



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – October 17, 2022

CVPC Board Meeting

Board members in attendance: Rick Childs, Kelly Emerson, Abe Yoffe

Board Members in attendance virtually: John Canoles, Sya Kedzior, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector, Mia Walsh

Absent: Bill Curtis, Kim Shapiro

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. Abe thanked everyone who contributed their volunteer efforts for the Migration Celebration. It was a wonderful event!

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. September Meeting Minutes: Kim Shapiro sent two typo updates for the September minutes which were corrected. A motion was made to accept the minutes, seconded and approved. The minutes 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) Arts in the Park income currently stands at \$1,184, however 40% of the \$1,055 parking money needs to be given to Towson Arts Collective. These figures will be updated for November meeting. In addition, some vendors have not paid their 15% donation. Items of note are that Kooper's Tavern accidentally made the check (\$240.00) to Elizabeth and it will be signed over to the CVPC this week. We are waiting for Rita's Italian Ice. Mia noted that we have received donations from the following: Marisa Canino \$62, Alice Faber \$20, Towson Arts Collective \$87.34, Hot Glass Burns \$130, Zen Fiber Arts \$94 and Frederick Ward \$42.00.
 - 3) \$1,303.77 for the Migration Celebration (noted as Fall Festival in financial reports) for Parking and Donations was collected. However, it was noted that a donation of \$248 from Sobeachy Haitian Cuisine was coded as Migration Celebration, but it should be moved to Arts in the Park.
 - 4) As of today, CVPC is at 137% of budget for dues income and 135% of budget for donation income.
 - 5) Kristin has pulled actual vs. budget numbers from 2018 and she asked that Abe distribute the form prior to the next meeting so we can come prepared to the November meeting for the 2023 budget discussion.
- c. Finance, Rick Childs. No Update
- d. Fundraising, Mia Walsh
 - 1) Mia reviewed the donations since September 11 – October 17th. Items of note were 12 donations for the Goat Invasive Species removal totaling \$490.00 with an average donation of \$40.83. These donations were solicited via posts on our social media. It has been suggested that a communication is included in our next bi-weekly email blast requesting donations and linking to this video, <https://fb.watch/gfYgctxig7/>, as well as our donation page <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/donate/>.
 - 2) Rick talked to a sales person regarding the Polaris electric vehicle for the Giving Tuesday event. The sales person said they are having problems with battery life and chips for the larger, full-sized electric vehicles, which range in price from \$14,000 to \$23,000. Rick's recommendation is that we do not move forward with purchasing the full-sized vehicles, but instead purchase two electric ATV's to access more difficult areas of



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the park. The electric Polaris brand was available at Pete's Cycle on Belair Road and cost approximately \$5,000 each with front-back seating. It was agreed to move forward with our request for Giving Tuesday and year-end, but market using a brand-free effort.

- Ben Porter, Chief of Nature Centers, said that there is no cross-usage of vehicles for County-owned vehicles vs. Council owned vehicles. Meaning: Council members cannot ride County-owned vehicles and County Staff cannot ride Council-owned vehicles.

e. Report from Baltimore County Property Management, Bryan Sheppard – No Report

- 1) No report from Baltimore County.
- 2) Spotted Lantern Flies have been more prevalent in the park in the last month. Kirk will check with Ben Porter to see if there are any words of wisdom from the County on this.

f. Background Checks – Abe Yoffe President reported that all Board background checks are current. Some are expiring in December, so please take a moment to check to see if you need to renew.

3. MANAGEMENT

a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier

- 1) September and October have been busy. Trail Guide Training went well and 8 new people took the class and are already helping out with the School Field Trips.
- 2) We have had 9 schools with approximately 220 children for field trips and we have 9 more scheduled for this month.
- 3) Eagle Scouts created a new turkey fence, which had been installed using salvaged materials
- 4) 21 people came to the Afro Outdoors hike with Mr. Norwood, including the historic parts of the park on October 8th.
- 5) Birdwalks on Sundays continue to have good attendance on the good weather days.
- 6) Ranger Anne is having a pot luck dinner at Willow Grove on 10/18 for the volunteers for the garden and the trails crew.
- 7) Kirk will be demonstrating Stone Tools on 11/5 at Jefferson Patterson Park (southern Maryland) and will be on vacation 11/21-11/30 and Ranger Breena will be acting in charge.
- 8) The Nature Center calendar is about ready to go to the printer. All Nature Centers were asked by the chief to make a consolidated calendar for all of those events. As soon as the list is available, Kirk will provide this to Mia to populate the CampBrain system, website and to Pat Novak for Facebook events.

