



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.**  
**Minutes – December 9, 2019**

CVPC Board Meeting

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kenneth Keady, Kate Joyce (Talmar, Inc.), Sya Kedzior, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe.

Council members: Sharon Childs and Pat Kingman

Park staff: Kirk Dreier

BCDR&P: Corey Johns, Board member at large

Absent: Jenny Trust

**1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS**

- a. Mia called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. following a holiday social gathering where all were invited and many brought sharable snacks and beverages. Mia introduced the agenda which had been distributed by email, and confirmed a quorum present. Mia welcomed guests to the meeting, as this was an open board meeting. The upcoming list of meetings may be found on the CVPC website at <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>.
- b. Volunteer & Donor Recognition:
  - (1) Giving Tuesday – Mia created an appeal to members early on Tuesday to help fund the purchase of a Gator for the Park. The appeal went out via the CampBrain email system. A special ornament with the park logo was offered for a \$40 or higher donation. Donations were very strong at nearly \$2000. An additional contribution of \$800 was promised by Bart Rein, a delegate of Baltimore Road Runners, an organization which holds trail running events regularly at the park. (Baltimore Road Runners has donated generously to the CVPC over the years.) See the Membership Subcommittee Report for a list of donors.
  - (2) Remittance Envelopes also brought in extra donations to the CVPC, again focusing on the Gator fund project. These envelopes were included in the Calendar mailing that went out in early November. It was the first time to try this appeal approach. Mia reported that this income was over \$2000.
  - (3) Birthday fundraiser through Facebook – Mia set this up on her FB page and, because the response was so good, raised the goal twice: from \$250 to \$500 to \$1000. At the point of the meeting, the total stood at \$750.
  - (4) Holiday Open House 12/7 – Thanks to all those who helped with this event at Sherwood. Sya reported that the event was a success, with over 250 in attendance. Activities were inside and out to help accommodate the numbers of participants. Staff and volunteers were welcoming. CVPC decorations were available for sale, with about 15 sold. Donation receptacles were placed at different points where visitors could find them, the best location being the welcome table where snacks and beverages were available for the taking. Pat Novak donated the cookies for the cookie decorating activity (an in-kind donation of \$84) and Kirk donated venison snacks. At the time of this meeting, revenue and expense tallies have not yet been completed for the event. Pat Novak said that she appreciated the help Sya gave by coordinating a group of volunteers for the decoration of Sherwood ahead of Saturday's event.

**2. UPCOMING HOSTED EVENTS**

Program Committee Report – Ken reported early in the meeting to allow him an early departure. Two events are anticipated for the spring.

- a. Helping Up Mission, a Baltimore non-profit whose mission is to provide men and women fighting addiction and homelessness with comprehensive recovery services plans to hold a walk at the park in May. The organization is coordinating with Noodles and Company and expects about 1500 to attend. Susan is communicating park rules of use, and there is a coordinator for the event to deal with parking issues, vendors and other organizational needs. Rick suggested that the Park staff will need to be involved to ensure that



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parking for that large a group of attendees is handled appropriately, such as marking the area for rows and having adequate direction as cars arrive.

- b. A second walk is in the early stages of planning – A Walk of Life to help raise funds for single pregnant women. Expectations of attendance are much smaller for this group, at 50 to 100.

Kristin asked Kirk if he had any concerns, and he said he wants to be involved with decisions for marking trails for the events. Sharon mentioned that the past event for myasthenia gravis came off well despite the rain, and that she herself walked a half mile. She is expecting that the event will be held again in 2020, and Ken confirmed that there is a date “penciled in.”

