



**Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.**  
**Minutes – April 11, 2022**

CVPC Board Meeting  
Annual Membership Meeting

Board members in attendance: Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Kate Joyce, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe. Virtually: Sya Kedzior, Pat Novak Park Staff: Kirk Dreier

Absent: John Canoles, Kristin McFaul, Joe Rector,

Council Member: Sharon Childs

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Abe Yoffe

- a. Abe called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. The meeting was conducted both online using GoogleMeet and in-person at the Sherwood House. This is the first-time meeting in person since Covid hit in March 2020.
- b. Abe displayed the website that Anne Wedgeworth put together for CVP's Green Center Recertification. Great efforts went forth on obtaining the recertification of this and we commend Anne for her efforts. The website may be found here: <http://cromwellvalleyparkgreencenter.weebly.com/>

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. March Meeting Minutes: The minutes were accepted with the change that Kate Joyce was not in attendance. The updated minutes will be posted on the CVPC website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>
- b. Finance, Kristin McFaul, Treasurer (not in attendance)
  - 1) 2022 Financial Documents were distributed prior to the meeting. We are at 95% of our annual budget for dues and 85% for donations. Expenses through 4/11/22 total \$14,745.07.
- c. Finance, Rick Childs. No Update
- d. Report from Baltimore County Property Management, Bryan Sheppard – No Report
- e. Background Checks – Abe Yoffe President reported that all Board background checks are current.
- f. Board Elections. The slate was distributed in various methods according to the CVPC Bylaws prior to tonight's meeting. The Standing Committee Chairs being presented for election are:
  - Finance – Rick Childs
  - Building and Grounds – Rick Childs
  - Programs – Kelly Emerson
  - Communications – Mia Walsh
  - Volunteers – Pat Novak

A motion was made and seconded to elect the slate as listed above. The slate was approved unanimously.

3. MANAGEMENT

- a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier
  - 1) Kirk will follow up with Eric Duce regarding the Kudzu treatment. Eric had stated that DEPSWS would be able to treat the Kudzu this month to help prevent growth and spreading. [educe@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:educe@baltimorecountymd.gov)
  - 2) March preparations for Spring and Summer are underway. Night Hikes and Primitive Tech programs are going well. The Bird Walks have started again and thank you to John Canoles, Jim Meyers and George Mason for leading the first few walks.
  - 3) Trail Guide Training was successful. Laura Page should reach out to those people who have completed the training, in this year and the past, to help with the upcoming field trips or other guided needs this spring and summer. (Note: Should CVPC Volunteer Coordinator get list of those people who have completed training



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to help with other volunteer needs in the park? If so, would Ranger Laura please send to Kim Shapiro?)

- 4) Bluebird Box training was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Forest Friends with the Department of Aging has begun and is running every Tuesday. Senior Strolls will be beginning soon on Wednesdays.
  - 5) Ranger Kirk attended a 2-day visioning training was held at Oregon Ridge Lodge on how to make the Recs and Parks department more efficient.
  - 6) Ranger Breena is working at the Loch Raven Fishing Center until R&P can find a replacement. There is a shortage of Nature Center employees at all centers as the staff keeps shifting from location to location.
  - 7) Seasonal Naturalist, Grace Weiss, has accepted the position for the Seasonal Naturalists. She will be one of the leads for the Summer Nature Camps.
  - 8) School field trip: The first field trip was held on March 31<sup>st</sup> regarding insects. There will be a Colonial Life program for Carroll Manor School on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Hike into History will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - 9) Primitive Tech weekend banners were hung today at the front entrances by Park Staff.
  - 10) An additional Doggie waste station will be added to the Providence Road entry of the park. Rick and the Trails Committee will take care of the installation.
  - 11) A farm Earth Day celebration on April 24<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Agricultural Center on Shawan Road.
  - 12) A turkey vulture was hurt in CVP and Kirk delivered him to Phoenix Wildlife Center. Unfortunately, he was not able to be saved.
  - 13) The Sherwood House received a new heating system, switching over from oil to a propane system. They are burning the last of the oil before it is taken off-line. Property Management will decide to either remove the tank or fill it in once the oil is expelled.
- b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce
- 1) Tractor training was held with Talmar staff, along with CVP's Thom Grizzard and Rick Childs. Thom is working on a procedure manual for the tractor.
  - 2) Kate is leading an effort on training events, which will be opened up to several outside farm agencies. The first items is a De-escalation Training, which was a topic requested by her staff. She would like Talmar to be a resource for accessible farming and therapy for the community.
  - 3) 14 veterans have begun their training session and their participation in the program will run for several months.
  - 4) Talmar's seedling sale will be available on-line with pickup dates available throughout the week, not just on weekends. The weekend "cash sale" programs have not been as successful as the on-line purchase system.
- d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs
- 1) There is a giant dumpster on site for cleaning out the barns and the rubbish around the park sites. The Trails Committee is pulling up the falling down posts around the park and will put pieces in the dumpster.
  - 2) Another water overflow of the tributary near the Sherwood entrance occurred during the last rainstorm; the Trails Committee tried to clear the blockage to help with the flow. In addition, they will try to move the stone that was pushed out of the bank.