b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- 1) Christmas tree sale will happen the Friday/Sat/Sun after Thanksgiving. Inventory will include trees, wreaths, poinsettias and goods our participants have made (natural dye kits, loofahs & soap, lip balm, herbal tea blends). Any unsold trees will be self-serve with an online payment.
- 2) After 7 months of zero communication with the Office of Therapeutic Recreation, Talmar is looking forward to a meeting at the end of October. They are seeking some clarity on our relationship and a permit for the Eck House in 2023 for our VA FARMS program.
- 3) VA FARMS graduation is November 3 at noon. Any CVPC members who are veterans are invited to the



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outdoor graduation and lunch. We'll have 8 graduates including one who owns a multigenerational farm in Reisterstown with her parents and one who bought a farm in Cristfield during the program.

- 4) Talmar is hiring a part-time volunteer coordinator. Information under "get involved" on our website - <https://talmar.org/get-involved/volunteer-coordinator/>
 - 5) Greenhouse apprentice, Laith, was offered a full-time job at Karma Farm. The only TALMAR person currently residing at TALMAR and doing evening gates is Skodrif. We're seeking three new apprentices for 2023; that info is on the website (under "get involved").
 - 6) TALMAR is honored to be named a Game Changer by Baltimore Magazine. Kate spoke on a panel at the Game Changers event last week. See attached article from the magazine.
 - 7) Kate met with the Eck Family recently and they will be coming out to the farm.
- c. Friends of Sherwood – Mia Walsh
- 1) Mia will look at some ideas for plexiglass for the hand-painted wall paper in the dining room.
- d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs
- 1) There are still trees down and some metal items that are in the way and could be dangerous.
 - 2) Rick would like Abe to contact Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability regarding the Kudzu to see if there is anything we should be doing in the off-season.
 - 3) The owners in the Providence Road area are working with one another to see what the next steps should be in their dispute with the County.
 - 4) John will look at the mowing plans to provide to the County so we can get in front of their efforts.
 - 5) Has there been any update with the capital projects? There are some new surveyors and survey stakes along the Minebank Run. Abe will follow up with them.
- e. Programs – Kelly Emerson
- 1) The Blue Steel Stampede event was held a few weekends ago. Rick did represent the Council and assisted with a few small items.
 - 2) Baltimore Road Runner's night run on November 5th and for the SuperBowl in February are awaiting approval. Kirk told them that any race or event needs to be presented to Director Johnson for approval. Kirk still has not received approval or response for this and it is in limbo. It was suggested that the President write a letter to Director Johnson saying there are community donations which are in tandem for these running events and they have been held for a long time and that we request these events be released to move forward.
- f. Communications
- 1) Mia requested \$400-\$450 for year end holiday thank you cards for all donors who gave \$50 or more to the Council. Currently, there are 119 people who have donated \$50 or more and we expect that number to increase after Giving Tuesday and the holiday requests for donations.
- e. Volunteers –Pat Novak / Kim Novak
- 1) Shining Star Volunteers have been awarded! Congratulations to Kristin McFaul for this and hopes to be in person at the November meeting to receive this. Mary Ellen Pluemmer was also awarded this for her work in the Children's Garden for different programs. Anne Wedgeworth did a write up on her nomination, which will be presented in November.



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- 2) 109 volunteer hours were listed for September. Congratulations to Kelly Emerson for using Sign-up Genius for the two big events and especially her efforts on Arts in the Park.
- f. Membership – Kim Shapiro
 - 1) 416 members as of October 11th – 9 more than the same time last year. New high-level memberships for McCabe and Diller and Beck.
- g. Ad Hoc Committees:
 - 1) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – No update.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Holiday Party will be held in December. We have Mr. & Mrs. Claus already reserved for this. The Council usually decorates the building on the interior part. Kirk will bring the tree in on December 1st. Kirk will make some venison chili. For Volunteers, in the past it was: 2 people in chili tent, 4-5 decorating, 3-4 directing and helping in rooms, 2 people on donation table.
- b. Easter Egg Hunt: Start planning on that.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Member Appreciation Event – will push this to the Spring.
- b. Capturing Memories of the Creation of the Park – see agenda, Kim put together an outline of what should be covered. A creation of video is a probable outcome.

A motion was made to end the meeting, which was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m,

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 10/19/22

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 14th at 6:00 pm at Sherwood House and virtually.

THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS CLOSED TO BOARD of DIRECTORS MEMBERS ONLY.