

**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – February 10, 2020**

CVPC Board Meeting (Closed)

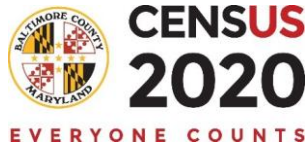
Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kenneth Keady, Kate Joyce (Talmar, Inc.), Pat Novak, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe.

Park staff: Kirk Dreier

Absent: Sya Kedzior, Kristin McFaul

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

- a. Mia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mia introduced the agenda which had been distributed by email and confirmed a quorum present. (The schedule of upcoming meetings may be found on the CVPC website at <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>.)
- b. Programs Committee: As Ken Keady needed to leave the meeting early, he was invited to give his report at this point in the agenda.
 - (1) Baltimore Road Runners held their annual Super Bowl Run at the park on February 2nd. Approximately 300 runners participated in the event. Mia was present at the start of the meeting and spoke to the group of attendees. This group are reliable, considerate and generous guests of the park. We will split the donation from this group with Talmar, Inc. and CVPC's portion is in the \$1,500.00 range.
 - (2) We will be hosting a Gilchrist event at the park on June 8th. Three hundred attendees are expected.
 - The group has requested use of the Merrick Barn in the event of rain. The issue with use of the Barn is the occupation limit of seventy-five as well as control of people to assure the limit is not breached. We agreed that the using group should make their own provisions. For a crowd this size, we do not have adequate tent coverage to lend them. Rick mentioned that his family has a tent that they are interested in selling or donating, and Mia recalled that we put money into the budget for purchase of a tent in the future. Ken said that we will let the Gilchrist contact know that the barn will not be made available and they must provide their own shelter. Once we have a pavilion installed, this will be less of an issue.
 - Kirk said that, with that number of attendees, we may expect 150 cars. Ken said he will talk to Gilchrist about parking considerations.
 - John suggested that we may provide tents to groups in exchange for a donation. Mia said that she looked into our records of Gilchrist and could not find evidence of donations from that organization. Most of our using groups of substantial size respond with donations. Mia reviewed the PPI form used to inform and understand the needs and wishes of the groups does not actually suggest a donation. We may want to look at changing that.
 - At this point Ken left the meeting. A quorum was maintained.
- c. Volunteer & Donor Recognition:
 - (1) Mia thanked the Trails Committee for its quick response to Abe's report of a downed tree on the Barrans-Baldwin trail. Within a few days, Wayne and crew had removed the smaller tree and cut away part of the larger tree to clear the path. Additional work is needed to remove the rest of the larger tree which is hung up in another tree.
 - (2) Mia thanked Kim for work on the Membership "thank-you" mailing that is strong in January. This results from the high level of new memberships and renewals that occurred with the Summer Camp registration on January 15th. Mia said that the Camp slots filled in 24 minutes through online sign-ups. She told Kirk that we need more camps, as indicated by the large number of wait-listed entries.



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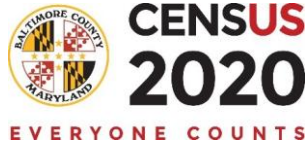
- (3) Mia mentioned that another interested individual, James Brinsfield, has expressed a desire to work on trail maintenance and has used the Volunteer link on the website to sign up. She expressed appreciation for Laurie and Wayne in their efforts to reach out to him. Mia addressed Kim, suggesting that we need to collect this information in an organized way. (Kim will be taking over the Volunteers Committee from Sya at the end of April and is currently transitioning to that role.)
- d. Gator was ordered. Rick said that an opportunity came up through our supplier that there was one Gator left at last year's price. It is due for delivery shortly. A couple of large donors would like to have their names painted on the new Gator; these donors are Henry Peck and the Baltimore Road Runners. Rick and Mia agreed that the best place to show this is the vehicle hood. Rick suggested that we get a photo of the Gator and its big donors and include it in the newsletter for promotion. It was also suggested that we include the photo on the website.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Meeting minutes acceptance from January meeting. These minutes were approved and posted to the website.
- b. In Kristin's absence, Mia provided Kristin's Budget vs. Actuals Report FY 2020 document. There was no significant discussion.
- c. Baltimore County Background Checks. Mia checked online for status of our board members in regard to background checks. All appear to be up to date, and this is the system we need to track until the new fingerprint system is rolled out across the county. Kirk said that the start date for that has not yet been determined.
- d. March meeting board election – Mia asked Kim if we have communicated the slate of nominees to membership, and Kim said that we included this in the newsletter that went out to membership during the week prior to this meeting.

3. MANAGEMENT

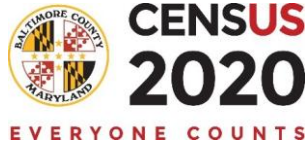
- a. Park Staff Report – Kirk (See Sr. Naturalist report for other details.)
 - (1) We have a new Director of Recreation and Parks, Roselyn Johnson, the first female in the position since the creation of the department. Her last position was with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County.
 - (2) Our park is now up to a full complement of staff through the addition of CS-1 Brina Doyle and custodian Susan Shepers. Both are fulltime staff. Susan has responsibility for the Eck House, Sherwood House, Willow Grove Nature Education Center and the Primitive Tech Lab. Rick asked if there was any trade-off with regard to funding considering the staffing additions. Kirk said that the impact may be felt on supply purchasing.
 - (3) Staff is working on plans for the Easter Egg Hunt and Primitive Tech Weekend.
 - (4) Trail Guide training is coming up next month, and we will use the new lectern purchased for the park by Friends of Sherwood. Brina and Laura assembled it. Mia said she tried it out once it was put together. It will work nicely for NOWN presentations.
 - (5) Kirk has also been working on a traffic counting device that was donated by a while ago. Once necessary parts are obtained, it can be placed in the roadway during events to count cars. Information from this can be used to document park use and attendance at events, which will help satisfy requests from county administration on use of our park and will hopefully help get us more investment by the county is road maintenance and provisions for parking. (Mia mentioned that she saw a white SUV on the property, and Kirk and Abe suggested several possibilities of that appearance.)
 - (6) Kirk conducted a successful bow making course at Marshy Point.