### 3. GOVERNANCE

- a. Corey Johns – In his role as liaison with the Councils of the BCDR&P, Corey suggests that we have an opportunity to get more help from Baltimore County government through being more vocal at “town hall” meetings which are held periodically at different points around the County. He said that budget money was lowered due to the lack of requests from Councils, as only four Councils were heard from last year at these events. Mia was present to reach out for assistance last year at two separate town hall events, and Corey suggested that we do more of this, particularly combining efforts with other of the Nature Centers.
- b. Meeting minutes acceptance from September and November meetings. Approval of minutes from September meeting was missed in the November meeting. A minor typo was found in each of September and November minutes. Rick mentioned questions on financial handouts from the November meeting, which Kristin will address in the Treasurer’s report at this meeting. Minutes for both prior meetings were accepted with these considerations.
- c. Board position motion – Mia

Mia read the motion, included with the board information packet, proposing the removal of Jenny Trust from her position as Director on the CVPC board and naming Sya Burynd Kedzior as Director. Jenny has been absent from three consecutive meetings, a requirement stated in the bylaws, and has not been responsive to emails from Mia.

Mia asked for a motion to approve the motion. Abe so moved and Bill seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

- d. Notice of Expiring Terms – Mia

The following board member terms expire in March 2020: Pat Novak (VP), Kim Shapiro (Secretary), Sya Kedzior (Director) and Bill Curtis (Director). (Mia has been reaching out to see who will continue and keeping in mind the impact of term limits.)

Kelly Emerson has agreed to lead the Nominating Committee for the upcoming slate to be presented for approval at the March General Meeting. Kelly has filled this role before when she served on the board.

- e. Treasurer’s Report – Kristin

(1) Kristin passed out updated P&L and Balance Sheets. Our organization’s financials are looking good for the year. Fundraising revenue has been stronger than expected, so instead of operating at a planned loss for the budget year, we are actually seeing a net surplus of \$5000. Kristin cleaned up revenue and expense line items for the Lime Kiln work which is now complete. She also corrected the balance on the expense for the Merrick Barn study, in response to input from Jim Kelly, which shows a surplus of \$590.

(2) 2020 Budget Approval – Kristin presented the updated budget numbers from the November meeting. There were no additional changes suggested. Rick moved that the budget be accepted. John seconded, and the budget passed.



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- f. Motion to allocate funds for a new Gator: Mia presented a motion to approve fund for purchase of a Gator to replace the current ten-year-old vehicle. The plan to purchase a new Gator was discussed in the November meeting, considering the age and limitations of the current vehicle for large trail projects. She talked about the success of fundraising for the purchase and the lowered estimate of cost of the Gator, which brings our commitment of reserves down considerably. Bill raised a question as to whether we are actually replacing the current Gator or obtaining an additional vehicle, and Rick confirmed that the purchase is intending to add a vehicle, not replace one. Rick suggested that we wait to approve funds until we know exactly what we'll need from reserves, as there is no rush to purchase. We are not likely to buy one until March, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee is considering a similar vehicle in the Kubota line. We agreed to table the motion for a later meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT

a. Fundraising Efforts

- (1) Holiday Ornaments – enticement for Giving Tuesday campaign and sale at the Holiday Open House.
- (2) Remittance Envelopes (see earlier discussion summary)
- (3) Art Show – 12/17 at McFaul's Iron Horse Tavern and 2/19 at Sherwood. Mia took the initiative to move on a suggestion by park photographers to hold a show for items produced from exceptional photos taken at the park as a fundraiser. Shutterfly offered a deal on canvas prints of photos and Mia asked for jpeg submissions for this. She had 27 canvases printed for the show(s) at a cost of \$500. Kristin offered the use of McFaul's for 12/17, happy hour timing of around 5 until 7 p.m. She will provide some appetizers and other food and beverages may be purchased. A second larger show is in the planning for Sherwood in February. Additional prints will be made for that event. Sya suggested that we marry it with the NOWN series. Mia said that the photographers may be willing to speak at one of these, but that the show would be separate.

b. Staff Report – See the attached report from Kirk. Items are:

- (1) November was a busy program month. Staff presented at Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum in St. Leonard, part of a program exchange with that organization.
- (2) Major work was done on the Red Trail in coordination with our Buildings and Grounds Committee, Park Staff and volunteers for Roland Park Nature Center, particularly with access to earth moving equipment and Jeff Budnitz and Chris McCollum, the operators. The Red Trail was badly eroded and required re-grading and creating swales to deter future damage from water.
- (3) The new radios were delivered and the Willow Grove area was assessed for enabling use of speakers for making announcements during large events. A quote is due from Metro Two Way Tracking for equipment to fill that wish.
- (4) Meeting with Lutherville Garden Club's Dory Wilfang regarding the club's interest in reestablishing the apple orchard at Sherwood. What remains of the old orchard is in very bad shape. Kirk needs to look at historic records for determination of appropriate varieties.
- (5) As closed-hour trespassing at the park has become a problem, beginning in January, the gates will be padlocked. Rick asked about volunteer activities after dark, considering the potential to be locked in. Kirk said that discussions are happening for notification on windshields and that reservoir police will have access.
- (6) The new entrance sign was blown out by wind on Thanksgiving. Mia reported it and the sign vendor came by to pick it up. A better system is needed to frame it in place. Rick said that the banner at Willow Grove also came down, but it was not damaged and Rick reinstalled it.



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c. Leaseholder's Report – Kate for Talmar

- (1) Cate Murphy's retirement event is Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sherwood. We were all invited to drop by for this. Mia said that we are giving a \$250 contribution to Talmar to honor Cate, which was approved at the November meeting.
- (2) Kate said that Talmar's tree sales have been successful with fewer than 50 remaining. The associated low sensory Santa event was a hit with about a dozen people with disabilities taking part. The event was free, but visits with Santa needed to be scheduled to assure the low sensory nature of the experience for the participants. Kate would like our input to help generate ideas for other low sensory events throughout the year. She would also like to do a give-away, and Mia and Bill each suggested that they have contacts that might be able to help.
- (3) A training is being offered on February 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 5 p.m. at Sherwood House for those who work with program participants with mental disabilities. This is particularly useful when working with disabled veterans, which is a big part of Talmar's programming. Kate said that space is available in this training for those of us who may benefit from it.
- (4) Regarding background checks, Kate asked Corey about the need as it might affect their use of volunteers. Corey said that one-off short events would not typically require it. But BCDR&P is aware that there are a variety of situations which are uncertain. Questions for specific event needs can be put to BCDR&P for a decision.
- (5) Mia thanked Kate for the good progress she had made at Talmar in her short time in her position.

d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick

- (1) Cemetery – Jim Kelly has taken an interest in exploring what can be learned about what has been accepted as a walled cemetery on the park property. Rick said he is looking into finding someone to do ground penetrating survey that would yield specifics about a cemetery layout. He also wants to protect the area from damage. There are opportunities to collect information for an educational exhibit of the feature. As he discovers possibilities, he will present a proposal to the CVC.
- (2) Bob Klein, a dedicated volunteer on the Buildings and Grounds Committee, is in the hospital.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Benches – several benches have been funded over the past several months. Another will be placed at a point in the park in honor of Rick's retirement from St. Mary's Seminary, where he worked for 43 years. Kirk feels that, although there are quite a few new benches, the chosen placement has been good for park visitors. Mia asked how Rick would like the inscription to read. "Rick Childs – CVPC Volunteer Extraordinaire". Sharon thought that was perfect.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Respectfully submitted by Kim Shapiro, Secretary

12-10-19



## 2020 CVPC Meeting Dates

Voted Upon at November 4, 2019 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: SHERWOOD HOUSE

<b>DATE 2020</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>Open to Public?</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday, January 13	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 10	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 9	Council Meeting (open to Public – Annual Meeting)	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 13	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 11	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 8	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 13	No Meeting		
Monday, August 10	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14	Council Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19 (moved from 10/12 Columbus Day)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 9	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7 (moved from 2 <sup>nd</sup> week)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.