



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.**  
**Minutes – September 12, 2022**

CVPC Board Meeting  
Annual Membership Meeting

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Mia Walsh, Abe Yoffe.

Board Members in attendance virtually: Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector, Kim Shapiro

Absent: Kate Joyce, Sya Kedzior

Park Staff: Kirk Dreier      CVPC Member: Keith Kridenoff

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Abe Yoffe

- a. The President called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. The meeting was conducted both online using GoogleMeet and in-person at the Sherwood House.
- b. Thom Grizzard purchased a new American flag for the Sherwood House pole. Thank you!

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. July Meeting Minutes: The minutes were accepted and approved and are 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 and were reviewed.
  - 2) As of today, CVPC is at 137% of budget for dues income and 129% of budget for donation income. Public programs and Polliwog programs are up to date from CampBrain so all numbers submitted are accurate.
  - 3) Kristin will bring the blank budget to the October meeting so we may begin working on the 2023 Budget.
- c. Finance, Rick Childs. No Update
- d. Fundraising, Mia Walsh
  - 1) Entered all Fundraising with membership renewal and donations which came in July 11, 2022 – September 11, 2022. Membership: 19 memberships valued at \$560.00 General Donations: 16 donations totaling \$2,627.86. A special thanks to Anne Craig for a \$2,000 donation.
  - 2) Once again, Mia reviewed each deposit in Bank of America. There were 15 checks which weren't addressed in the Membership database, which means that checks are being deposited without notifications to Kim / me. We need to ensure these deposits are recorded for charitable contributions and / or membership records.
  - 3) We included the donation envelopes in the Annual Report mailing in June and we did see 22 envelopes returned with donations between June 10 – September 11 totaling \$3,044. (one donation was \$2,000).
  - 4) We can find a place for two more donation benches to replace one of the older wooden benches that need to be repaired. Mia will order the two which were requested.
  - 5) In idea for a holiday donation is an Electric Polaris all-terrain vehicle. Rick will look into the costs for such a product. Kirk will ask the Park Staff for ideas of various price points on ideas for items for the park. Kirk asked Bill to find the National Park Services' agreement with their volunteers if the volunteer has a position description stating that they need to use equipment for their position.
- e. Report from Baltimore County Property Management, Bryan Sheppard – No Report
  - 1) We did not receive a formal response on the mowing question from Property Management. John Canoles will put together a mowing schema and present it to Property Management. We would like to have a say in



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.**  
**Minutes – September 12, 2022**

CVPC Board Meeting  
Annual Membership Meeting

what gets mowed depending on what time of year.

- 2) Spotted Lantern Flies have been seen in the Barrens Baldwin areas of Cromwell Valley Park and along the Minebank.
- f. Background Checks – Abe Yoffe President reported that all Board background checks are current. Some are expiring in October and December, so please take a moment to check to see if you need to renew.

### 3. MANAGEMENT

#### a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier

- 1) August was used for finishing summer camps and planning for Arts in the Park and the Migration Celebration.
- 2) In August, the Park Staff presented at Glen Meadows and Seven Oaks Retirement homes.
- 3) Park Staff Ranger Laura attended venomous snake training on August 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 4) The Staff and Cap'n Jim Gephardt worked on the woodpecker and egg exhibits in the Willow Grove Nature Center.
- 5) Anne Wedgeworth did a tour of the Children's Garden with the Manor Garden Club, which then donated \$50 to the park.
- 6) Migration Celebration: Skip Noon, Andy Anders and Mary will be performing music at the Migration Celebration. Chow Hound food truck was a big success at the Arts in the Park celebration. Kelly will look into see if they can come to the Migration Celebration festival (10am – 4pm). We may end up with close to 1,000 in attendance. The Bookmobile has been in the park and they will be in attendance for the Migration Celebration. We need help in 1:45 pm – 4:00 pm slot for volunteers.
- 7) The Screen on the Green is a R&P was held on Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. There were no people in attendance, but the weather was extremely hot and the movie "Rock Dog" was not well known at all.

#### b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- 1) September 24<sup>th</sup> – Gazpacho event.

#### c. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs

- 1) Electric Powered hedge trimmers are being used to cut the vines along with the Gator and B&G will be purchasing more of those for the Trails Committee.
- 2) B&G is currently working in the Children's Garden in preparation for the Migration Celebration.
- 3) There are several trees down which the Trails Committee is unable to address it. There is a list of big jobs in the park that need to be addressed and Kirk met with the County to review those items (fallen trees, dead trees).
- 4) The Community Garden is moving forward and they will be using a new shed. Kirk is going to ask Property Management to plow where there is plastic to kill the weeds. There is still the question of electric and water getting to that area. Kirk stated that water is an on-going issue, which includes new pressure tanks and system. The project is slowly inching along.

