



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/vcg-jose-swf>

Or dial: (US) +1 929-277-6755 PIN: 967 299 480#

## 1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT, ABE YOFFE

- a. Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda; Establish Quorum
- b. Welcome to all members that don't normally join us
- c. Shining Star Awards

## 2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Approval of August 2024 Minutes – *Rachel Allshouse*
- b. Treasurer's Report – *Mia Walsh*
  - i. Review Profit & Loss Statements and Budget vs. Actuals
- c. Background Checks- *Abe Yoffe*
- d. Membership
- e. Committee Chairs & Members – *Abe Yoffe*

## 3. MANAGEMENT

- a. Park Staff Report – *Kirk Dreier*
- b. Leaseholder's Report - *Talmar - Kate Joyce*
- c. Standing Committees –
  - i. Governance - *Carl Gold*
  - ii. Finance – ?
  - iii. Fundraising - *Mia Walsh*
  - iv. Building and Grounds - *Rick Childs*
    1. Status of the county's plan for Park repairs, renovations and construction
  - v. Programs & Events - *Kelly Emerson*
    1. PPI's and upcoming events requiring approval
    2. Fall Harvest Festival – September 28<sup>th</sup> – planning
      - a. Draft Agreement with County
    3. Holiday Open House?
  - vi. Communications – *Mia Walsh*
  - vii. Volunteers – *Pat Novak*
    1. Night Out with Nature
- d. Ad Hoc Committee – History & Culture – *Stacey Cruise*

## 4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Motion to contribute to cost of interpreters for Shakespeare event - *Abe Yoffe*
- b. Motion to hire goats - *Mia Walsh*

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the County/R&P - *Abe Yoffe*
- b. Chimney Swift Towers – ?
- c. County Grant Request re: footbridges over streams – *Abe Yoffe*
- d. Motion to approve US Post Office Box - *Mia Walsh*
- e. Maintenance of Honor Garden & Sherwood Herb Garden - *Mia*



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Mia Walsh

### 1. YEAR-TO-DATE 2024

- o We are at 131% of budget for donations and 120% for dues. It is important to note that if we remove donations and dues from our income, the budget income for 2024 is \$38,070 and the actual income YTD is \$29,825.56, leaving a **deficit of \$8,244.44**, as a direct result of Reimagine Rec.
- o #251 Newsletter: In order to promote the County's October – December activities, the Communications Committee decided to incur the expenses to add their programs in full in the Fall newsletter. This took our newsletter from 12 to 16 pages. In addition, since this will be the first outreach towards our year-end donation campaign and membership renewal, we increased the mailing to expired 2023 members and donors, for a print run of 1050 newsletters. As we only have \$1,400.60 remaining in the newsletter budget, I anticipate having to also use our remaining \$1,100 in #265 Fundraising AND/OR \$354.51 in Communications Committee. *It is important to note that historically, the County paid the postage for this newsletter. **It is worth a discussion on how AND IF the Council will help market the County's events moving forward as there are direct costs associated with our website, email blast systems, and printed newsletters as well as many volunteer hours to do the same. We receive no economic benefit from these events.***
- o Arts in the Park and Fall Harvest Festival: The contract with the County STILL has not yet been signed and the event is 3 weeks away. Are we prepared to cancel the event if we can't come to an agreement?
- o It is time to begin working with Staff to see if there is anything they would like to see added to the park in 2025. (Did Kirk suggest something already? I can't find it in my notes.) Without a signed MOU, the Council should not commit to spend auxiliary funds for the County / Park Staff.
- o I expect to see a proposal from Park Staff at the September meeting to utilize funds in #267 Orchard Project for signage for our orchard. We currently have \$2,500 available.
- o President will try to cancel a recurring McAfee annual charge of \$158 for the Council computer in the Park office as Park Staff should not be using Council equipment, per their new Reimagine Rec process.
- o Treasurer will cancel our ConstantContact account, scheduled to renew in October, due to the cost and the loss of income due to Reimagining Rec. CampBrain is able to do most of the same items, but less pretty and no mail merge opportunities.

### 2. Non-Profit Bulk Mailing Capabilities

- o Thank you to Abe and Dave Schroeder for working with the Post Office to secure a bulk non-profit mailing permit for CVPC.



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### 3. Honor Garden and Sherwood Patio Herb Garden

- o Honor Garden and Sherwood Herb Garden maintenance took place in August 2024, including new mulch to freshen up both areas of the park, as well as heavy duty weed blocker fabric for the Honor Garden. Monies received from the 2024 donations (\$3,931.35) were used for this initiative. The expense is shown in 262 Garden Subcommittee. The Garden Subcommittee is showing \$6,405.66 in expenses with a budget of \$4,000 (rolled over from 2023 Honor Garden donations) for \$2,405.66 “over budget” in garden expenses, but we used the donation money. **This leaves \$1,525.69 in Honor Garden funds moving forward.** If this balance remains, I will move it to the Balance Sheet as a restricted fund for 2025.

