



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.

Council Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2023

6:00 PM

Council Meeting Attendance:

1. In-person: Abe Yoffe, Mia Walsh, Stacey Cruise, Bill Curtis, Rick Childs, Dave Votta, and Kate Joyce
2. Virtually: Kelly Emerson and Joe Rector
3. Absent: Sya Buryn Kedzior, Deb Lee, and Pat Novak
4. Park Staff: Breena Doyle for Kirk Dreier
5. Membership in attendance: None

1. Welcome from the President: *Abe Yoffe*

- The President called the meeting to order at 6:11 PM. The meeting was hybrid via Google Meet and in-person. The Agenda was adopted, and a quorum was established.
- The President welcomed all new Board Members.

2. Governance

a. March 2023 Minutes: *Mia Walsh*

- Clarification: The Arts in the Park event is for two days (9/16 and 9/17), and the CPVC Migration Celebration is only for one day, Saturday, the 16th.
- March 13, 2023, Council meeting minutes are posted on the website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council>

b. **Treasurer's Report: *Mia Walsh***

- In Quickbooks, the year-end 2022 Profit and Loss Statement indicates a deposit of \$1300-1400. As a result, the 2022 year-end Profit and Loss Statement was adjusted. That sum was deposited in 2023.
- An update on the tax forms filed in March is needed based on the adjusted year-end 2022 Profit and Loss Statement. A \$50 charge for making this update may occur.
- Highlights from an analysis of the Profit and Loss Statements from 2015-2022 include:

Donations	2015 = \$2700, increased in 2022 to \$16,000
Dues	2015 = \$5400, expanded in 2022 to \$16,000
Summer Camp	2017 = \$2900, 2018= \$800, in 2022, increased to \$5000
Fall/Migration Festival (Profit)	2021= -\$41.00, 2022 = \$600 (Note: Before 2020 = \$1200 to \$2000
Public Programming (Surplus)	2019 = \$4,000, 2021 = \$3700, 2022 = \$3100

- The Profit and Loss Statement to date is current.
- To date, 79% of the renewed or new dues have been received.
- Enough donations have been made to cover 96% current donations budget. Note: Some donations have a project-specific designation.
- The line item for animal expenses is at 61% spent. Will monitor spending.
- Summer camp revenue is \$25,000 and budgeted for \$27,000.
- The funds from the Facebook fundraiser for the goat project take three months to receive.
- The previous treasurer will compile and submit the 2021-2022 financial documents for the Internal Financial Audit by Friday, April 14, 2023. Additionally, the restricted funds will be updated to formulate the financial position statement for the annual report.
- The 990 for 2022 will be filed.

Topics for further discussion and consideration:

- The impact of using social media in increasing visibility and awareness of the Park-
- Leveraging the benefits of Camp Brain (i.e., Constant Contact feature)
- Establishing a fee price point for public programming

Bill Curtis emphasized the significance and importance of the impressive increase in membership.

c. Baltimore County Rec and Parks: **Bryan Sheppard** (No Report)

d. Background Checks: **Abe Yoffe**

- To date, all Cromwell Valley Park Council members have current background checks.

e. Committee Chair Approvals: **Abe Yoffe**

- The Council approved the following slate of Committee Chairs for a one-year term:

Committee	Chair
Finance	Rick Childs
Building and Grounds	Rick Childs
Programs	Kelly Emerson
Communications	Mia Walsh
Volunteers	Pat Novak

3. Management

a. Park Staff Report

- **Breana Doyle** reported to the Council for **Kirk Dreier**. Ranger Breana added that two new summer camp counselors are Towson University students, and one is a high school student aspiring to attend Towson State. A proposal for a community garden was submitted. A “closed sign” posted on the trail to Wellington Woods (near the gazebo) is a safety precaution due to a huge dead tree in danger of falling. Mowing is in process on the top and near the Blue Trail.

******Action Item: Before the 4/13/23 meeting, email Baltimore County a map indicating the habitat/land not to mow during this season.**

Topics for further discussion and consideration:

Inquiring about possibly receiving a donated trailer from Baltimore County to house (temporarily) school and student groups instead of using a tent.

b. *Leaseholder's Report: (Talmar): **Kate Joyce***

- Learned to drive a tractor.
- After the Brush Hog cleared a field, including a ½ acre wedge plot for growing wheat, tomatoes, basil, and onions.
- The newly hired and certified Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Nicole, has already started building partnerships in Baltimore County. Nicole has the support of a part-time assistant.
- The Volunteer Fair on Saturday, April 15, 2023, is from 9:00 am-noon and 50 volunteers are expected. From noon- until 2:00 pm, a Board member is facilitating a window box workshop using seedlings.
- The Volunteer Coordinator effectively recruits volunteers and is now working full-time.
- Seedlings are available for order online. Seedlings will be available for the Members Appreciation Event.
- The greenhouse is at capacity.
- The Maryland School for the Blind partnership began in April.

c. *Friends Of Sherwood Report: **Mia Walsh***

- The Halten Garden Club: Abe Yoffe sent a Citizens Generated Request form for them to complete and asked for additional information for planning purposes.

