



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc. Minutes – October 18, 2021

CVPC Meeting via Zoom

Board members in attendance: Rick Childs, Kate Joyce, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe. Park Staff: Kirk Dreier

Absent: John Canoles, Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Sya Kedzior

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – ABE YOFFE

- a. Abe called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was conducted online using the Zoom meeting platform. Abe began by adopting the agenda and a quorum was not established at the start of the meeting, but Rick Childs attended later so we were able to vote.
- b. Abe discussed the Migration Celebration event, which was held last month and shared some follow up notes from Kim. Kim stated we had about 1,000 attendees and had great participation from outside organizations, as well volunteers at the Hawk Watch. The volunteers kept everything running smoothly. We need to discuss if we will do this as a replacement for the Fall Harvest Festival next year.
- c. If we move forward for next year, we would like to make the following changes:
 1. Improve on the schedule of nature walks and garden tours, since people were not interested in signing up for those in advance. In 2022, Kim suggested doing pop-up hikes and have Kirk announce with the bull horn.
 2. Our separate area for outside vendors did not get the traffic where it was placed this year, so it will be moved to a better area next year.
 3. The food service was good, but the beverages were too expensive, so we will provide water or other options.
 4. We printed out 500 brochures, but only handed out about 200. Next year, we will hand them out with our greeters and move our Welcome Table to somewhere more prominent.
- d. Abe recognized everyone who helped to plan and execute the Migration Celebration (especially Kim Shapiro & Pat Novak) and Kirk for getting extra County employees to work the event. Also, kudos to the Trails Crew for cleaning out the deck at Primitive Technology and other grounds work this past month.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Minutes – Mia Walsh Approval of September 2021 Minutes: website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/> A board member posed questions regarding the Sherwood Cottage possible use by GVC and how adding HVAC is harmful to the environment. Kirk responded that the cottage is not inhabitable at this point, but he is working to use some CARES money for HVAC. The house still has electricity, but it needs a heat pump to keep the mold from growing. GVC has agreed to be a partner in the rehabilitation of the building, including financial backing. Kirk would like to add a working kitchen to the building as well. Currently, the water is not turned on at this time and Pat noted that GVC will require wi-fi in the building.
- b. 2022 Calendar – Kim Shapiro We reviewed the proposed meeting dates which were submitted in the agenda packet. We will meet on 2/15/22 instead of Valentine's Day, and push our October meeting back a week to 10/17/22 as it conflicts with Indigenous Peoples' Day. This was voted on and approved.
- c. Finance – Kristin reviewed the financial documents which were distributed prior to the meeting. Some highlights include:
 - Kristin shared the P&L through 10/15/21. Mia inquired about the \$6,522 for Internal Public Programs and why it was so high vs. \$3,500 budget. Kristin said it was a large number for Polliwog Preschool.
 - Expenses for the Migration Celebration were in the \$400 range, while we received \$377 in cash, donations and some via CampBrain.



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- Abe said that the GPR work for the cemetery would be paid from the Lime Kiln and the Friends of Cromwell Valley monies. We have not yet seen an invoice for this item. These will be noted on the Balance Sheet and not the P&L statement since it is coming out of restricted funds.
- The Financial Certification has been submitted to Baltimore County, as well as the 2020 Taxes, which were part of that submission.
- Discussion began regarding the process for the 2022 Budget, which is done at the November meeting. Abe asked Kristin to pull together an actual expenditure report for the last few years, so we are not skewed by the COVID numbers when making decisions for 2022. These will be sent prior to the meeting and constituents should send their notes to Kristin prior to meeting if possible to make sure the meeting runs smoothly.
- Rick looked at a zero-turn mower (\$6K) and comparable mower to our existing with a riding deck. He viewed a tractor with a front bucket which you may attach other accessories, like a post-hole digger or hose – and the price is in the range of (\$18K). Rick will send the information to Abe and Mia and we can review these about using that mower as our fundraising campaign for Giving Tuesday and the holiday season. Rick did mention that the Trails Committee is not looking for an electric mower, per the request of one of our board members, but will stay with a gas mower. Kim questioned the need for the Council to purchase our own major piece of maintenance equipment as maintenance, in general, is to be done by the County and does it make sense to have a \$18K vs \$4K if another park (Lake Roland) has one which may be shared? Discussion ensued about the difficulty of moving large equipment from one park to another, as well as risk of damaging another Park's piece of equipment.
- Donations: Memorial donations have been received for Alex Bullen in the amount of \$1,190. Mia walked the park with Alex's parents to choose a place for their memorial bench. Mia will place the order after the meeting. In addition, the family of Stephen Kormanik named Cromwell Valley Park for donations in their father's obituary. Mia has been in contact with the family and the total raised through 10/18 is \$1,281.00. Mia will ask the family if we may use that money towards the purchase of a new mower or if they have something else in mind.