NEWLY WEEDED AND MULCHED HONOR GARDEN



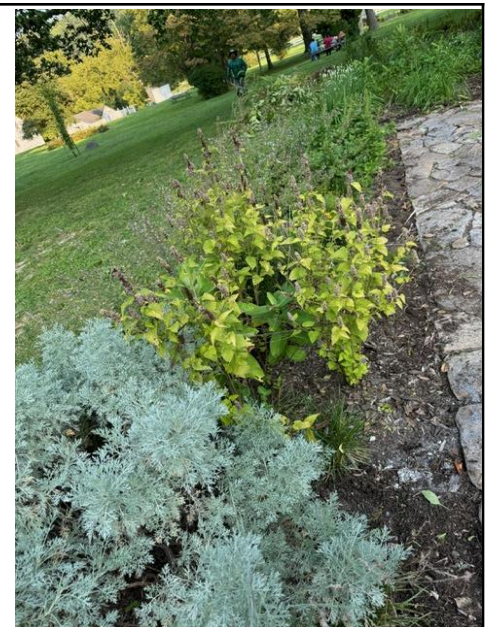


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- o **Sherwood Herb Garden:** President and Treasurer reviewed the citizen generate request to replace all the plants and flowers which Baltimore County removed when the tank under the Sherwood patio had to be replaced. CVPC's CGR was to replace and pay for the new plantings and design, along with financial assistance from Halten Garden Club. NO WHERE IN THIS REQUEST did the Council offer or agree to pay for on-going maintenance of this garden. (We did for the Honor Garden BTW). Property Management has vehemently stated they will not maintain this garden. Park Staff had zero response from Halten Garden Club to address the weeds, which got so bad, they killed some of the native plantings which were installed in the spring. Where do we go from here?

**BEFORE: TOP AFTER: BOTTOM**





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## 4. Kudzu Removal – Motion to Spend out of Budget

- o I was contacted by Eric Duce from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability about the Kudzu growth above the Hawk Watch area, where the kudzu has now crossed over to the open field, leaving the forested area.
- o With Reimagining Rec, should CVPC spend its funds on bringing the goats back? Please read motion form.



## 5. Accessible Trail

- o The Accessible Trail has weeds pushing through the stone and the stone pathway looks like it needs a new rolling and additional stones. Discuss options with Buildings and Grounds and budget if we need to bring in Lake Roland or an outside contractor to get it back into shape. It looks bad.



## 6. Time to start thinking about 2025 budgets!

- o If the various Committees would please begin sending me notes of their needs and expense items for 2025, it would be helpful as we begin our budget discussions in October.



# **Cromwell Valley Park Council**

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**See the following pages for:**

**BUDGET VS ACTUALS**

**BALANCE SHEET**

# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

## Budget vs. Actuals: 2024 Final Budget - FY24 P&L

January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Income</b>				
Receipts				
110 Dues	15,015.57	12,500.00	2,515.57	120.12 %
120 Donations	14,392.00	14,000.00	392.00	102.80 %
120a - Project Specific Donations				
126 Goats - Invasive Species Removal	48.51		48.51	
128 Honor Garden	3,931.35		3,931.35	
<b>Total 120a - Project Specific Donations</b>	<b>3,979.86</b>		<b>3,979.86</b>	
<b>Total 120 Donations</b>	<b>18,371.86</b>	<b>14,000.00</b>	<b>4,371.86</b>	<b>131.23 %</b>
130 Interest Income	12.36	20.00	-7.64	61.80 %
140 Fundraisers		500.00	-500.00	
260 Building & Grounds	2.76		2.76	
310 Building Attendant Income		200.00	-200.00	
351 Animal Expenses Nature Ed.	70.00	250.00	-180.00	28.00 %
352 Primitive Technology		600.00	-600.00	
401 Educational Trips	232.00	750.00	-518.00	30.93 %
402 Internal Public Programs	1,815.30	5,000.00	-3,184.70	36.31 %
403 Summer Camp	26,672.90	23,000.00	3,672.90	115.97 %
404 Polliwogs Program	457.82	3,000.00	-2,542.18	15.26 %
405 Master Naturalists		250.00	-250.00	
407 Night Out With Nature	317.90	500.00	-182.10	63.58 %
501 Fall Festival		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
502 Holiday Open House		500.00	-500.00	
504 Art in the Park	324.52	1,500.00	-1,175.48	21.63 %
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>63,292.99</b>	<b>64,570.00</b>	<b>-1,277.01</b>	<b>98.02 %</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$63,292.99</b>	<b>\$64,570.00</b>	<b>\$ -1,277.01</b>	<b>98.02 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$63,292.99</b>	<b>\$64,570.00</b>	<b>\$ -1,277.01</b>	<b>98.02 %</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
B				
Council Expenses				
210 President's Expenses	294.20	600.00	-305.80	49.03 %
212 Council Equipment Purchases		5,000.00	-5,000.00	
213 Office Supplies		400.00	-400.00	
214 Postage	132.00	500.00	-368.00	26.40 %
215 Council Equip. Maintenance	1,972.66	3,000.00	-1,027.34	65.76 %
216 Contributions to Others		600.00	-600.00	
217 Membership Dues to Outside Organizations	220.00	750.00	-530.00	29.33 %
218 Insurance	841.49	1,500.00	-658.51	56.10 %
219 Printer Ink	280.55	1,100.00	-819.45	25.50 %
230 Finance Committee	1,054.99	1,250.00	-195.01	84.40 %
231 Membership Subcommittee		500.00	-500.00	
250 Communications Committee	1,645.49	2,000.00	-354.51	82.27 %

# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

## Budget vs. Actuals: 2024 Final Budget - FY24 P&L

January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
251 Newsletter (w/o calendar)	1,099.40	2,500.00	-1,400.60	43.98 %
252 Meetings	307.55	150.00	157.55	205.03 %
260 B&G Committee	626.15	3,000.00	-2,373.85	20.87 %
261 Trails Subcommittee	512.64	3,000.00	-2,487.36	17.09 %
262 Garden Subcommittee	6,405.66	4,000.00	2,405.66	160.14 %
265 Fundraising		1,100.00	-1,100.00	
266 Volunteer Appreciation Event		2,000.00	-2,000.00	
267 Orchard Project		2,500.00	-2,500.00	
<b>Total Council Expenses</b>	<b>15,392.78</b>	<b>35,450.00</b>	<b>-20,057.22</b>	<b>43.42 %</b>
<b>Total B</b>	<b>15,392.78</b>	<b>35,450.00</b>	<b>-20,057.22</b>	<b>43.42 %</b>
<b>C</b>				
Park Staff				
301 Clothing	35.00	1,400.00	-1,365.00	2.50 %
302 Education and Conference	335.00	1,000.00	-665.00	33.50 %
303 Dues, Books & Subscriptions		300.00	-300.00	
304 Equipment		500.00	-500.00	
305 Equipment Maintenance	536.14		536.14	
307 Computer Maintenance & Part	216.06		216.06	
309 Displays/Exhibits	1,443.65	2,500.00	-1,056.35	57.75 %
310 Gifts and Grants-Bldg Attndt		200.00	-200.00	
312 Drinking Water	187.41	1,000.00	-812.59	18.74 %
330 Children's Garden	1,005.69	1,500.00	-494.31	67.05 %
351 Animal Expenses Nature Ed.	100.00	2,000.00	-1,900.00	5.00 %
352 Primitive Technology		800.00	-800.00	
<b>Total Park Staff</b>	<b>3,858.95</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>-7,341.05</b>	<b>34.45 %</b>
<b>Total C</b>	<b>3,858.95</b>	<b>11,200.00</b>	<b>-7,341.05</b>	<b>34.45 %</b>
<b>D</b>				
Park Programs				
401 Educational Trips	75.00	300.00	-225.00	25.00 %
402 Internal Public Programs	757.07	1,500.00	-742.93	50.47 %
403 Summer Camp	2,495.81	12,500.00	-10,004.19	19.97 %
404 Polliwog Program Expense	314.29	800.00	-485.71	39.29 %
405 Master Naturalist Training		250.00	-250.00	
407 Night Out With Nature	594.37	500.00	94.37	118.87 %
409 Credit Card Fees	360.30	1,800.00	-1,439.70	20.02 %
<b>Total Park Programs</b>	<b>4,596.84</b>	<b>17,650.00</b>	<b>-13,053.16</b>	<b>26.04 %</b>
<b>Total D</b>	<b>4,596.84</b>	<b>17,650.00</b>	<b>-13,053.16</b>	<b>26.04 %</b>
<b>E</b>				
Council Sponsored Events				
501 Fall Festival		1,500.00	-1,500.00	
502 Holiday Open House	81.66	1,200.00	-1,118.34	6.81 %
<b>Total Council Sponsored Events</b>	<b>81.66</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>-2,618.34</b>	<b>3.02 %</b>



# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

## Budget vs. Actuals: 2024 Final Budget - FY24 P&L

January - December 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Total E</b>	<b>81.66</b>	<b>2,700.00</b>	<b>-2,618.34</b>	<b>3.02 %</b>
<b>F</b>				
Council Hosted Events				
602 Art In The Park - Spring		1,000.00	-1,000.00	
<b>Total Council Hosted Events</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-1,000.00</b>	
<b>Total F</b>		<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>-1,000.00</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$23,930.23</b>	<b>\$68,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -44,069.77</b>	<b>35.19 %</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$39,362.76</b>	<b>\$ -3,430.00</b>	<b>\$42,792.76</b>	<b>-1,147.60 %</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$39,362.76</b>	<b>\$ -3,430.00</b>	<b>\$42,792.76</b>	<b>-1,147.60 %</b>

# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

## Balance Sheet

As of September 7, 2024

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Bank of America - Checking	160,842.88
Bank of America Savings	46,256.79
PayPal	242.12
Petty Cash - Staff	0.00
Petty Cash-Treasurer	138.22
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$207,480.01</b>
Other Current Assets	
Uncategorized Asset	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$207,480.01</b>
Other Assets	
Investments - Cert of Dep	0.00
Petty Cash - Holiday Open House	0.00
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$207,480.01</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Credit Card - Bank of America	119.03
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>\$119.03</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$119.03</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$119.03</b>
Equity	
Restricted Funds	723.78
Accessible Trail	250.00
Camp Brain Balance	650.03
Children's Garden	0.00
Deady Funds	112.05
Dog Waste Stations	0.00
Fort Garrison Funds	9,677.25
410 Fort Garrison	-3,928.73
<b>Total Fort Garrison Funds</b>	<b>5,748.52</b>
France-Merrick Lime Kiln Funds	186.11
Friends of Cromwell Valley	0.00
Friends of Sherwood House	2,294.11

# CROMWELL VALLEY PARK COUNCIL

## Balance Sheet

As of September 7, 2024

	TOTAL
Gator Fund	14,742.59
Gator Fund Release	-14,742.59
<b>Total Gator Fund</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Honor Garden	0.00
Koininia (Butterfly) Funds	480.05
Kubota Fund Donations	0.00
Lawnmower Fund	793.30
Merrick Bank Barn	590.00
Summer Camp Funds	0.00
Towson Rotary Trail for All	0.00
Trails Equipment	5,000.00
Weed Warrior Funds	226.31
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<b>17,054.26</b>
Retained Earnings	-92,100.24
Unrestricted Balance	243,044.20
Net Income	39,362.76
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$207,360.98</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$207,480.01</b>



