



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – May 9, 2022

CVPC Board Meeting
Annual Membership Meeting

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Bill Curtis, Kate Joyce, Kim Shapiro, Abe Yoffe.

Virtually: Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Kristen McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector, Mia Walsh

Park Staff: Kirk Dreier

Absent: Rick Childs, Sya Kedzior

Council Members: Keith Kridenoff, Corey Johns

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Abe Yoffe

- a. The President called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. The meeting was conducted both online using GoogleMeet and in-person at the Sherwood House.
- b. The President thanked Jeffrey Budnitz from Lake Roland Nature Center, along with Rick Childs, John Canoles, Dave Davenport and Bill Curtis, for working on the accessible trail by rolling / compacting the stone and filling in divots. Jeffrey trailered Lake Roland's rolling equipment for this project.
- c. The President thanked the volunteers who helped with the Primitive Tech weekend, despite the challenges such as the road closure and heavy rains, which limited the attendance.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. April Meeting Minutes: The minutes were accepted and approved and will be posted on the CVPC website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>
- b. Finance, Kristin McFaul, Treasurer
 - 1) 2022 Financial Documents were distributed prior to the meeting. Lifetime memberships were included, as well as donations for Apple Trees. We had an additional \$450 in donations which came with membership renewals during this time period.
 - 2) We have approximately \$5,400 in project specific donations YTD and \$9,600 overall including General donations, putting us at 93% of our budget for the entire year. For membership, we are 120% of budget for the entire year.
 - 3) CVP made a donation to Lake Roland Nature Center for its help with the mobility trail.
- c. Finance, Rick Childs. No Update
- d. Report from Baltimore County Property Management, Bryan Sheppard – No Report
 - 1) CVPC was concerned that all the fields were mowed down. The Council asked Kirk to work with Property Management on mowing some areas more frequently and others less frequently. Kirk said that he is not allowed to communicate with Property Management directly, and the Council expressed concern about the many layers of communication within R&P in order to get things accomplished. Abe will gather a map and request a meeting with them to go over these areas.
- e. Background Checks – Abe Yoffe President reported that all Board background checks are current.

3. MANAGEMENT

- a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier
 - 1) Lucky, the turkey, has been laying eggs in the paw-paw patch and has a total of 7 eggs. We may be seeing some baby turkeys around the park!
 - 2) The gate work which was scheduled to be done today has been postponed.



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- 3) Staffing issues continue to plague the R&P Division. This has resulted in CVP not being able to staff programs, nor get basic required work accomplished for CVP.
 - 4) Primitive Technology – Ranger Kirk thanked Abe, Wayne, Trish, Jim and others helped break down after the event. Unfortunately, after two years of cancelling the program, heavy rain and road closures resulted in a low-attendance (approx.. 45 on Saturday and 85 on Sunday). Kirk called people who were traveling great distances and gave them the option to cancel. Many participants slept in the Primitive Tech Lab.
 - 5) Senior Stream Stroll – The senior community has been asking for years for senior adult programming and Laura L. led these successful walks with approximately 8 in attendance each session.
 - 6) Morning Bird Walks – braved the weather on Saturday and saw Orioles and others despite the rain.
 - 7) Juneteenth meeting was held to help plan the June 18th event at Benjamin Banneker. They are talking about shuttles as the event is deemed to be much larger than the prior year. Kirk, Laura, and Breena will all be on-site that day at BB to help run the program.
 - 8) Both Ranger Breena and Ranger Laura P. will be moved to the Loch Raven Fishing Center to man the site on Wednesday and at least twice a month to work evening shifts there. The County is also desperate for life guards for the parks which allow swimming.
 - 9) Kirk will be providing / participating in Chain Saw training later this week at the Ag Center.
- b. Leaseholder’s Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce
- 1) Talmar held a mushroom training workshop and inoculated logs with spores. The logs will take 6 months to 12 months to grow. They also planted shitake mushrooms for this program. Talmar also held a pollinator workshop, including growing milkweed from seed.
 - 2) The De-escalation Training was held last week and was very successful in helping several non-profits and serving various people in the communities.
 - 3) A new staff member will be starting this week from Colorado – he is a farmer with a degree in horticulture and has training in horticultural therapy.
 - 4) Baltimore Magazine will be coming out to do a “Changemaker” under the New Face of Farming. Congrats, Kate, on this recognition.
 - 5) The plant sale went fine, but it was a struggle with the road closure and the bad weather.
- d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs (absent)
- 1) Joe Rector: Joe informed us that the company in renovated the workshop would like to paint and stain the gazebo on May 24th.
- e. Programs – Kelly Emerson
- 1) Kelly, Rick and Kirk met with Gilchrist regarding their Steps of Hope event on June 12th from 2 – 4 pm. They will hold their walk and registration will open in April. Rick will assist and Sharon and Sharon will work the CVP table the day of the event. <https://gilchristcares.org/events/stepsofhope/>
 - 2) Kelly is continuing her work with Towson Arts Collective liaison, Elizabeth Jamison.
- f. Communications – Mia Walsh
- 1) The Annual Report has been completed and printed. It has been sent electronically and posted on the website digitally. Mailing of the hard copies has not yet been completed.



