



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – June 8, 2026
May Board Meeting
DRAFT

CVPC Board members in attendance: Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Carl Gold, Kelly Goles, Laura Jenifer, Kate Joyce, Deb Lee, Ray Reed, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh, Mike Young, Lisa Zanti

CVPC Members and Guests in attendance in person: Emelia Bowen (summer intern), Raul Oteiza (Lifetime member and hike leader), Jessica Jeannetta (BCDR&P)

Park Staff: Kirk Dreier

Absent Board members: Carl Gold

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Mia Walsh

- a. The President called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The meeting was conducted in-person at Sherwood House. Bill Curtis, Kelly Goles and Deb Lee attended remotely via Google Meets. Special Committee Chair Keith Kridenoff was unable to attend. A quorum was established and agenda was approved.
- b. Summer intern - Emelia Bowen – 443-425-0551, embowen@ursinus.edu College student studying history, historical preservation and museum studies (curates exhibits at her campus museum) – She is required in her major to complete a 160-hour internship in the field of study. Her primary focus will be updating use of technology for organization and documentation of collections, particularly focused on the History & Culture Heritage Committee and assisting Serviceberry Farm.
- c. Request by Park Staff to cancel August Meeting (Motion / Vote) There was no discussion or decision.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Approval of May 2026 Minutes – *Kim Shapiro*
 - 1) Kim asked if all had seen the last version with revisions suggested by Ray Reed, Deb Lee and Carl Gold. Mia asked for a motion. Kim moved for approval of the May minutes, many seconded. Minutes were approved.
- b. Treasurer's Report – *Deb Lee* (report included in Board Packet) Deb suggested that those who are responsible for expense line items showing funds but no expenses against them should begin spending.
- c. Background Checks – Kim – Although both Kelly E and Laura report having reapplied for approval via the BCDR&P system over a month ago, neither are showing up on the approved list. Jessica J. made a note to check on the issue. Kim said that next up to renew are Bill and Carl, as their BG check term expires in July.
- d. Construction Update – requesting Jessica and Kirk's description of progress
 - 1) Jessica met with contractor onsite and work is moving along well. Sherwood work is expected to be completed by June 29th, about a month ahead of the current schedule. Remaining work includes update to underground utility and water lines and stormwater management. Work requiring the closure of Willow Grove Road access is expected to begin in a week.
 - 2) Rick asked about the effect on trail access and the need to guide hikers to avoid incursion into the construction areas. Rick is able to place signs, but asked Kirk to flag the preferred routes to trails.
 - 3) Mia asked about the need to improve the now-bumpy temporary grass parking area at Sherwood that has been deteriorating through heavy use. Cars with low clearance cannot ride through it without scraping the undercarriage. Kirk will look into getting equipment capable of that work.
 - 4) Jessica expressed concern about effectiveness of keeping members of the public out of the construction areas.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND UPDATES

- a. Forest Management On-Site Meeting with Maryland DNR and R&P



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- 1) Mia was onsite for a preliminary walkthrough of the forested area of the park. Three people responsible to assessing forest management at the parks for the State DNR are based in the Parkville area. Their reaction based on this initial walkthrough impression was that potential loss of beech trees due to the beech leaf disease threat is not as much of a concern as expected. They estimated that 15 percent of the forest is comprised of beech. Their potential loss in the next 5 or 6 years may help other species that require a more open canopy to thrive.
- 2) The full assessment will include riparian and forest edge areas, and it will assess the forest areas in defined sections. It will move forward and the DNR is looking for volunteers.
- b. European beech treatment will be conducted this month, with Bartlett working the 10th and 11th and the second contractor the following week. Ray Reed agreed to be at the park to meet Bartlett.
- c. Beech leaf disease training – (report included in Board Packet) Kim reported briefly on her attendance at the training encouraged for Nature Councils. Rainbow Ecoscience presented several training sessions. Kim went to the one at Winterthur in Delaware on May 21st. Rainbow is a marketer of equipment and chemicals for treatment of trees and provides an alternative to contracting outside companies to provide the service. Besides the more intense and effective macro infusion treatment, other treatment options were also mentioned and are worthy of consideration for treatment of forest beeches. Kim will do more research to get a better picture of cost and effort.
- d. CVP Natural Resource Management Plan – Discussion / Suggestions and Updates from Council
 - 1) County R&P Natural Resource Specialists (Annika & Gabby) plan was provided to the Council for review in late May. Jessica took questions to help our understanding. She confirmed that this is the first time that the Department will work from such a plan. This initial plan was prepared with input from staff naturalists at the parks and are park-specific.
 - Comments – Who will ultimately own the plan? (KS) It seems to be a plan for a plan. (MY) How is Oregon Ridge handling it? (MW)
 - Jessica said that the plan will be owned by County staff and can be modified as needed.
 - Mia talked about advocacy for a Trail Study that has been funded at \$180,000, with funds needed for execution of actions against needs not yet funded.
 - Rick talked about mowing has been insufficient to manage vines and their impact on trees.

