accepted.

3. Grants Follow-Up:

- Pond is not seen as eligible for PRISM grants, which focus on tributaries.
- Community Foundation would be funding for neighborhood education programs.
- Review Foundation grant support should significantly impact the quality of life.
- Volunteers, tree tags, and special events are BPC's existing educational initiatives.
- Quality of water and impact of neighbors are education aspects to expand.
- **A generic email can be set up for Linda to work on the application.**
- **An outline is needed of things to be included in the application.**
- **Costs for printing and mailing need to be explored, match probably not available.**
- Money could be used to educate using the signs of EJ's scout project.
- **EJ should be asked about what materials he is going to need.**
- Laura introduced Homegrown National Park brochure that BPC could utilize.
- **The brochure could be tied into the fall mailing as a one-page recyclable insert.**
- **Community Foundation could advise about response envelopes in the mailing.**
- Bender Foundation is flexible and is a possibility for next year as a backup plan.

4. Park Updates & Events:

Little Free Library

- Therese Joyce will be in charge of maintaining the Little Free Library.
- Frank at DGS will install the composite wood posts.
- **An email of BPC endorsement and suggestions for location is needed.**
- Probably suggest across from playground and somewhat close to the parking lot.
- Protected side of the fence could include bike rack, garbage can, and library.
- There must be no conflict with EJ Verhoff's scout project or eventual porta-potty.

Trail/Path Maintenance

- Pinnacle Trail Design's not interested in taking on path's "challenging limitations."
- **Gabi will follow up with Sara Hart and report back about ADK Trail Construction.**
- **Mark suggested exploring permeable/nonpermeable paving, as well as a boardwalk.**
- BPC can fund conceptual and planning design and ask City as owners to participate.
- **Alex Word and Deb Zamer should explore with their City contacts before BPC acts**
- The whole park may have been surveyed previously, but much will have changed.
- A permanent solution must be found for the trail which is unsafe and noncompliant.
- The Bender Foundation could be approached for additional funding if necessary.

Playground

- Al Lawrence reported that repair for the large slide won't happen until fall.
- He has asked for additional mulch to be applied but that has not been done.
- Signs and stakes for the reading games have been spotted in the pond.
- This is a library project and **BPC should ask that they be more sturdy in the future.**

CSLAP

- Felton reported that three of eight samples have been taken so far.
- New utility vests are being worn with "I'm a Volunteer, Ask About It on the back."
- Signs haven't been ordered but a new steward may have been gained from the vests.

EJ Verhoff Scout Project

- Project has been approved by the City, waiting for design details.
- In a text to Gabi, EJ projected early September for his project.

Park Stewards

- Laura reported difficulty with in-season volunteer hours.
- The spreadsheet is up and some work is documented by stewards.

Port-a-Potty

- Gabi privately answered a complaint about the lack of facilities this summer.
- The City's response to complaints has falsely indicated that this was BPC's choice.
- Service contractor seems to have changed and previous location called inaccessible.
- Gabi exchanged emails with Jeffrey Kelley/Jess Morgan but they dropped off.
- **Alex can arrange meeting with DGS to exchange location ideas and suggest screening.**

5. Memberships:

- There was another report of a check not cashed in July 20 email from Karina Ricker.
- **Jenny will need to investigate this.**

6. Volunteers (see Park Stewards above)

7. Social Media (not discussed)

8. Website Update:

- Gabi has approved content and now tech instructions for viewing are needed.
- Cliff suggests Google Workspace and consolidation, which needs Google's OK.

Next Board Meeting August 21, 2023