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS/MEMBERS

### Executive

Chair: Abe Yoffe  
Member: Joe Rector  
Member: Mia Walsh  
Member: Rachel Allshouse

### Governance

Chair: Carl Gold  
Member: Bill Curtis

### Finance

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Member: Deb Lee

### Fundraising

Chair: Mia Walsh  
Member: Kim Shapiro

### Building & Grounds

Chair: Rick Childs  
Member: David Davenport

### Programs & Events

Chair: Kelly Emerson  
Member: TeEasha Holston  
Member: Deb Lee

### Communications

Chair: Mia Walsh  
Member: Carl Gold  
Member: Kelly Emerson

### Volunteers

Chair: Pat Novak



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## BACKGROUND CHECK INFORMATION AS OF 8/2/24

<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>		
<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>
President	Abe Yoffe	12/2/24
Vice President	Joe Rector	11/5/24
Treasurer	Mia Walsh	5/7/25
Secretary	Rachel Allshouse	3/5/25
Director	Bill Curtis	8/12/25
Director	Carl Gold	8/4/24
Director	Deb Standeven Lee	2/10/25
Director	Stacey Cruise	2/12/25
<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>		
Finance Chair	Rick Childs	12/31/24
Buildings/Grounds/Trails	Rick Childs	12/31/24
Programs	Kelly Emerson	10/7/24
Volunteers	Pat Novak	6/2/25
Communications	Mia Walsh	5/7/25
<b>LEASEHOLDER</b>		
Talmar	Kate Joyce	1/1/25



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted By: Kim Shapiro

Changes in membership are minimal this time of year. The graph shows membership numbers over the last 2 years. Slight losses in membership totals are showing for the last four months compared to the same period last year. This may reflect changes in the registration process from local to County-wide. We will track this.

### CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DATA:

Total memberships  
as of 9/08/24: 461

Last report (Aug) 455

Lifetime: 16

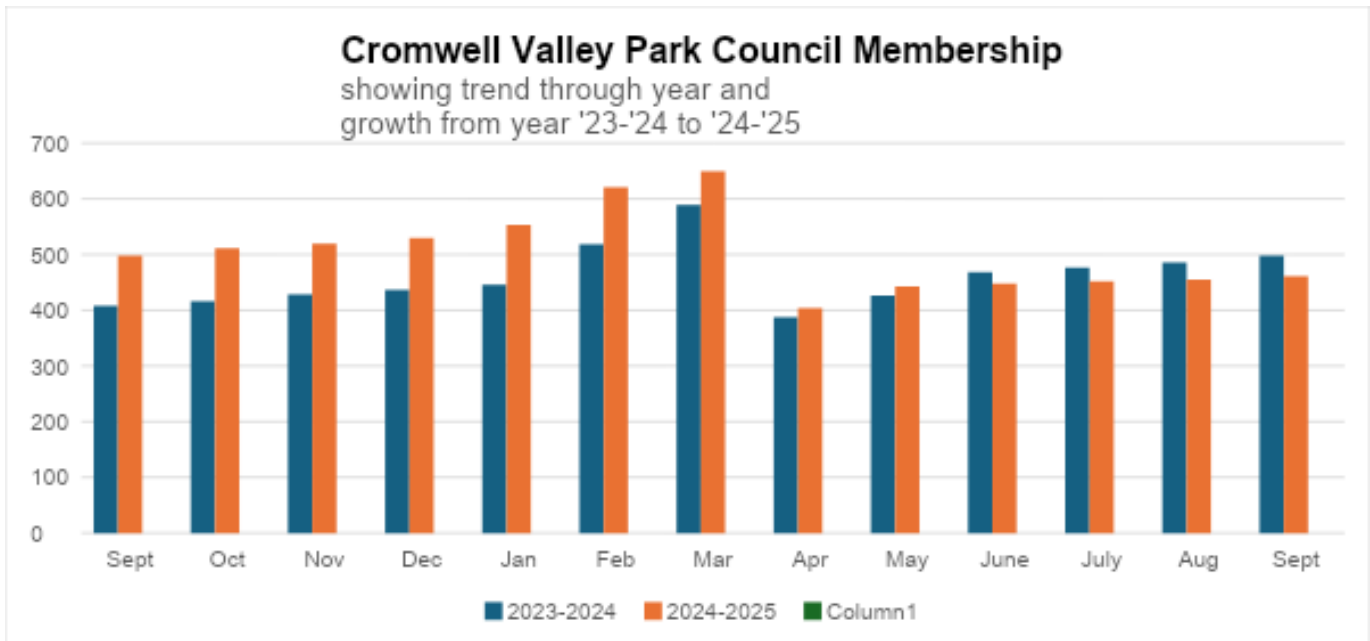
Patron: 6

Sustaining: 27

Contributing: 41

**Coming month:** Continue to send out thank-you cards/membership cards to renewing households.

**Recognition:** Thanks go to Mia for gathering membership data from all of the sources, mail-in, website and CampBrain, inputting membership data into CampBrain and forwarding records of membership purchases. Thanks to Dave Schroeder for including membership appeals in CVPC newsletters.





# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## FRIENDS OF SHERWOOD REPORT

Submitted by: Mia Walsh

REQUEST TO ADD ITEM TO MEETING AGENDA?  Yes  No

1. Maxaela's quote for the weeding and mulching of the Honor Garden and Sherwood Herb Garden was well over the available budget for the project.
2. See Sherwood Herb Garden report in the Treasurer's report.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Mia for buying and delivering the mulch and weed-block fabrics and working two days over the weekend helping weed and mulch the two gardens.

### ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH

Someone to contact Halten Garden Club to see if they will be keeping the Sherwood Herb Garden weed-free moving forward. If not, how do we get Property Management to take care of it?



### Maxalea, Inc.

900 Oak Hill Rd.  
Baltimore, MD 21239

410-377-7500 Telephone

410-377-6864 Fax  
maxalea.com Web

### Proposal

31795

August 7, 2024

James McWilliams 10005

MHIC# 71551

Dept of Agriculture #1832

#### Submitted To

Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.  
Attn: Mia Walsh, Treasurer  
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road  
Parkville, MD 21234

#### Project

Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.  
2002 Cromwell Bridge Road Attn: Mia Wa  
Parkville, MD 21234  
410-218-2597 Ms. Walsh

#### Scope

***January 2024 - December 2024***

#### Description

Quantity Size

#### Maintenance Visit - August

- Weeds to be removed from the Honor Garden and the Sherwood Patio Garden
- Mulch to be freshened up in both planting areas

Project Total

**\$4,770.00**



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## **PARK STAFF BOARD REPORT**

Submitted by: Kirk Dreier

## **LEASEHOLDER'S REPORT**

Submitted by: [Kate Joyce](#)- Talmar

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: GOVERNANCE**

**Chair: Carl Gold**

The committee has been supporting the president in his efforts to get an MOU the council can live with for the fall festival. As of the date of this report, the county has still failed to address our request to limit our indemnification obligation to the extent of the increased insurance we were forced to obtain. The president has been extremely responsive both with the insurance broker and the county. The broker has timely communicated but the county is still treating us like an ugly stepsister. The larger question of the MOU for the council as a whole, also remains open, again due to the county's failure to address the concerns of all the Nature Councils.

Respectfully submitted, Carl

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: FINANCE**

**Chair: TBD**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: BUILDING & GROUNDS**

**Chair: Rick Childs**

## **COMMITTEE REPORT: PROGRAMS & EVENTS**

**Chair: Kelly Emerson**





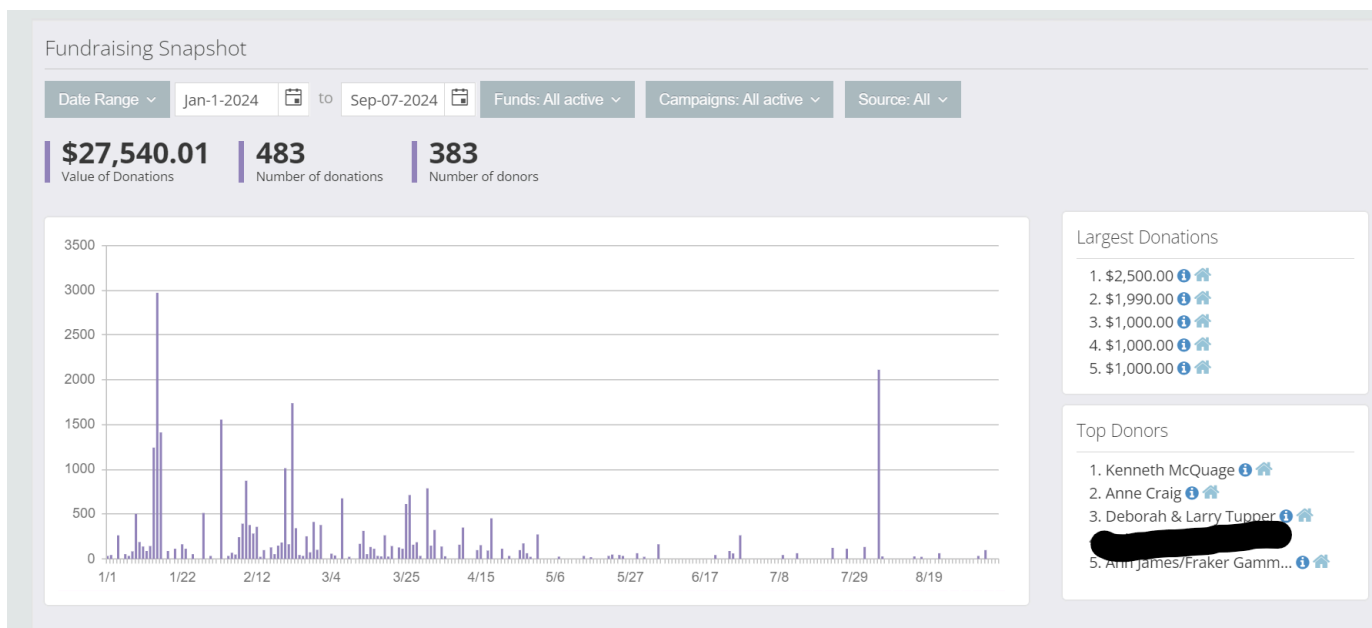
# Cromwell Valley Park Council

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## COMMITTEE REPORT: FUNDRAISING

Chair: Mia Walsh

- 1) All donation boxes, specifically for animal care, were removed from the Nature Center per Reimagining Rec program. These funds went directly back to purchase animal food for our Nature Center animals. In addition, we will not be permitted to have the holiday tree with ornaments to donate to specific animals or animal care in December.
- 2) The financial impact of Reimagining Rec was discussed in the Fall newsletter with a plea to our community to continue its membership and donations to the Council to directly support Park efforts.
- 3) Donations and Memberships continue to slow in this period. This chart shows all membership dues and donations for 2024.