Topics for further discussion and consideration:

Preparing beds and developing an implementation plan by the end of May.

d. *Standing Committees-*

i. *Building and Grounds: **Rick Childs***

- Monitoring the mowing plan works well.
- Requested a second banner for the Sherwood entrance to welcome visitors to the park. A possible slogan added to the banner: "Take a Hike!"
- Explained the appropriate equipment needed to maintain the park.

Topics approved for further investigation:

Explore partnering with Talmar to acquire and share maintenance equipment. Additionally, contact the foundation used previously by both parties, the France

Merrick Foundation, to request funding.

ii. Programs: **Kelly Emerson**

- No new PPIs. Will check with Debbie Trout to ensure a smooth transition.
- Encouraged Board members to attend the Talmar event on Saturday, April 15th
- Members Appreciation event is Saturday, April 22nd. Board members are still needed to assist on the event day. There is a question about needing a liquor license for this event. Having a permit may suffice.
- The Gilchrist Steps of Hope event is scheduled for Sunday, June 4th
- Planning a parking protocol for events is in process
- Combined Migration Festival and Art in the Park event planning meeting on April 12th. Topics for discussion: How to co-brand this event, recruit and manage the vendors, and determine the need for a liquor license. Note: Coolers are needed to serve the beer and wine during the event.

iii. Communications: **Mia Walsh**

- No report

iv. Volunteers: **Pat Novak (Abe Yoffe reporting)**

- The Board completed 167.5 hours of volunteer time during March.
- A Night Out with Nature - No report

V. Finance: **Rick Childs**

- No Report

(Note: Membership was not an Agenda item: **Kim Shapiro: Abe Yoffe reporting**)

Currently, there are 388 members

4. New Business

a. Update from Nature Council Presidents meeting: **Abe Yoffe**

- Attended meeting with Bob Smith, the newly promoted full-time Director of Rec and Parks
- Discussed public program pricing structure
- The County's Civic Rec System will be implemented in Baltimore County starting in August or September 2023. Patrons can still use Camp Brain to register and pay for our programming. The County's Civic Rec system will have a link to our website for program registration..

- A park finder app is in development.
- Discussion on the lack of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the park councils and the Rec and Parks. Collaboration between the council presidents and Recs
- Discussed possible cooperation on property management.
- Interesting fact: The National average for Rec and Parks spending per capita is \$85.00 annually. In Baltimore County, the average annual per capita spending is \$19.00.

b. Correspondence about the sewer line project: **Dave Votta**

- Correspondence with David Beyer from the Department of Public Works detailing concerns regarding the project in the early stages. DNR and MDE need to conduct environmental reviews. The goal is for the environmental studies to occur after the migration and breeding seasons. Once the environmental reviews are complete, the Council will ask David to share the results.

5. Old Business

a. Sherwood House History/ Information Kiosk (Funding by Halten Garden Club):

Kirk Dreier

- No Report

b. Capital Projects Design: **Abe Yoffe**

- Talked with Bob Smith during the Budget Town Hall meeting. Drew Emmer requested a two million dollar increase in funding for the projects. Abe spoke in support of the capital projects.

c. Plexiglass on dining room walls: **Mia Walsh and Kirk Dreier (Abe reporting)**

- Made contact with an experienced historical renovations expert. He has some ideas for this project and cautioned not to place plexiglass against the walls. Doing so traps moisture.

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

- Items are still due from the prior treasurer.

e. Purchase of sound system for events: **Kirk Dreier (Abe - gave an update)**

- Holding off on making a purchase. Considering a television and a conference

system.

f. Formal Parking Plans for Events: **Abe Yoffe**

- The meeting to determine the parking plans and protocols is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2023.

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

- The property management meeting with Rec and Parks is Thursday, April 13, 2023.

h. Halten Garden Club plan for patio- (See Friends of Sherwood report for an update)

Motion to adjourn at 7: 37 pm

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