



## BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY BOARD MEETING

March 25, 2024

In Person, Pine Hills Library

Meeting Attendees: Gabi Sarhos, Nancy Costello, Grace Bennett, Anne Savage, Mark Schlessman, Jenny O'Neill, Felton McLaughlin, Linda Wagner, and Jeanette Carioto.

Absentees: Kate Carleo, Marsha Penrose, Laura Andrea Leguia (Mark had her vote)

### 1. Community Input

The meeting began with questions from neighbors Murni Neenos and Charlotte Bishop relating problems with the pond's trail. Board members explained DOT's responsibility for the park and the resulting limitations to BPC's efforts. The guests were invited to attend the next general Board meeting.

Brief discussion of the previous day's Annual Meeting, which was viewed as successful with a group of 35 people. The setup was good, and the large screen was easily viewed by all. It was noted that the Board can change the typical scheduling of Sunday for this event, but a change to Saturday would not be desirable.

### 2. Meeting Minutes

**VOTE:** The February 26 Board meeting minutes were accepted.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

Jenny presented a detailed report of current financial status, with the Balance Sheet showing total bank assets of \$59,425.19.

- **VOTE:** Allocations were approved: \$10 restricted funding for native plants,
- \$1,000 for the landscape, \$2,270 for the 2024 native-planting plan.
- **VOTE:** \$350 approved to Tadpole Collective from website allocation.
- **VOTE:** Funds for Paypal are to be moved at the Treasurer's discretion.
- **VOTE:** Checks from Broadview are to be ordered at the Treasurer's discretion.
- **VOTE:** The Treasurer's report was approved.

### 4. Board Business

#### a. Board Elections:

**VOTE:** Grace Bennett as President, Gabi Sarhos as Vice President, Nancy Costello as Secretary, and Jeanette Carioto as Treasurer were elected as BPC Board officers.

#### b. Board Governance suggestions:

1. Nancy to monitor and answer messages that come into info@ account

2. Board meeting minutes revisions to Nancy before the next meeting
3. Anne, as well as Jenny, to audit bank statements
4. Form task forces for specific purposes rather than standing committees
5. Task forces should report to the Board for oversight
6. Develop checklist boxes for consultation with the City for any given project
7. Decide who should have access and know how to find Board documents
8. Determine missing skills on the Board and attempt to remediate
9. Provide some training in the use of the new website
10. Decision is needed on whether Grace will continue as membership secretary
11. Develop a pattern of meeting with the City officials
12. Focus BPC efforts on what to do about the pond's trail
13. Devise an informational guide for new members
14. Have regular Board efficiency meetings or half-meetings
15. Devote the first meeting after the Annual event to Board business
16. Schedule events and necessary preparations well in advance
17. Continue invasives control, native planting, and educational tree tags
18. Jeanette was asked to email any suggestions she has for the Board.

c. Committees and Project Management:

1. Park Stewards–Laura
2. CSLA–Felton, Grace, Gabi
3. Playground–Al Lawrence
4. Website and mailings–Anne
5. Social Media–Kate, Linda
6. City Liason–Felton, and Gabi to introduce Grace
7. Grants–Linda
8. Membership–Grace

5. Upcoming Events

- a. April 14 is the date for Spring Cleanup (Mark cannot attend)
- b. Gabi and Laura will work on the signs
- c. Mark and Laura will determine which tools are needed
- d. Felton will order the tools and take delivery of them
- e. Many storm drain medallions should be replaced
- f. Laura will recruit for planting during the Cleanup

6. Jessica Marsico–Native Planting Project

Jessica spoke to the Board about the failure of coir logs and her plans for mitigation. The idea is to mimic nature with rocks and plants that will slow erosion. Removal of invasive material with Laura will be a gradual process, starting Eastward and moving toward the West. There should be signage for safety and to inform people about the project. The Corporation Council is putting together an MOU and has been asked for a quick turnaround. Two-thirds of the plants have been ordered already.