**REQUEST TO ADD ITEM TO MEETING AGENDA?**  Yes  No

**ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH - SORRY THESE KEEP GETTING MOVED TO THE BOTTOM OF MY CVP LIST OF THINGS TO DO.**

- 1) Order new remittance envelopes. Will put on PayPal and Venmo QR codes on the envelopes this year to cater to the younger generation. (ON HOLD UNTIL THE MAILING ADDRESS ISSUE IS RESOLVED.)
- 2) **Order plaques for Adirondack chairs in the Honor Garden.** Order Dr. Lake's and Phil Tupper's name plates for Adirondack chairs. Additional Native Plant signage?



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## COMMITTEE REPORT: COMMUNICATIONS

CHAIR: Mia Walsh

REQUEST TO ADD ITEM TO MEETING AGENDA?  Yes     No

1. Fall Newsletter is completed and at the printer for distribution. Thank you to Dave Schroeder for his work on this issue, as well as Carl, Stacey and Abe for writing content. It looks great! There will be additional newsletters to have out on tables during the Fall Harvest Festival as well.
2. CampBrain Updates: Directing users to CivicRec; Added Night Out with Nature series and membership / donations. Mia contacted CampBrain to see if there would be a cost reduction in 2025 since we will be losing about 95% of our registrations due to CivicRec. The short answer was no, but it would be reviewed the following year once the decrease is visible. We have a \$750 credit due for our 2025 invoice due to the summer camp registration issues. We continue to find the Fundraising module an enormous benefit to our tracking donors and communicating them, as well as the recognition of the donors and memberships. There are over 5,000 email and mailing addresses in our database, which is phenomenal. It is the suggestion of the Communications Committee that we continue to utilize this software in 2025.
3. [Info@cromwellvalleypark.org](mailto:info@cromwellvalleypark.org) is no longer being monitored by the Park Staff per Reimagining Rec protocols. This mailbox is being forward to Communications and forwarded, as necessary, to the Park Staff.
4. Night Out with Nature flyers created by Dave Schroeder are on the website, Facebook and in the newsletter. We will continue to promote the Council-sponsored event on our social media and messaging.
5. Website Updates: Fall Harvest Festival, Primitive Technology, NOWN programs.
6. Email Blasts: We are currently promoting the County events in our email blasts, with questions circulating back to the Council about registration. These are being forwarded to the Park Staff for response.
7. Request was put in the Fall Newsletter for people to submit photographs from the park for the year-end donor cards for 2024.

### ACTIVITIES OR ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING MONTH

1. Dave will take newsletters to post office for mailing when they are printed. Thank you!
2. Need to record two Hike Through History audio files for Deb Lee and upload to the website so she can create the QR Codes for the project. (Sorry, Deb!)

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

\_\_\_\_\_ Dave, Carl, Stacey, Abe



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## COMMITTEE REPORT: VOLUNTEERS

CHAIR: Pat Novak

LAST	FIRST	Submitting on behalf of	#	Brief description of time spent/activities
Allshouse	Rachel	Myself	14	Meetings, emails, minutes, shining star
Novak	Pat	Myself	19	Volunteer hours, posting on Facebook, emails, NOWN
Gold	Carl R.	Myself	15	Contract and insurance review, guided hikes, articles
Curtis	William	Myself	4	Council business
Reed	Raymond	Trail Maintenance	9	Trail Maintenance, Mowing
Cruise	Stacey	Myself	14.5	Work for the History and Cultural Heritage Committee, Fall Festival work, wrote an article for the Council newsletter, and attended family events at the Park.
Yoffe	Abe	Myself	16	Board meeting and meeting prep, Fall Festival agreement review, insurance
Lee	Deb	Myself	12	Hike Through History project, Fall Festival committee
Walsh	Mia	Myself	31.5	Board mtg, tour of grounds with Delegates Nawrocki/Kathy S., Halten Garden Club, weeding Honor Garden, Camp Brain reports, NOWN, website, newsletter, treasurer
Rector	Joe	Myself	13	Park office visits, trail monitoring
Childs	Rich	Myself	229	17 volunteers trail maintenance
Emerson	Kelly			

**AUGUST 2024 TOTAL: 377**



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## HISTORY AND CULTURE AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted By: Stacey Cruise

**Committee Members: Stacey Cruise, Kelly Emerson, Carl Gold, Laura Jenifer, Kate Joyce, and Kim Shapiro**

- 1. Towson University Partnership Project: Dr. Victoria McAlister, HUMA670 Digital Public Humanities ( Committee members: Stacey Cruise, Kelly Emerson, Carl Gold, and Kim Shapiro)**

### **Project Overview:**

The digital public humanities project makes up 65% of the course grade. Students must volunteer 30 hours over the semester, collaborating with community partners to develop a digital project. This work is scaffolded, with progress submissions leading to a final deadline (TBD, likely early December).

Initially, students receive a list of potential partners with contact details and brief project descriptions. They will define specific tasks and goals with their partner, achievable within 30 hours outside of regular class time. The project aims to build hard and soft skills, including collaboration and professional communication.

### **Assessment:**

- **Total Project Grade: 65%**
  - Commission/First Meeting Report: 5%
  - Project Proposal: 5%
  - Progress Updates: 5%
  - Final Project (with partner feedback): 30%
  - Presentation: 20%

After meeting with their partner, students must submit a detailed project proposal (due TBD) outlining measurable goals. Regular communication and clear feedback expectations are essential. Feedback forms will be used for final grading.