#### d. Programs – Kelly Emerson

- 1) Towson Arts Council canceled Sunday's event because of the weather. About 10 vendors were in attendance and there were approximately 415 in attendance. Thank you to the volunteers who helped with parking and



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.  
Minutes – September 12, 2022**

CVPC Board Meeting  
Annual Membership Meeting

logistics and we received \$1,055 in parking cash – which is shared as a percentage with the TAC. We are waiting for a percentage of the sales as well. PayPal was not successful because people didn't have the app on their phone. There were 12 cars without cash, which we just let enter. We may want to consider getting Square or setting up Venmo for future events? Discussion ensued about not doing this for Migration Celebration.

- 2) Blue Steel Stampede is on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. They are waiting on final approval from the County and Kelly is waiting to hear from Jason about how the Council can support them. This is a 10K police run and expect 150 people.
  - 3) Baltimore Road Runner may also have something the first week of November.
- e. Communications – Mia Walsh
- 1) Updated the web site with new Weed Warrior dates, new Field Trip Request Forms, Updated flyers for the Migration Celebration and Towson Arts Collective and the Fall 2022 Newsletter.
  - 2) Thank you to Sya for preparing and mailing the Fall 2022 newsletter.
- f. Volunteers –Pat Novak
- 1) Pat will work with the Council for the Shining Star Awards for 2022.
- g. Membership – Kim
- 1) Kim will update the membership reports in the next few weeks. We will work on a better process for getting checks and donations.
- h. Ad Hoc Committees:
- 1) Migration Celebration – September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Kim Shapiro – We are in good shape for volunteers, exhibitors (10 or so) and vendors (at least 20). It will be nice to have Stacey Cruise there. We cut back on the Nature Hikes for this year. We will have crafts in the barn and games. For food, we will have snow cones, Ceviche and earth oven pizza. We are also doing archery and rope making.
  - 2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – No update.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Girls Got Goats – Abe created a Motion about allocating \$1,000 for goats to the park to help control the Kudzu infestation. Though the County mowed and sprayed, the Kudzo is continuing to grow. The cost would be \$350 for the initial setup, \$600 for fence modifications (\$100 each for 1 week to clear ¼ acre) for a total of \$950 depending on how long we want to use her. This is supported by Eric Duce from the Department of Environmental Protection (Willow Grove, Hawk Watch areas).
  - 1) John suggested that we use the goats as a social media fundraising effort showing our initiative for “green” weed removal.
  - 2) The motion was presented, seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. Sunflower Field: A park visitor contacted us about a donation planting a sunflower field. Discussion ensued about where it could be placed (paddock area). Ranger Kirk stated that it would cost more than \$1,000 to plant and we don't the equipment to work the fields. The sunflowers could be used for sunflower seeds for birds. It was suggested that he contact the agriculture center.
- c. Civic Rec Platform: The County is moving to a web-based platform to manage all payments and programs for



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.  
Minutes – September 12, 2022**

CVPC Board Meeting  
Annual Membership Meeting

both Nature Councils and Recreation Centers. Kirk states he does not know any information about this. Rick stated his concerns about how any of these monies would be distributed back to the Councils for their work to fund their programs. Abe will inquire to Ben to have a Nature Council Presidents Meeting to discuss what this would mean to the Nature Centers.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Update on Memo of Understanding with the County – Corey Johns – No Update
- b. Updated of Capital Project. The 30% documents have been received and once the internal review takes place, the Council will be updated on the project.
- c. Sewer Relief Project. The design effort has included geotechnical survey and the plans have been altered in alignment down the stream. They are hoping to advertise for construction in September 2023.
- d. Citizen Generated Request for Stream Bridges – Abe Yoffe – This will be lumped into the Capital Projects and hopefully will have an update in August 2022.
- e. Member Appreciation Event – Amy Polinski, Stacey Cruise and Kelly Emerson are all willing to work on this. This was placed in the fall newsletter as a Member Appreciation Event to be held in October. Kirk suggested that we get Weber Grills and people brought their own hamburgers and hotdogs to cook on the grill. Kelly thinks it would be nice to have several speakers talk about their experiences in the park and how the park has been a part of their family's lives. Abe is holding the tentative date on November 5<sup>th</sup> with bring your own beer / wine.
- f. History: Kim will continue to work on the arrangement of interviews in the second half of the year.

A motion was made to end the meeting, which was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m,

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 9/16/22

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Sherwood House and virtually.