



Cromwell Valley Park Council (CVPC)

Meeting Minutes
December 9, 6:00 PM

● **COUNCIL MEETING ATTENDANCE**

- In-person: Abe Yoffe, Rachel Allshouse, Carl Gold, Rick Childs, Kate Joyce, Kelly Emerson, Bill Curtis, Deb Lee
- Absent: Pat Novak, Mia Walsh, Stacey Cruise, Joe Rector, Kim Shapiro
- Park Staff in attendance: Kirk Dreier

● **WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT, ABE YOFFE**

- Call to Order & Adoption of the Agenda; Establish Quorum
 - Call to order: 6:10 PM
 - The meeting was in-person at McFaul's Ironhorse Tavern (Google Meet available at start).
 - The Agenda was adopted. A quorum was present.
- Thank you:
 - To everyone for sticking with it through a year full of changes
 - To Abe for all he has done
 - For last minute help with the holiday open house

● **GOVERNANCE**

- CVPC approved November 2024 Minutes – Rachel Allshouse
- Treasurer's Report – Abe Yoffe on behalf of Mia Walsh
 - Review Profit & Loss Statements (P&L) and Budget vs. Actuals
 - Detailed reports provided in the December 10 Agenda
 - Voting on the 2025 Budget
 - Was not officially voted upon at the November meeting.
 - A suggestion was made to budget for SWAG/apparel for volunteers and trail crew.
 - Is there room in the budget for parking signage? How to improve event parking?
 - Ranger Kirk suggested ways to increase the budget such as grants and corporate sponsors. Use Sherwood House for events to bring in more donations to support CVPC.
 - A motion was made to approve the 2025 budget. The motion passed unanimously.
 - How does the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) impact the budget?
 - Program registration took revenue away from CVPC. But Baltimore County Recreation & Parks (BCRP) took on expenses too.
 - CVPC money is CVPC's to spend.
 - The MOU does not list reduced registration fees for CVPC members.
 - Is there an option on CivicRec for low income families? Should CVPC consider a scholarship fund or additional verbiage to contact CVPC if in need? Is there an option for a coupon code? Discussion of CVPC sponsoring camp registration fee(s) or a contest/scholarship.
- Background Checks – Abe Yoffe

● **MANAGEMENT**

- Park Staff Report – Kirk Dreier
 - November was busy. Three special programs.
 - 11/2 - Ranger Kirk was at Jefferson Patterson Park to do a reciprocal program for them. Their

Ed Director comes to CVP for the Primitive Technology Weekend.

- A few schools came in November which ended on 11/6.
- The Master Naturalist program on 11/9 which was taught by other instructors, but hosted at Sherwood. 11/19 was Ranger Kirk's presentation on Indigenous people of Maryland.
- 11/24 was the Fort Garrison program in Pikesville.
 - Word came that the community thought it was one of the best that had been held.
 - Different activities included (couldn't feed people (officially) anymore) coffee making demo, drawing ball with silver solder (pouring molten silver solder into musket ball molds), hides and animals of the 17th century frontier, tobacco and its impact in colonial Maryland, colonial games children played, foods (on display) of the time, cooking demos with making bread during all 3 hours, tools and weapons display, talks concerning the Rangers at Fort Garrison, and demos on setting up canvas lean-tos.
- The Holiday Open House went well.
 - Thanks to Kelly Emerson and other volunteers for help setting up the two-pole tent (a massive job), setting up the parking area, and parking folks.
 - Inside were the usual activities, music and food.
 - Clean up at 1:00PM went quickly and efficiently thanks in part to the volunteers and staff working together.
 - Over 160 people came and took part.
 - CVPC discussed concerns about visibility of marketing for the program. How big would the event ideally be? About 80 registrations came from CivicRec.
- The new Polaris is dead in the water. It has a glitch and is going to the shop. All them have failed in some form now.
 - Ranger Kirk really likes it when it's working however, as it is silent. For example, successful when borrowed from Lake Roland during the Fall Harvest Festival.
- Wayne Skinner asked Ranger Kirk to get fence posts for repairs along the various fence lines of Mine Bank Run and along the Park driveway. It will be completed after the holidays, maybe before depending on time.
- Ranger Kirk will be teaching a bow course at Marshy Point Nature Center starting 1/9, 6-9pm in a 5 week course. Those interested can go to CivicRec to register.
- CVP will be renting community garden plots this year (if the fence gets installed). New Garden costs and responsibilities of gardener's acknowledgement just came out.
 - \$29 for standard plot and \$46 for a raised bed.
 - The regular plots are 10' x 10'.
 - The season will be 3/1-11/15.
 - Sign up for gardens ideally begins 1/1, but because it is not ready it might end up 3/15.
 - Can TALMAR promote buying seedlings from them to people who buy community garden plots?
- Apple Orchard project is progressing with Mike Mauro, Jim Kelly, and Ranger Kirk.
 - Discussion about projected costs for signage.
- Leaseholder's Report - TALMAR - Kate Joyce
 - Meeting held with Bob Smith.
 - 20 years ago TALMAR was invited to CVP. Relationships have declined in the last 5 years. Bob Smith was unaware of the history of the relationship between Baltimore County/Park/TALMAR. BCRP has viewed TALMAR as a company that uses private land.
 - Discussion about language in lease. Pursuit of two legal documents, a lease and MOU. Draft MOU and lease between Office of Law and Kate Joyce and TALMAR Board.
 - OSHA violations without access to air conditioning/heat. Seeking language with rights to land so that TALMAR can apply for grants for handicapped accessible improvements.