### **The Partnership Project**

The Cromwell Valley Park Council's History and Cultural Heritage Ad Hoc Committee proposed a short film titled *The Modern Pioneers of Cromwell Valley: A Legacy of Conservation*. The film's purpose is to educate and honor those instrumental in conserving the land that became Cromwell Valley Park. The film will tell the story of *The Campaign to Save The Valley*. Archival interviews, photos, and historical materials will enhance the narrative, connecting these personal stories to the broader conservation history in Baltimore County. This film will preserve the legacy of Cromwell Valley's pioneers and as an educational resource, inspiring how grassroots efforts can lead to lasting positive change.

***Emily New is our Towson University student partner. Emily has documentary film experience and extensive experience editing film. Emily New and Stacey Cruise held an introductory meeting via Zoom on 9/3/2024. An in person meeting with Emily is scheduled for Monday, September 16th, at 11:00 am in the Sherwood House Library.***



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## 2. Land and Labor Acknowledgement Display Boards

Below are the designs for the two display boards. Jim Kelly and Stacey Cruise meeting on 9/16 to select authentic photographs for each display board. The costs of printing the display boards (36x24) and purchasing two retractable easels are donated. The display boards will have grommets. The goal is to display the boards in the Council tent during the Fall Festival.

### The Cromwell Valley Council's History and Cultural Heritage Ad Hoc Committee: Land Acknowledgement

The Cromwell Valley Park Council acknowledges the history of the land we now steward. It once provided for the Piscataway, Susquehannock, and other Indigenous peoples, who nurtured it for generations. We honor the enduring legacy of these tribal peoples, who live and flourish across the mid-Atlantic region today. We pledge to continue to support this stewardship tradition by protecting and preserving this place.

[Info on the photo source here](#)



### The Cromwell Valley Council's History and Cultural Heritage Ad Hoc Committee: Labor Acknowledgement:

We pay tribute to all those whose labor helped shape this land. These laborers included the enslaved, indentured servants, sharecroppers, and settlers. We acknowledge their contributions.

[Info on the photo source here](#)



## 3. Newsletter Article

The Committee's first column in the Council's newsletter is set to appear in the summer edition. Carl Gold did an exceptional job of concisely and engagingly capturing the history of Cromwell Park's formation.

***The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd, at 1:30 p.m. in the Sherwood House's meeting room.***

*Submitted by: Stacey Cruise*



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTION FORM

**Date:** September 9, 2024

**Presenter of Motion:** Kelly Emerson

**Program or Committee Submitting Request:** Programs & Events

**Motion:** Donate \$836 to Talmar to cover half the cost of the American Sign Language interpreters for the Chesapeake Shakespeare event on July 20, 2024. This would exceed budget line item 216 Contributions to Others by \$236

**Rationale:** Talmar arranged for the American Sign Language interpreters for the Chesapeake Shakespeare event that was held in the park on 7/20/24. Talmar received a donation to cover the cost and is forwarding that donation to the Cromwell Valley Park Council and we will be paying the bill. By making a donation back to Talmar, we will effectively be splitting the cost with them.

**Pros:** Support of Talmar and accessibility for the hearing impaired.

**Cons:** Talmar would have to use the entire amount of their donation to cover the cost

**Alternatives Discussed:** None

**Budget Change and Line Items:** This would exceed budget line item 216 Contributions to Others by \$236



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTION FORM

**Motion:** Mia Walsh, Treasurer, makes a motion to spend some in-budget and some out-of-budget funds to hire goats to continue focusing on the kudzu invasion up the hill from the Hawk Watch. Girls Got Goats, a smaller goat removal company, is no longer performing the service due to some family issues.

Eric Duce from the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability had requested that we continue with this invasive removal. He sent an email on August 27<sup>th</sup> stating "I noticed that the kudzu has jumped into the adjacent meadow and across the trail. We'll need to look into hand pulling the lighter areas. Hopefully we can get something going, even a mowing would help."

Eric provided two additional companies, one of which is no longer taking new clients (Eco Goats). We received a quote from Browsing Green Goats, which would be \$2,750. They have 35 goats in their herd, verse 5-6 from Girls Got Goats.

- Browsing Green Goats, Mary Bowen, (o) 443-964-4972 (c) 242-409-2532, <https://browsinggreengoats.com/>
- Eco-Goats, <https://www.eco-goats.com/>

### Cost Breakdown:

Total funds collected by donations: \$1,698.20

Total funds spent on Girls Got Goats: \$ 1,100.00

Total funds remaining: \$598.20

**Out of budget expense requested: \$2,151.80**

**Program or Committee Submitting Request:** Mia Walsh, Treasurer

**Presenter of Motion:** Mia Walsh

### Rationale:

If nothing is done, the Kudzu will continue to spread. We have already allocated funds in an attempt to eradicate Kudzu and CVPC should continue this effort since the County has made no attempt to address this issue, nor put funds towards that effort.

**Pros:** CVPC continues making environmental impact towards the highly invasive species. Positive public relations for our social media and our community.

**Cons:** Unbudgeted cost of \$1,901.80. Council continues to pick up doing work which the County should be doing. No Memorandum of Understanding with the County.

**Alternatives Discussed:** Not allocate the funds to address the Kudzu issue.

**Budget Change and Line Items:** There is nothing in the budget to cover this expense and would have to come out of surplus funds.



