



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – February 13, 2023

CVPC Board Meeting

Board members in attendance:

John Canoles, Rick Childs, Bill Curtis Kelly Emerson, Kate Joyce, Sya Kedzior, Mia Walsh, Abe Yoffe

Absent: Kristin McFaul, Joe Rector

Park Staff: Kirk Dreier

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Abe Yoffe

- a. The President called the meeting to order at 6:02p.m. The meeting was conducted online using GoogleMeet because of some illness going around.
- b. Abe thanked Kim and Mia for the membership renewal process. It's a busy time of year for the renewals.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Meeting Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2022 and January 2023 minutes. These have been approved and posted on the CVP website. <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>
- b. Finance, Kristin McFaul, Treasurer – Mia Walsh for Kristin
 - 1) Mia distributed financial documents prior to the meeting which were discussed briefly during the meeting. As it is the beginning of the year, not much data is shown. It's pertinent to note that we are 75% funded in our total dues budget and 69% funded in our total donation budget for 2023.
- c. Background Checks – John Canoles, Abe Yoffe, Rick Childs, Sya Kedzior, Kate Joyce – all have expirations coming up in January. [Update: As per the February 16 report – all are current with the exception of John Canoles.] <https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Recreation/backgroundreports/rosterreport.pdf> -
- d. Finance, Rick Childs. No Update
- e. Fundraising, Mia Walsh
 - 1) For 2022 year end, we received \$39,396 from a total of 419 donors. A detailed report was submitted as to the donation categories and how those donations were received.
 - 2) For the period of January 1 – February 7, 2023, we have received a total of \$4,301.84 of membership and donations. General donations from 44 constituents totaled \$1,441.84. 64 Membership renewals or new memberships totaled \$1,835. Additional items were not included in this report which were included in the financial report.
 - 3) A Children's Garden donation for \$650 was received and Kristin will do a Journal Entry for this restricted fund.
 - 4) For January 1, **2022** to February 7, 2023, donations specific to the Trails Committee equaled \$3,174 and donations for the Goats Eating Invasives totaled \$1,290. A discussion needs to take place on how the Trails Committee would like to utilize these funds.
- f. Nominating Committee:
 - 1) Abe reviewed the proposed slate and discussed the potential movement on the current board positions.
 - 2) Kim will be resigning as Vice President, one year ahead of her term, but she will remain as Membership Chair and on Communications Committee. Kristin will not be seeking reelection to her term as Treasurer.
 - 3) Mia will be resigning from her role as Secretary to fill the Treasurer's position (Kristin McFaul) and will be



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – February 13, 2023

CVPC Board Meeting

added to the 2023 slate for voting. Stacey Cruise will be on the slate for the Secretary position being left by Mia Walsh, Secretary. Abe has presented Dave Votta for an open Director's position.

4) Kim will update the Nominating Slate and send out accordingly to the membership per the by-laws.

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

3. MANAGEMENT

a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier

- 1) The staff redesigned the Summer Camp Curriculum for all areas and will be incorporating new ideas for the 2023 camp.
- 2) Polliwog program was very successful and the weather worked well for the Winter season.
- 3) Ranger Anne brought Nature Center outreach to the School for the Blind and Ranger Breena is going to the Cockeysville library with some of the animals.
- 4) The Children's Garden pond is leaking from the liner and it may be that we have to remove the plants. We should be prepared to hire Wicklein's Water gardens to do the installation of a new liner if they can't find the hole where the leak is occurring. The Children's Garden does have funds in the reserve under restricted.
- 5) Indigenous Cooking program took place last week. They used several different methods of cooking over the campfire. Maple Sugaring Weekend is upcoming – be sure to come by!
- 6) The Baltimore Roadrunners Superbowl Run occurred on 2/12 without a hitch with over 100 runners.
- 7) Spring calendar registration opens on 2/15. Abe noted there is a large number of free programs this season. Kirk said that Chief Ben gave him a fee schedule of programs they need follow, which includes many categories of free programs. Mia noted that the 2023 budget was determined anticipating \$5,000 in revenue from programs, which covers the cost of many of the Park Staff activities, like Education, Clothing and Nature Center categories. Abe will add this topic as well to the Nature Center Presidents' meeting to understand these new initiatives.

b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- 1) Kate Joyce oversees closing the gates now at Sherwood and WG. She was lamenting that there are people who stay in the park until they are verbally kicked out. Kirk said to lock in the cars where the people are not near the cars, but if they are hanging around the car, Kate should ask them to leave. Kate expressed concerned for her safety. Mia suggested adding the signs stating the opening and closing times of the park (like at Lake Roland), though Kirk said that doesn't make a difference. Kate discussed the possibility of an automated gate with opening and closing times. Kim discussed the possibility of a bullhorn. Abe said that he will be adding this topic to Nature Center Presidents' meeting as well.

c. Friends of Sherwood – Mia Walsh

- 1) Mia got three names of companies who build protection for over the hand-painted wall paper in the Sherwood Dining Room. They are Stephen Kaak, an exhibition case/designer/maker who works for Walters (410-383-8225 stephenkaak@gmail.com), Saga Design & Construction in Owings Mills and Shore Plastics in Greenspring Quarry in Baltimore 21209. She will work on getting quotes for next meeting.