2. MANAGEMENT

a. Park Staff Report – Kirk Dreier

- Fall Migration: Kirk said it was closer to 1,800 people that day in the park, including 300-400 cars on the Willow Grove side. Many people parked at Sherwood and walked over to Willow Grove.
- Bob Eder power washed the Primitive Tech decking and a new volunteer, Kyle M., is going to put water sealant on the building.
- Kirk purchased apple trees and they will be planted on November 2nd with the Hampton Garden Club and the scout troop. Sauer family will be planting one memorial tree for their son.
- The Kubota is back from maintenance.
- The Staff's Community Garden project is progressing. A new faucet was installed and work has been done near the Sherwood entrance and the sign. CVPC had discussed this issue at our March 8, 2021 meeting and did not favor moving forward with this project. However, Staff moved forward with this despite our disapproval, stating it aligns with R&P directives and is a community service project. Kate from Talmar also expressed disapproval with this as it would be taking away from the people who purchase from their farm stand, though Kirk stated that Anne W. did a poll and said it is a different population. Kirk said they are refurbishing the garden shed for tool storage and said that Oregon Ridge shared their proposed contract for plots in the ¼ acre fenced in area. Kirk is asking for support from the Council on this project.
- Polliwog Preschool has been going on well with Ranger Anne.
- New Eagle Scout Troop #419 (Logan Kempisty) built a campfire ring and seating in the boulder field. Troop #26, Nick Gonzales, replaced the kiosk at the park entrance and two associated with the Hawk Watch. Troop



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#729, Stephan Auburn, replaced the chicken fencing. Troop #26, Dillion Schissler, finished the outdoor classroom which was used for Polliwog Preschool. Troop #340, Brendan Cooke, replaced the rotted benches at the scout campsite. WOW – GREAT WORK, SCOUTS!

- Chief of Nature Services position has not yet been filled, so Kirk is doing double duty.
- Ranger Breana is still at her temporary post at Benjamin Banneker and they are still searching for a permanent replacement there. They will be tweaking the job description to add the historical component to that post and hopefully the County will get a qualified candidate.

b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- Veterans who went through the Talmar program came back for the September 25th picnic. They had a nice time and all of the Board members were in attendance and it was the first time they met each other since COVID. A new set of veterans have recently graduated from the program.
- Talmar's occupational therapists are able to treat people and then able to submit to medicare since they are certified OT.
- Business Volunteers Maryland has helped with adding to Talmar's Board and they now have seven members in place.

c. Friends of Sherwood – Mia Walsh – No Report

d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs

- Rick placed ribbons on the wooden fences around the park where repairs are needed. Kirk put in a work order for those, and it seems to be several thousand feet of boards which need attention.
- Kudzu vine has been found in the park and Eric Duce, Natural Resources Specialist from DEPS, has offered to treat the plant with chemical treatment. Abe will forward Eric's message to Kirk, who stated he DOES want to move forward with the treatment of the plants this winter. Kirk will follow up directly with Eric.

e. Programs – Abe Yoffe for Kelly Emerson (not in attendance)

- Kelly will be staffing the boo-through event on Friday night. THANKS, KELLY!
- No new requests have been made for PPI's.
- Baltimore Road Runners club will have a run on November 6th in the evening.
- The Holiday Open House will not be held this year due to indoor COVID restrictions.

f. Finance – Rick Childs

- Please review the budget information prior to November's meeting date.

g. Membership – Kim Shapiro

- We are at 407 members as of 10/12/21. Thank you to Patron member (Dent/Isaacs), Sustaining Member (Ciesielski) and Contributing (Wieszynski)

h. Communications – Mia Walsh

- Top Facebook posts were shared in the agenda, but the Scout Troop posting of the pollinator hotel is trending. The BGE helicopter video had high view ratings, as well as the NDP AP Environmental Science group.