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MOTION FORM

ON HOLD UNTIL WE ARE TOLD WE CAN'T HAVE MAIL DELIVERED TO THE PARK OFFICE - MOU SIGNED

**Motion:** Mia Walsh, Treasurer, makes a motion to spend \$400.00 for an annual fee for a United States Post Office Box for Cromwell Valley Park Council due to the new regulations put forth by the Reimagine Recreation Initiative by Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks. The POS Box would be at the Loch Raven Post Office located at 808 Gleneagles Court, Towson, MD 21286.

### Cost Breakdown:

This motion is for the following mailbox size:

- o Size 3-M 5.5" x 11"

There is also a Size 2S 5" x 5.5", but the mail would be squished in a bit. The cost for that is \$256 annually.

**Program or Committee Submitting Request:** Mia Walsh, Treasurer

**Presenter of Motion:** Mia Walsh

### Rationale:

In the event a Memorandum of Understanding does not contain verbiage to allow Cromwell Valley Park Council's Mail to be sent to Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks has told us that we are no longer to have our organization's mail sent to the Sherwood House, we must be prepared to have mail sent to another location.

**Pros:** None

**Cons:** Unbudgeted cost of \$400 annually. Inconvenient to pick up mail.

**Alternatives Discussed:** See if BCDR&P allows this to continue under the forthcoming Memorandum of Understanding.

**Budget Change and Line Items:** There is nothing in the budget to cover this expense.





# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## Background Check Procedure:

1) Go to this website:

[https://baltimorecounty.quickapp.pro/apply/applicant/start?\\_ref=qap\\_session\\_4717b60df8a38f18987551b2d44a00d37b7d088af50fec074077ea1b52df05dd](https://baltimorecounty.quickapp.pro/apply/applicant/start?_ref=qap_session_4717b60df8a38f18987551b2d44a00d37b7d088af50fec074077ea1b52df05dd)

2) Choose A-C Communities:



A-C Communities	Apply
D-K Communities	Apply

3) Choose Cromwell Valley Park:



Agricultural Center	Apply
Banneker Park and Museum	Apply
<b>Cromwell Valley Park</b>	Apply

4) Follow prompts until completed.

Approved list may be found at:

<https://resources.baltimorecountymd.gov/Documents/Recreation/backgroundreports/rosterreport.pdf>



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## 2024 CVPC Meeting Dates

Approved at November 13, 2023 Meeting

All meetings will be held in the Sherwood House and via Google Meet unless otherwise indicated

Meeting Date	Time	Class of Meeting
Monday, January 8	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, February 12	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (closed)
Monday, March 11	6:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting (open to public)
Monday, April 8	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, May 13	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, June 10	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, July 8	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, August 12	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, September 9	6:00 p.m.	General Meeting (open to public)
Monday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, November 4	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (closed)
Monday, December 9	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)

\* Park office closed for Federal holiday



# Cromwell Valley Park Council

September 9, 2024

## Executive Board Roster

As of 4/1//24

<b>OFFICERS</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Term</b>
President	Abe Yoffe	<a href="mailto:President@cromwellvalleypark.org">President@cromwellvalleypark.org</a>	April 2023 – March 2025
Vice President	Joe Rector	<a href="mailto:vicepresident@cromwellvalleypark.org">vicepresident@cromwellvalleypark.org</a>	April 2024 – March 2026
Treasurer	Mia Walsh	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cromwellvalleypark.org">treasurer@cromwellvalleypark.org</a>	April 2023 – March 2025
Secretary	Rachel Allshouse	<a href="mailto:secretary@cromwellvalleypark.org">secretary@cromwellvalleypark.org</a>	April 2024 – March 2026
<b>DIRECTORS – Members at Large</b>			
Director	Carl Gold	<a href="mailto:cgold@carlgoldlaw.com">cgold@carlgoldlaw.com</a>	April 2024 – March 2026
Director	Bill Curtis	<a href="mailto:curtiswbc@gmail.com">curtiswbc@gmail.com</a>	April 2024 – March 2026
Director	Deb Lee	<a href="mailto:urspiders2@verizon.net">urspiders2@verizon.net</a>	April 2023 – March 2025
Director	Stacey Cruise	<a href="mailto:staceycruise@gmail.com">staceycruise@gmail.com</a>	April 2023 – March 2025
<b>STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS</b>			
Finance	Rick Childs	<a href="mailto:rikchilds@aol.com">rikchilds@aol.com</a>	Current membership year – voted annually *
Building and Grounds	Rick Childs	<a href="mailto:rikchilds@aol.com">rikchilds@aol.com</a>	^
Programs	Kelly Emerson	<a href="mailto:emersonkel@yahoo.com">emersonkel@yahoo.com</a>	^
Communications	Mia Walsh	<a href="mailto:mia@cromwellvalleypark.org">mia@cromwellvalleypark.org</a>	^
Volunteers	Pat Novak	<a href="mailto:pnovak8525@aol.com">pnovak8525@aol.com</a>	^
<b>LEASEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE</b>			
Talmar	Kate Joyce	<a href="mailto:katejoyce@talmar.org">katejoyce@talmar.org</a>	

### Section 1 - Members

The Executive Board will consist of the Officers, Directors, Leaseholder representatives, and the Chairpersons of the Standing Committees.

### \*Section 4 - Chairpersons

All standing committee chairpersons shall be elected by the current Executive Board to serve for the current membership year. The elections shall take place at the Executive Board Meeting subsequent to the Annual Meeting. If a standing committee chair position is vacant due to resignation or termination, the President shall appoint a chairperson to fill the remainder of the vacant term.

President, Treasurer – elected in odd-numbered years / two directors in odd-numbered years  
Officers, Directors, Leaseholder Representatives and Chairpersons of the Standing Committees