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – February 13, 2023

CVPC Board Meeting

d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs

- 1) Rick sent Abe the first draft of the equipment list which was compiled, which includes the assets of equipment: Riding mowers, gas mowers, drills, hammer and other items in the shop. He submitted a first draft which includes age and serial numbers. He is waiting for Kirk to submit some more detailed information, but Kirk did submit a general list of the larger equipment. Bill would like this list to anticipate equipment that we may need. Bill is also concerned about the tort liability for the Council and Park Staff about who is permitted to use which equipment. Abe should find out if the County protects liability-wise any volunteers operating in the park. Kate would like to know about completing an incident report. Kirk said he could complete a report for things, but as soon as a person gets hurt, there is another procedure.
- 2) Rick and Wayne put a plan together for mowing, which was submitted to Kirk. Kirk said that he will review the maps and review them with Rob (mowing) for Property Management. The mowing schedule will be based on their equipment and availability. [Update: Kirk met with Rob Hendigis from Property Management on 2/17 with a few changes to the plan.]
- 3) Rick asked if the committee should remove the logs where the Kudzu is located. John said that would be a good idea, and year-after-year. Kirk said they would have to cut the vines low but we all decided not to pursue using any herbicide. [Update: Abe followed up with Eric Duce from DNR, who suggested we hire the goats for May and June when there is enough biomass to keep them interested.]
- 4) We still need to decide how to use the funds for the Trails Committee. See above for the amounts available. [Update: Baltimore Road Runners submitted a donation on 2/23 for approximately \$1,553 which will be added to the Trails Committee pool of funding.]

e. Programs – Kelly Emerson

- 1) Arts in the Park – Kelly said that she has proposed putting the Migration Celebration and Arts in the Park together since finding separate dates has been difficult. Kelly is suggesting that the vendors for Arts in the Park be put in the field. Discussion ensued about music and the logistics with parking and set up. Pat asks that this decision be made as soon as possible so everyone may begin planning.
- 2) Gilchrist Steps of Hope – June 4th weekend. We do not need a PPI because it is a recurring program.

f. Communications – Mia Walsh

- 1) The last month was very busy. The Winter Program calendar was input to the CampBrain registration system and the website. Pat put events together in Facebook.
- 2) 150 cards were sorted and mailed to donors who gave \$50 or more dollars to the park in 2022 thus far. Another 300+ letters were printed for all donors to mail out their year-end gift donation summary for tax reporting purposes.
- 3) A membership mailing went out via Constant Contact to all members who have expirations on 3/31/23. In addition, an email went out to past memberships which expired in 2021, 2020 and 2019.

d. Volunteers –Pat Novak / Kim Novak

- 1) 101 hours were given by the committee this past month.

e. Membership – Kim Shapiro

- 1) We hit the 500 member mark this year already. Summer Camp registration always helps because we include a membership with their registration. Kim will be sending renewal emails out towards the end of the month. She has sent 180 thank you notes to those new memberships and membership renewals.



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – February 13, 2023**

CVPC Board Meeting

f. Ad Hoc Committees:

- 1) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – No update.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Member Appreciation Event – Volunteer: Limited to members and the members' families on April 22nd – 4 pm – 7 pm.
- b. The Annual Meeting in March is open to all membership. Abe will order food and drinks for that meeting and Kelly and Kim offered to bring additional items.
- c. Youth / Student Member on the Board. Sya suggested to have McKenna Cornell, a graduate student in Geography and Planning with an interest in Park Management. She has done a lot of work in urban planning. We will review the by-laws to see how we can make her an official member of the Board or if we have to go in a different direction.
- d. 2021 – 2022 Financial Audit. John and Bill have agreed to do the financial audit. Bill would like a log of all the checks from each of those years to compare. Abe will ask Kristin how he can get the documents for Bill and John to review.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Capturing Memories – Kim Shapiro – Wayne Harman, former Director of Rec and Parks and Bob Stanhope, the prior Manager of the park will be coming next week to give their recollections of CVP. These will be videos which show a history of the park.
- b. Sherwood House history information Kiosk. Kirk still needs to get in touch with Gretchen Sarkin from the Halten Garden Club.
- c. Sherwood Wallpaper – Mia needs to contact the three vendors regarding plexiglass to cover. Property Management will need to approve any work that is done. Kirk said they would need to see a proposal in order to start the dialog.
- d. Keys to the Gates – Kelly still has not gotten this key yet. There needs to be more signage about the closing of the gates and we need to give Kelly and perhaps Mia to help them get out. Kelly has to apply for a key.

A motion was made to end the meeting, which was seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 2/25/23

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 13th at 6:00 pm at Sherwood House and virtually. This will be the Annual Membership Meeting and will have food and drink to celebrate.