- Attending a Community Development Block Grant meeting 12/10 at noon.
- Christmas Tree Sale - 249 trees to start, 30 left as of today.
 - Sold out of honey
 - Low sensory santa was available before the tree sale opened for the day. Tree decorated by a support group.
- When heat gets fixed in the greenhouse, start seeds.
- Recruiting for veterans program.
- Standing Committees-
 - Governance - Carl Gold
 - Kudos to Abe's patience. Crucial items have been addressed. Addendum to address things specific to CVPC. December 31 deadline.
 - Finance - No Report
 - Fundraising -
 - Membership - Abe Yoffe on behalf of Kim Shapiro
 - Membership numbers remain strong.
 - Total as of 12/8: 533 (17 lifetime, 8 patrons, 38 sustaining, 52 contributing).
 - Membership numbers may go down next year because we are no longer in charge of camp registration. Membership drive to compensate?
 - Coming month: Continue working on best methods for data maintenance.
 - Building and Grounds - Rick Childs
 - Tools and mower would like to be purchased out of the budget.
 - Events and Programs - Kelly Emerson
 - PPIs and upcoming events requiring approval
 - No PPI requests.
 - What format do we want to use for new programs or initiatives? Add as New Business item next meeting. From a historical perspective, what is the requirement to reflect requests?
 - Fall Harvest Festival (FHF) - Updates and Recap
 - Formalizing feedback documents.
 - Donation requests from food vendors.
 - Get 2025 date on calendar ASAP. Ranger Kirk will find out what dates the Chief has in mind. He does not want more than one big county sponsored event in one weekend. Questions and push back about this were brought up. What resources would waterfront festival need that FHF uses? Can a set date every year be added to the MOU addendum? Consideration of staff time/hours.
 - Holiday Open House - to be discussed in January meeting
 - What is the horse track circle for TALMAR? If people come to the park and want to learn something, where to direct them? Question box or QR code for questions?
 - Upcoming events: Chesapeake Shakespeare Company (CSC)
 - Add to agenda to discuss in more detail with questions below.
 - New person in charge, but would like to come back this summer. Free event.
 - Would like two days. Same weekend, but perform Saturday and Sunday (instead of one day and rain day).
 - What does that mean for BCRP and CVPC? Would BCRP be willing to hold a 2-day event? CVPC event or partnered event?
 - Go through proper channels. First step is to submit a request with CivicRec to reserve space. No charge to get in? Would BCRP waive fees?
 - Connor (Kelly's son) is interested in presenting ideas on how to improve parking.

- Discuss: Lighting and parking for next year. They have portable lights. Require registration in advance?

- Communications – No Report
- Volunteers – Abe Yoffe and Rachel Allshouse on behalf of Pat Novak
 - Night Out With Nature (NOWN) - Pat Novak and The History and Culture Committee will be partnering to organize this event. The committee will facilitate 3 events.
 - 323 total volunteer hours in November 2024. Not inclusive of every CVPC member. Full list of submitted hours is available in the December 2024 agenda.
- History & Culture - Carl Gold on behalf of Stacey Cruise
 - A full detailed report is available in the 12/9 agenda
 - Committee meeting held 12/5, 1-2:30pm in Sherwood House Meeting Room with Mike Mauro as guest.
 - Agenda Items and Discussion
 - Updates:
 - Holiday Open House Recipe Cards finalized and available Holiday Open House.
 - Emily New’s Documentary Presentation: Towson University 12/11, 5-7pm. All committee members are invited to attend.
 - Resolution for Permanent Committee Status: Will be presented for a vote during the January CVPC meeting.
 - Upcoming Newsletter Articles include a tribute to Wayne Harmon and a feature for Black History Month (discussion about potential leads for this article).
 - New Business:
 - 2025 Meeting Calendar: Thursdays before council meetings, 10:00-11:30 AM, with a Zoom option available. Dates submitted to Ranger Kirk for final approval.
 - Night Out With Nature (NOWN): The History and Culture committee is partnering with Pat Novak and NOWN. The committee is committed to facilitating 3 events.
 - Documentary Debut Event: planning for the “Modern Day Pioneers” premiere is underway. The committee proposed Earth Day as the debut date, with Emily New participating.
 - Recruitment and Onboarding of New Members: Strategies discussed included outreach through newsletters, partnerships, and community events to attract diverse members.
 - Piscataway Connection: Schedule a meeting with Piscataway leadership to explore a potential partnership focused on Indigenous history in the Valley and collaboration opportunities.
 - 2025 Programming Ideas: Proposed themes include The Women of Cromwell Valley, Pop-up Museum, and Documentary Debut/Earth Day Celebration.
 - Milestones/Recap of 2024
 - Established a recurring newsletter column.
 - Formalized Land and Labor Acknowledgements and signage.
 - Completed "Modern Day Pioneers" documentary.
 - Transitioned from an Ad Hoc Committee to a standing committee