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- (7) Mimi Knuth has been working on the lettering for backs of benches for the CVP benches purchased by the trails committee.
 - (8) Park staff is working on displays of native animals. Several animals have been acquired and are being readied for work by a taxidermist. These include a beaver from a commercial trapper, a cuckoo provided by John Canoles and two groundhogs. There is money in the budget for these display items.
 - (9) The Trail Tots program is going well and growing in popularity and it is completely sold out as well. Ranger Anne added two new spots for these since they sold out so quickly.
 - (10) Questions for Kirk:
 - Kirk was asked about the plan to have radios with the capability of making amplified announcements at events. Kirk said that he learned from his supplier, Metro Two-Way, that it was not possible to have the system work for two separate locations (Sherwood and Willow Grove), that each would require a separate system. Bill asked if it could perhaps be made portable. Kirk was left to consider this. Mia said that it is in Kirk's hands to come up with the final plan for the purchase.
 - Rick asked if there was any decision from the county on gate closing times, and Kirk said that he has heard nothing on this yet.
 - Mowing – Kirk said he needs some help getting the work done by the county. His preference is to do a burn. The plan for mowing would include the Sherwood fields, Willow Grove, "the top field", etc. John suggested that the field at the end of the Nature Trail for All be included. Mia asked that we may see the plan that Kirk intends to submit, and Kirk agreed to provide a copy.
- b. Leaseholder's Report – Kate for Talmar
- (1) Programs for the spring begin March 2nd.
 - (2) Talmar staffing is thin now as programming has not started up. Work through the winter has been to clean up and set up the space to best accommodate the needs of program participants.
 - (3) Rick asked about the fencing that Kate spoke of in the last meeting. Kate said that she is getting estimates from fencing companies. Kate has the linear footage needed but has not considered acreage, considering fencing is linear. Kate was interested in the fact that the Children's Garden fence project was done by Scouts. Kirk said that he would get her information so that she could pursue this avenue. Kate mentioned that the space in the current fenced area will need to be changed somewhat due to the presence of an electric line that is buried in that space.
- c. Friends of Sherwood – Mia – Friends of Sherwood funds were used to purchase the new podium.
- d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick (with Mia)
- (1) More work on benches:
 - Assembly of new benches continues. Mimi is doing the lettering work for the backs for the CVP only benches, not the memorial benches ordered with specific monies from donations. Installation will occur in the spring.
 - Older benches are being cleaned up, sanded, stained and revitalized.
 - Placements: Rick – 3 spots determined, others will become known once installations starts. Mia provided the following details in writing:
 - (i) One bench (Laura) – site selected at Sherwood, waiting on some wood.
 - (ii) 50 years of marriage bench to be placed by The Discovery Zone (good message for young folks)



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- (iii) Mia's mom's bench – Children's Garden
 - (iv) Two other donated benches on the Blue Trail (Childs, Keller)
 - (v) Additional six new benches: Red Trail along the hill; Baldwin hill between field and stream; earthen dam; Red Trail near kiosk; two of these to be determined.
 - (vi) For revitalization – bench above Sherwood and Willow Grove Nature Center. Others will be inspected for work.
- (2) Barn/Parking – Abe asked if there was any progress on these past issues. Mia said that she had sent an email asking about status but has received no response.
- e. Membership & Communications reports are attached.
- Mia requested that we consider spending \$110 to update the website to include a naturalists' blog site requested by Brina. The cost is to hire someone to add this capability to the website. Pat mentioned that a prior attempt years ago had been short-lived. Kirk assured her that Brina is highly likely to keep it going. The group agreed to this request.
- f. Volunteers – Sya/Kim (no report)
4. OLD BUSINESS – Reminder of the February 19th Art Show at Sherwood. It will run from 5:30 until 8 pm. Mia will send out invitations electronically.
5. NEW BUSINESS – Maryland Historic Cemeteries. Bill presented a description of the upcoming meeting of the Natural History Society of Maryland on March 6th at 6 PM. It is entitled "Documenting Maryland's Historic Cemeteries". This is of interest due to the presence of a cemetery on CVPC grounds for which we have committed some funds for research. Bill said that he will attend this meeting and also suggested that board members consider membership in this society.
6. Key Messages: Please sign up to bring something to share to the March meeting. Kim sent a page around to get sign ups:
- a) Kim – cheese and crackers, wine
 - b) Pat Novak – dessert from Simon's
 - c) Abe – fruit
 - d) Mia – appetizer
 - e) John – vegetables and dip
 - f) Rick - beer

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9th, a general meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Shapiro, Secretary
2-13-20



2020 CVPC Meeting Dates

Voted Upon at November 4, 2019 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: SHERWOOD HOUSE

DATE 2020	MEETING	Open to Public?	Time
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 nd week)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.