4. Management

- a. Park Staff Report – *Kirk Dreier* Report has been added to the Board Packet
 - 1) Children’s programs have been going on through May and June, with complexity added by construction project and need to move materials between sites.
 - 2) Summer Camp begins week of 6/15, half-day program for 5 & 6 year-olds, led by two new staff members.
 - 3) Seasonal Naturalist training has been held at different park locations. Banneker’s museum is developing well.
 - 4) The ongoing issue with damage to Serviceberry Farm’s water system by heavy vehicles has been dealt with by installation of bollards.
 - 5) See the report in the packet for other notes on activities.
- b. Leaseholder’s Report – *Kate Joyce*
 - 1) David Marks has been assisting Serviceberry Farm on needs for grants – environmental assessment and replacement of the trailer to allow for wheelchair accessibility and provision of accessible restroom facilities.
 - 2) A 3-day trial program will be conducted for neuro-divergent teens.
 - 3) The greenhouse was recently penetrated by a wild animal of sufficient size to tear out a big opening, and chickens have been killed by a raccoon.
 - 4) Kate met with the Acting Director of Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks.



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5) On June 25th, 12 to 13 Veterans will be graduating from their horticultural program.

c. Friends of Sherwood – *Mia Walsh – no report*

d. Standing Committees –

1) Governance - *Carl Gold (absent)*

- See Carl's submission regarding insurance and pumping station project in the Board Packet

2) Events – *Kelly Emerson*

- Kelly requested to move the discussion of the Fall Harvest Festival to this point in the agenda due to withdrawal of Towson Arts Collective from the event and the potential effect on our own decision about holding the event considering ongoing construction and the loss of management of services by TAC.
- Kirk felt that our Fall Harvest Festival can proceed toward the date set for October 10th, although there will be additional work that we will need to do. TAC had been providing music and other services through a combined event.
- Questions include parking management, food service providers, and music.
- Mia recognized the need to take the discussion offline and proposed the Executive Board deal with the decision to move forward.

3) Finance (including Insurance) – *Mike Young*

- Mike said that he is moving ahead with the 2025 financial review, having nearly finished the revenue side. He thanked Mia for providing information from the Bloomerang system.

4) Fundraising - *Mia Walsh* (report added to Board packet)

- No comments during the meeting

5) Building and Grounds - *Rick Childs*

- Service of equipment is underway – The old Gator can no longer be serviced so must be hauled away. Other equipment repairs are moving ahead.
- Eagle project at the paddock required significant cleanup. B&G should get earlier notice of work by Eagle Scouts as we may be able to help with materials and can be clearer with expectations on finished work

6) Programs & Events -

- NOwN – *Laura Jenifer*;

- ◊ Presentation by Laura's daughter on controlled burns was well done and sold out. Controlled burns may be used to manage invasives. Kate said that she had wanted to do this in the past, but location near the Beltway was an issue and may be for other areas of the park. Any such projects require approval up the chain of command.

- ◊ The next NOwN presentation is on September 18th – Chesapeake Watershed History.

- Two Dam Hikes – *Ray Reed*

- ◊ Two Dam Hikes are happening on 6/13 – Raul Oteiza cleared some growth away from the trails to make them more accessible. Kirk will see if the refrigerator can be made available. Mia suggested use of the side porch at Sherwood for food storage in coolers if the building must remain closed.



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- ◇ 4-mile hike has “manicured” trails and 12 stops along the way
- ◇ Kate suggested that meeting details could be sent as a reminder email in advance of the hikes.
- Bird Hikes – *Mia Walsh*
 - ◇ Bird hikes have raised \$800.
 - ◇ 30’s and Birdies hike has attracted more interest
- 7) Communications – *Mia* (report added to Board packet)
 - No additional discussion
- 8) Volunteers – *Kelly Goles*
 - Mia has been forwarding messages on interested volunteers, and Kelly needs help on how to direct this interest. Bill will help Kelly in guiding potential volunteers in the right direction.
- 5. OLD BUSINESS - none
- 6. NEW BUSINESS - none
 -

Mia asked for a motion for adjournment, so moved, approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Shapiro 6/13/26

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 13th at 6:00 pm at Sherwood House and virtually.