(pending vote).

- Finalized Historical Recipe Cards.
- Increased committee membership and involvement.
- Developed preliminary plans for 2025 programming.

● Action Items

- Finalize details for Jan. resolution on committee
- Coordinate with Towson University presentation logistics.
- Confirm dates for 2025 meetings with Ranger Kirk.
- Continue planning for the Earth Day debut of “Modern Day Pioneers.”
- Schedule a meeting with Piscataway leadership.
- Draft/submit newsletter articles.

● NEW BUSINESS

- Updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) -Abe Yoffe
 - Quick turnaround that addressed updates listed.
 - Follow up needed to address Civic Rec hardship/coupon code.
 - Park is still our mailing address. SDAT address is Mia Walsh’s address. Don’t have to change anything. Change lockbox location in MOU to Sherwood House or to CVP in general. No need for a PO box anymore.
 - Logo design now includes “Council.” Talk of a new logo contest. Kelly Emerson has old logos that we can look at. MOU language limits us from using BCRP logo, not CVPC logo.
 - Define “Timely Manner.” When asked, the answer was “a reasonable time period” and on a case by case basis.
 - Can language in MOU be negotiated in the future?
 - ADDENDUM: began review. Identify the items CVPC typically does. Include storing equipment. Can we add that CVPC has say in future leaseholders? Input from Rick and Wayne (trail crew specific perspective) in addendum? The President showed the initial draft to CVPC during the meeting. Mia Walsh has a version that includes programs/activities. Make sure language does not limit future activities. Use 9th amendment language. Not ready to formally approve, but getting close. Digital vote before the end of year, since no meeting before then.
- 2025 Meeting Dates: The following meeting dates are proposed to CVPC for review. No vote was held at the December 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 13 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, February 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (closed)
Monday, March 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting (open to public)
Monday, April 14 th (Passover is on the 13 th – move to week prior??)	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, May 12 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, June 9 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, July 14 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, August 11 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, September 8 th	6:00 p.m.	General Meeting (open to public)
Tuesday, October 14 th (Indigenous Peoples’ Day is the 13 th)	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (open to public)
Monday, November 10 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (closed)
Monday, December 8 th	6:00 p.m.	Executive Board (closed) – Meeting Off-site

- Motion to approve Gator Purchase -Rick Childs
 - Reviewed 12/9 motion to purchase a new John Deere Gator and supporting documentation. Specs included with motion available in the 12/10 agenda.
 - Motion passed. Anticipated cost of \$15,846.55 and not to exceed available funds of \$17,005.02
- Website Refresh - Abe Yoffe
 - Motion to add \$2,500 to 2025 budget for website. New back end system to make work easier. Homepage/donation/membership simplified. Add Apple Pay and Venmo.
 - Agreement from CVPC that website updates are needed.
- **OLD BUSINESS**
 - County Grant Request re: footbridges over streams – Abe Yoffe
 - No Update
 - Motion to approve US Post Office Box -Mia Walsh
 - No longer needed
 - Sewer Project -Gunpowder Interceptor Relief Sewer Line, Soil Borings, and Test Holes -Mia Walsh
 - No update
 - Capital Projects - Abe Yoffe
 - No Update
 - Request to approve funding to print 500 copies of Sherwood-Eck Trail Guide (eagle scout project) - Carl Gold
 - Updates were made and handed over to Mia for next steps. Request to look at wording to update beyond initial edits. Suggestion to update images.
 - Weed Warrior Pilot Program -Mia Walsh
 - No Update
 - Minebank erosion – Rick Childs
 - Getting Worse
 - Hike Through History - Deb Lee
 - Same as Sherwood Eck Trail Guide (with the exception of one post)
 - Rec & Parks Transition Grant - Abe Yoffe
 - Potential to receive up to \$25,000
- The meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.
- Submitted by Rachel Allshouse, Council Secretary