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- Board members need to start thinking about what to include in the Annual Report. Much of this work can be completed prior to the year's end, with the final addition being the year-end financials.

i. Volunteers – Kim Shapiro for Michelle and Pat

- Kim reviewed the volunteer hours for our Council, which is listed at 145 hours for September.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Cemetery Research was completed with the ground penetrating radar and bodies were found in that area. Abe showed the drawings from the report. Having confirmed bodies buried there will allow us to apply for grants for the replacement of the wall. Abe noted that in the deed when the property was sold a long time ago, the seller retained rights to visit the cemetery. This was noted in a conversation with Jim Kelly regarding the sale decades/centuries past.
- b. Joe Rector attended the Towson Indivisible Forum meeting and he shared information about our park. They wanted to know how we market for fundraising and for volunteers.
- c. Memorandum of Understandings are being written by the County for all Nature and Rec centers. These may be written to have the County to accept all funds and then give them out to the centers / Councils. Kirk did not provide any additional information about the process. Further information is requested on this subject.
- d. Notre Dame Preparatory School's AP Environmental Science class did some service work on water health and invasive species with various members of the Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

6. OLD BUSINESS -

- a. Chimney Swifts - John Canoles: Not in attendance.
- b. Trail for All Surface – John Canoles: Not in attendance.
- c. Recognition of Susan Dorsey: John Canoles will plant the tree.

Abe asked for a motion to adjourn, which was provided and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8th at 7:00 p.m. –

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary, 10/18/21



2021 CVPC Meeting Dates

Approved at November 9, 2020 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: REMOTE via ZOOM or SHERWOOD HOUSE

DATE 2021	MEETING	Open to Public?	Time
Monday, December 13 th	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.

2022 CVPC Meeting Dates

Approved at October 18, 2021 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: REMOTE via ZOOM or SHERWOOD HOUSE

DATE 2021	MEETING	Open to Public?	Time
Monday, January 10	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 15 *	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 14	Council Meeting (open to Public – Annual Meeting)	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 11	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 9	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 13	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 12	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	
Monday, August 8	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 12	Council Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 17 th *	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 14	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 12	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.

- * notes date changes due to holidays or other conflicts



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Cromwell Valley Park Council

Executive Board Listing

Effective April 12, 2021

OFFICERS	Name	Email Address	Term
President	Abe Yoffe	President@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
Vice President	Kim Shapiro	vicepresident@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2022
Treasurer	Kristin McFaul	treasurer@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
Secretary	Mia Walsh	mia@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2022
DIRECTORS – Members at Large			
Director	Sya Buryk Kedzior	syakedzior@gmail.com	April 2020 – March 2022
Director	Bill Curtis	curtiswbc@gmail.com	April 2020 – March 2022
Director	John Canoles	espijc@aol.com	April 2021 – March 2023
Director	Joe Rector	Joe.rector@cromwellvalleypark.org	April 2021 – March 2023
STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS			
Finance	Rick Childs	rikchilds@aol.com	Current membership year – voted annually *
Building and Grounds	Rick Childs	rikchilds@aol.com	^
Programs	Kelly Emerson	emersonkel@yahoo.com	^
Communications	Mia Walsh	mia@cromwellvalleypark.org	^
Volunteers	Pat Novak	pnovak8525@aol.com	^
LEASEHOLDER REPRESENTATIVE			
Talmar	Kate Joyce	katejoyce@talmar.org	

ARTICLE VII Executive Board

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

Cromwell Valley Park Council: All members who have paid dues for the current year.