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- 2) Sya has been working on the Summer Newsletter and is looking for additional content. Kirk is due an update and letter for this. The Summer 2022 calendar was not submitted in time for mailing of the newsletter and we expect to see a hit in enrollment for programs.
- g. Volunteers – Pat Novak – Kim had sent Pat Novak a database of maintenance for volunteers and Mr. Davenport responded to that request for the trail maintenance. There are 104 hours tallied for the month of April.
- h. Membership – Kim - Our number for April is 2022 at 353, which is up from 350 in the prior year.
- i. Ad Hoc Committees:
 - 1) Migration Celebration – September 17th, 2022 – Kim Shapiro – Joe Corcoran from the Baltimore Bird Club is scheduled to help with the Lights Out Baltimore project at the event. Other vendor requests were sent out by Laura and we will provide another update at the end of May.
 - 2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Abe Yoffe - Abe left a message with Stacey Cruise to see if she would like to get involved in the program. We need to identify the overall needs of the Board and to fill the needs with appropriate skills.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Drew Emmer, Chief of Capital Services. Abe and Mia had a call with the Chief, who gave an update on the status of the capital projects slated for CVP. He states the timeline shows design at 95% completed by March 2023 and 100% by April 2023. At that point, it would go out to bid and would take 5 months after that to select a vendor and begin work.. Construction wouldn't start until the end of Summer 2023. Drew did commit to sending us concept designs and he understands that we wanted to be involved. Colimore Engineering is the company who is working on the design piece of the project.
- b. Friendly Forest – Towson University was pleased with this program overall and would like to continue its partnership with CVP.
- c. Eric Duce from DEPS will be coming with equipment for kudzo removal on May 21 from noon – 2:00 p.m. Discussion ensued about leasing a herd of goats to remove some of the weeds.
- d. Cromwell Valley Park Council discussed and was in agreement for the purchase of a sponsorship for the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy for \$350. This was approved for the \$350, though there is only \$250 remaining in the budget.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Memo of Understanding with the County – Corey Johns – No Update
- b. Corey said that the Background Checks may be starting within the next two months.
- c. From the Legislative Session, Corey Johns stated that there is additional funding for Cromwell Valley Park due to project inflation and the County put in supplementary money to ensure that scheduled projects are completed. Some of the original funding was from the Legislative Bond Initiative, originally supported by Delegate Guyton.
- d. Baltimore County is funding a Park Explorers Program and to get more children out in nature and appropriately engaged in nature, with the hopes to get more Park Rangers out of that program. The funding will be released in July for this program with BC R&P.
- e. Citizen Generated Request for Stream Bridges – Abe Yoffe – This will be lumped into the Capital Projects.
- f. Member Appreciation Event – No movement on this. We could do a simple thing for people to bring their own picnics or do a potluck as we are long overdue in pulling something like this together. Amy Polinski seemed



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interested in this leading this project, and Kelly said she would be willing to help out. Council discussed setting a date in October and work backwards from there for the planning.

- g. History: Friends of Cromwell Valley Park President, Bill Litzinger, recently passed away. Interviewing the founding activists in the development of the park is an important project, and Kim will continue to work on the arrangement of interviews in the second half of the year.

The President recognized Keith Kridenoff, who was in attendance for the meeting. He started the Fans of Cromwell Valley Park and has over 450 followers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m,

The next meeting is scheduled for June 13th at 6:00 PM in person at Sherwood House or virtually via GoogleMeet.

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 5/12/22