



Cromwell Valley Park Council

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2023, 6:00 PM

Council Meeting Attendance:

1. In-person: Abe Yoffe, Mia Walsh, Stacey Cruise, Bill Curtis, Rick Childs, Dave Votta, Deb Lee, and Kate Joyce
 2. Virtually: Kelly Emerson and Sya Buryn Kedzior
 3. Absent: Joe Rector and Pat Novak
 4. Park Staff: Kirk Dreier
 5. Membership in attendance: None
 6. Guest: Carolyn Magee from the Halten Garden Club
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1. Welcome from President Abe Yoffe

- The President called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM. The meeting was hybrid via Google Meet and in-person. The Agenda was adopted, and a quorum was present.

2. Governance

A. April 2023 Minutes: *Stacey Cruise*

- The approved April 10, 2023, Council meeting minutes are posted on the website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council>.

B. Treasurer's Report: *Mia Walsh*

- Membership renewals are slowing down. The Treasurer sent an additional

- request and received 12 membership renewals via Constant Contact.
- The record shows that the Council is at 100% of its donation budget.
 - Currently, dues are at 86%.
 - Summer Camp: We have yet to reach the \$27,000 revenue budget. Upcoming expenses for summer camp include staff salaries, supplies, and camp T-shirts.
 - The cost for the annual Quickbooks subscription needs to be budgeted.
 - Liability insurance coverage is provided for all Directors and Board Officers.
 - See the attached Donations/Fundraising report.

A topic for further discussion and consideration:

The feasibility of using TechSoup to lower the annual subscription rate for Quickbooks.

C. Background Checks: *Abe Yoffe*

- All Cromwell Valley Park Council members have current background checks.

3. Management

A. Park Staff Report: Kirk Dreier

See attached Staff Report

Note: The Chief coordinated with Property Management and secured a 30 x 40 tent for Park Staff to use for programming.

A topic for further discussion or consideration:

Sending a “thank you” from the Council to an Eagle Scout candidate completing a project that benefits the Park.

B. Leaseholder’s Report: (Talmar): Kate Joyce

- **Surpassed ??????**
- A photography drone photographed the new Pizza Garden.
- The mushroom growing project is being revamped.
- The Maryland School for the Blind partnership is off to a successful start.
- She thanked Rick, Tom, and Barry for their expertise and help.

A topic for further discussion or consideration:

Having the Boy Scouts build a new wheelchair ramp for Talmar.

C. Friends Of Sherwood Report: *Mia Walsh*

See attached Report.

D. Standing Committees-

1) Building and Grounds: *Rick Childs*

- Everything is growing and flourishing.
- Cutting fields and making trails
- The orchard and gardens are being maintained.
- Abe reported receiving an email stating a park visitor may have spotted Japanese Knot Weed (a small amount) located by the Minebank Run and the Limekiln Trail. Abe will forward this email to the appropriate parties, including the Invasive Species Removal Team leaders. Dave Votta and Kirk confirmed its presence.
- Kirk expressed concerns with HRT's methods for cutting bush honeysuckle. Abe said a meeting would be held once Laurie Taylor Mitchell returns from vacation.

***** Action item: On behalf of Wayne from Building and Grounds, Mia shared the urgent need to establish an additional perimeter to protect the fox and kits denning in the Limekiln area from the photographers and the general public. A decision was made to immediately make signage and an additional physical barrier to ensure a safer area for the fox family. *****

2) Programs: *Kelly Emerson*

- No new PPIs
- Membership Appreciation Event: reschedule dates under consideration: July 14th, July 21st, and possibly July 28th. Kelly will contact the caterer, and Abe will contact the band regarding availability.
- Migration Celebration update: The committee met to survey the space and firm up details. On Saturday, the Migration Celebration ends at 4:00 pm. On Sunday, Art in the Park ends at 5:00 pm. Vendors set up in the same area as before. The next committee meeting is on May 11th.
- The Gilchrist event is on June 4th

3) Communications: *Mia Walsh*

The Communications Report is attached.

- Sya reported the summer newsletter is in process.

- The Annual Report is in development.
- 4) Volunteers: **Pat Novak (Pat was not in attendance, but her report was reviewed)**
- Council members volunteered 99 hours in service to CVP in April.
 - Night Out with Nature - Programming is in development for the fall.
- 5) Finance: **Rick Childs**
- No Report

4. New Business

A. Proposal to help fund Sherwood Herb Garden cost: Abe Yoffe

Carolyn Magee thanked Abe, Mia, and Kirk for assisting Baltimore County on behalf of the Halten Garden Club. The club is a long-time partner funding the accessibility trail, patio furniture, and other projects. In addition, Carolyn requested funding assistance to pay Maxalea to prep the area for the Herb Garden.

Abe presented the following motion:

Motion: Abe Yoffe, President, makes a motion to spend \$2,000 to help the Halten Garden Club pay for a proposal provided by Maxalea, Inc. to prepare the site for the Herb Garden.

Cost Breakdown:

- Pachysandra & Boxwood Removals - \$1,855
- Soil Amendment Around Patio/Under Holly - \$2,975

Program or Committee Submitting Request: Friends of Sherwood House

Presenter of Motion: Abe Yoffe

Rationale: The Halten Garden Club is taking the lead on re-establishing the Herb Garden around the Sherwood House patio. They don't have enough funds for the entire cost from Maxalea to prepare the area for planting and have asked for help from the CVPC.

Pros: Support an organization that has supported the park in many ways for a long time, and beautify the patio since it was replaced due to the oil tank project.

Cons: Use of funds in the Friends of Sherwood House line item; they would not be available for other Sherwood House improvements.

Alternatives Discussed: N/A

Budget Change and Line Items: These funds would come from the \$3,912.08 currently in the Friends of Sherwood House line item on the balance sheet.

The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

B. Osprey platform and cam: *Dave Votta*

As an alternative to the Osprey platform and camera recommendation, the Council agreed to install feeders instead to attract Baltimore Orioles and more hummingbirds for park visitors to enjoy.

Mia made the following motion:

To approve the purchase of Oriole and hummingbird feeders and supplies for \$300.00.

The Council voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

C. Not an Agenda item: Abe shared the idea of organizing a Council dinner. Additional information is forthcoming.

5. Old Business

A. Sherwood House history information kiosk- funding by Halten Garden Club - *Kirk Dreier*

- There is no longer interest in pursuing this project.

B. Plexiglass on dining room walls: *Abe Yoffe*

- No update.

Topics for further discussion or consideration:

Complete a Citizens Generated Request. Then, find a vendor to develop a system to protect the walls safely.

C. 2021/2022 financial audit: *Mia Walsh*

- Items are still pending from the prior treasurer.

D. Formal Parking Plans for Events: *Kelly Emerson*

- Kelly emailed hand-drawn plans to the Council of various parking arrangements for multiple events. Kelly met with Park staff to determine contingency plans for rain, how many volunteers are needed for parking, and signage needs. Kirk is working to provide computer-drawn parking configurations for the permanent record.

E. Meeting with County about field mowing schedule: *Abe Yoffe*

- Abe will follow up with the County regarding the GIS data.

Motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm

***Respectfully Submitted by
Stacey Cruise
Council Secretary***