



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – September 13, 2021

CVPC Meeting via Zoom

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Kate Joyce, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Sya Kedzior, Joe Rector, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe. Park Staff: Kirk Dreier Baltimore County: Corey Johns
Absent: Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – ABE YOFFE

- a. Abe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was conducted online using the Zoom meeting platform. Abe began by adopting the agenda and a quorum was established.
- b. Kirk, Abe and Mia met with Bob Smith, Chief, Recreation Services in August regarding the Recreational Trails program grant for building some foot bridges on the Barrans-Baldwin trail. We discussed the process of getting capital projects like this initiated working with the county on engineering and construction, even though the funding may come from an outside source. Bob will inquire if there may be some capital funds for bridge construction and Abe will follow up in a few weeks.
- c. Abe recognized Kim Shapiro for her work on managing the Migration Celebration task list and he also thanked all the other volunteers for this event, especially John Canoles, Pat Novak and the Park Staff.
- d. Shining Star awards were given to Mia Walsh and John Canoles for their work in the past year, over and above the normal work of Council volunteers.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Minutes – Mia Walsh Approval of August 2021 Minutes: website. <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/> There were no changes to the minutes, and they were posted on the CVPC website.
- b. Finance – Kristin reviewed the documents which were distributed prior to the meeting. Some highlights include:
 - There were some camp cancellation refunds, showing a lower Summer Camp income line item, due to a positive COVID case in the last month. Two full days of the camp were cancelled. The actual Summer Camp line item is \$21,942.06 compared to the budget of \$22,500.
 - Our actual line item for donations are higher than budget in both the project specific and general donations. Currently, we are showing \$25,887.01 in donations and \$9,932.08 in membership dues.
 - We are currently showing a net income of \$23,762.74 verse a budget of \$4,175.
 - Our 990 Tax Report has been filed and Kristin will submit the PDF to Abe and Mia for documentation.
 - The 2020 tax filing is the last piece to be added for our Recertification. However, Corey Johns said there is no update on the recertification process for the Councils at this time. He is working on the Memo of Understanding process with the Nature Centers and the County will be discussing the MOU with the Councils at the beginning of January.
 - Halten Garden Club requested information on installing a Hopewell Mfg. sign on the history of the Sherwood House. Kirk stated that the sign should include photographs, the history of the Sherwood family and the house itself. He suggested that a sign might be nice installed further up the hill with an overview of the house itself below as an option. Mia will let the Halten Garden Club know that this concept has been approved.
 - \$1,040 has been raised by the Bullen family in honor of their son, Alex, for the purchase of a new bench. They will organize that order with Mia once they are back in town. Donation and memberships from the period of August 8th – September 12th is \$494.52.



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2. MANAGEMENT

a. Park Staff Report – Kirk Dreier

- Laura Swinson will be joining CVP as the Administrative Assistant from another County office on the recreation side. She will be starting full time on Monday, September 20th from 9-3. We look forward to welcoming her to the team.
- No report from Property Management (Bryan Sheppard) was submitted.
- The Park Staff's Kubota is being worked on for repairs and they will be using the pick-up truck while that is being repaired. They may wish to borrow the Council's older Kubota in the meantime.
- The main kiosk as you enter Sherwood has been reconfigured by a Boy Scout troop (Gonzalez), with a roof repair and some other features, including the addition of rules. There is also a new kiosk at the Hawk Watch with glass containers for pamphlets and new Sibley's bird posters.
- Captain Jim from Marshy Point built the egg exhibit inside of Willow Grove. There was also a disused dehydrator that has been in the barn for 6 years and Captain Jim will put this outside of Willow Grove Nature Center to dry out apple heads, flowers and corn husk dolls, for example.
- A donation of \$300 will be coming in from the Lutherville Garden Club (Dory Wilfong) to purchase 10 apple trees to begin the rebuilding of the old orchard. Another family donated a memorial apple tree and Kirk will provide that information to the Council so we may acknowledge that donation.
- Wayne and Matt discovered a brick pathway outside of the Sherwood cottage, which evidently has been buried for decades. Kirk will try to unearth more of this as well. Kirk hopes to use ARP (American Restoration Plan (CARES funds) towards HVAC for that building. The Gunpowder Valley Conservancy has indicated they may wish to provide funds to repair the inside of the building.
- Helicopters have been on site for the last 5 days from BGE to do maintenance on the power lines on Cromwell Bridge Road. BGE indicated they may be finishing their work tomorrow.
- Kirk is still trying to hire for the open Benjamin Banneker so we may have Ranger Breena back at CVP.
- The blue spruce was cut down at the Hawk Watch, which was blocking some of the site lines for the fall migration. Thank you to Rick Childs for hauling it all away.
- Kirk has received no word from Property Management on the design of the capital project plan.
- Wayne will help on Thursday and Friday to set up parking areas, tables, chairs, tents etc. for the Migration Celebration.
- Kirk will make a recommendation regarding lawn cutting to Property Management. John Canoles suggested that we cut half the fields in the spring and half the fields in the fall. We need to consider the habitat of the animals before cutting all the fields at once.

b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- Talmar's Gingham and Gazpacho picnic fundraiser is in two weeks on September 25th from 12-6 pm.
- Two occupational therapists are now running the programs at Talmar. They are starting a birding program for caregivers as well as people with dementia and Alzheimer's. They will be servicing up to 6 people and their caregivers for this program due to COVID restrictions.
- Talmar is still working on their \$5,000 fundraising match. Kate has spent the summer writing grants and hopes to continue focusing on fundraising as the year progresses.
- Volunteers Unlimited is a "speed dating" program for Board members, which Kate used to help fill open positions on their Board.

c. Friends of Sherwood – Mia Walsh – No Report



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d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs

- The furniture has been installed in the gazebo. The Burdyk family is planning a visit on October 9th to remember their Marlane.
- The riding mower was out for 2 months as it was being repaired. There is a shortage of John Deere repair service providers, as well as a systemic delay in receiving parts.
- The replacement cost for a new riding tractor would be approximately \$3,000 - \$5,500. John Deere has a tractor with a mower on it (approx. \$10K-\$15K). Rick will do some more research and the Council will consider a fundraising plan to purchase a new piece of equipment.
- Thank you to the Trails Committee for clearing out the area of the Photo Blind, per the request of several birders.

e. Programs – Abe Yoffe for Kelly Emerson (not in attendance)

- Towson University's Marlene Riley is running a program for those with sensory issues and dementia, along with the Department of Aging. The schedule has been worked out directly with Park Staff.
- Baltimore Road Runners will have a fall event. Kelly will bring this up to the Board.
- There was an issue with a yoga company and communications between Debbie and Kelly. Debbie thinks she is having IT issues and will follow up with the County IT to investigate.

f. Membership – Kim Shapiro

- We are at 404 members as of 9/11/21. Thank you to Cara Duncan, who signed up as a patron member at the \$250 level. This was up from the last report of 394 members.

g. Communications – Mia Walsh

- We will be migrating from CampBrain emails to Constant Contact, which offered us a 50% discount for one year at approximately \$26 per month.
- Thank you to Sya for doing the mailing for the Fall newsletter. Thank you to Kim and John Canoles for the bi-weekly communication and blog posts.
- Michael McCloskey provided the hawk photographs for the banners and yard signs for the Migration Celebration.

h. Volunteers – Kim Shapiro for Michelle and Pat

- Kim reviewed the volunteer hours for our Council, which is listed at 121 hours for August.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cemetery Research was brought back to the table by Jim Kelly to approve ground penetrating radar and some research. The quote to do the work was \$1,100. The Friends of Cromwell Valley has \$939.52 and this is on our balance sheet. \$713.59 for the France Merrick – a journal entry will be made. There is a possibility to have an organization perform this service without a fee, but the amount has been approved per a past meeting.
- b. The Park Staff has requested a tablecloth and a runner for events, which includes the park logo, the CVP logo, website and other pictures/information. This could come out of the Displays and Exhibits fund and we discussed \$100 or so for this.
- c. Corey Johns, as a community advocate, Towson Indivisible to create a forum to connect our nature center with



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other community advocates. This would be an introductory on-line meeting to see how advocates can support us – Saturday, October 2nd at 3:30 p.m. Joe Rector will attend this on behalf of the park.

6. OLD BUSINESS -

- a. Migration Celebration is this Saturday, September 18th – please come out and volunteer! Kim reviewed the list of what needs to be done and she thanked John Canoles for all his work on getting outside resources to support this event. Kim reviewed the map, logistics and program, all of which were which were shared through Abe’s Zoom screen.
- b. Chimney Swifts - John Canoles: No update
- c. Trail for All Surface: Abe will complete a citizen generated request for this item.
- d. Recognition of Susan Dorsey: John Canoles will plant the tree and we can recognize Susan in the spring.
- e. Corey Johns looked into the Nature Council Presidents’ meetings and said that we could meet with them on our own, but there is no formal meeting planned to get the Presidents together.

Abe asked for a motion to adjourn, which was provided and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. – This was moved from our regular meeting date of 10/11 due to Columbus Day.

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary, 9/13/21



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2021 CVPC Meeting Dates

Approved at November 9, 2020 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: REMOTE via ZOOM or SHERWOOD HOUSE

DATE 2021	MEETING	Open to Public?	Time
Monday, January 11	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 8	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 8	Council Meeting (open to Public – Annual Meeting)	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 12	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 10	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 14	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 12	No Meeting		
Monday, August 9	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 13	Council Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 18 th (10/11 is Columbus Day)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 8 th	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 13 th	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.



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Cromwell Valley Park Council

Executive Board Listing

Effective April 12, 2021

OFFICERS	Name	Email Address	Term
President	Abe Yoffe	President@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
Vice President	Kim Shapiro	vicepresident@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2022
Treasurer	Kristin McFaul	treasurer@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
Secretary	Mia Walsh	mia@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2022
DIRECTORS – Members at Large			
Director	Sya Burynd Kedzior	syakedzior@gmail.com	April 2020 – March 2022
Director	Bill Curtis	curtiswbc@gmail.com	April 2020 – March 2022
Director	John Canoles	espjic@aol.com	April 2021 – March 2023
Director	Joe Rector	Joe.rector@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS			
Finance	Rick Childs	rikchilds@aol.com	Current membership year – voted annually *
Building and Grounds	Rick Childs	rikchilds@aol.com	^
Programs	Kelly Emerson	emersonkel@yahoo.com	^
Communications	Mia Walsh	mia@cromwellvalleypark.org	^
Volunteers	Pat Novak	pnovak8525@aol.com	^
LEASEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE			
Talmar	Kate Joyce	katejoyce@talmar.org	

ARTICLE VII Executive Board

Section 1 - Members

The Executive Board will consist of the Officers, Directors, Leaseholder representatives, and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees.

***Section 4 - Chairpersons**

All standing committee chairpersons shall be elected by the current Executive Board to serve for the current membership year. The elections shall take place at the Executive Board Meeting subsequent to the Annual Meeting. If a standing committee chair position is vacant due to resignation or termination, the President shall appoint a chairperson to fill the remainder of the vacant term.

President, Treasurer – elected in odd-numbered years / two directors in odd-numbered years
Officers, Directors, Leaseholder Representatives and Chairpersons of the Standing Committees

Cromwell Valley Park Council: All members who have paid dues for the current year.