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e. Programs – Kelly Emerson

- 1) Kelly, Rick and Kirk met with Gilchrist regarding their Steps of Hope event on June 12<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 pm. They will hold their walk and registration will open in April. Rick will assist and Sharon will work the CVP table the day of the event. <https://gilchristcares.org/events/stepsofhope/>
- 2) The Towson Arts Collective will have to get a one-day liquor license for the event. There is a fee for the license and it can be done online. Kelly has been working with them and is coordinating CVP's volunteer sign-up using Sign Up Genius.

f. Communications – Mia Walsh

- 1) The Annual Report has been completed and printed. It will be mailed out this week and posted on the website.
- 2) The website search results were attacked by malware and the website had to be restored from a backup. A new add-on for malware was purchased for the Go Daddy hosted site at a cost of \$160.
- 3) Sya and crew designed, printed and mailed the spring newsletter and calendar. John Canoles' nature writing blog continues to be a source of joy for our membership.
- 4) Cromwell Valley Park was featured in the April 2022 Catholic Review magazine for the work that Notre Dame Prep students have done along with Eric Duce and DEPSWR.

g. Volunteers –Pat Novak – Kim reported the board member volunteer hours total for the month of March included 124 hours, including planning for Migration Celebration, meetings and Diversity and Inclusion efforts. They will begin recruiting for the upcoming events soon.

h. Membership – Kim - Our number for April is 2022 at 308, which is down from the last report of 531. However, this is 65 persons higher than this period last year. Kim was able to get the renewal notices out early and combined with the on-line requests, we still have a high number of members.

i. Ad Hoc Committees:

- 1) Migration Celebration – September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Kim Shapiro – We have made good progress with securing outside partners like the Natural History Society, Maryland Biodiversity Project, and Baltimore Bird Club. Pat and Laura S. are working on craft and other vendors. Thus far, for food vendors, we have identified Kona Snowcones, SoBeachy! and McFaul's food trucks. There is a music group with member, Skip Noon, who will play during the event. Mia will reach out to photographers to see if anyone would like to sell their pictures and they can keep the proceeds. We agreed to ask for \$5.00 per car for a donation. The next committee meeting will be the 27<sup>th</sup> of April.
- 2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Abe Yoffe - Discussion ensued about how to get more diverse people interested in volunteering for the board. We should consider special programming to bring out culturally diverse participants. Abe will contact Darren Edwards, who is in charge of R&P special events, to get more information on how we can add to our leadership roles.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Member Appreciation Event – Would someone be interested in leading this event for the Council?
- b. Capturing Memories of the Early Days of the Park – Kim spoke to Wayne Harmon and she would like to capture early memories of the park from various folks who were the founding supporters. Bob Stanhope was also an early supporter of the park, the first Naturalist hired by the R&P department. Other people who could be a part of this could include Charlie Conklin, Rick & Sharon Childs and Jim Kelly. There is an album in the Sherwood Library that has historical documents about the park which could be a talking point.



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**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Trail for All surface –Abe will contact Jeffrey Budnitz from Lake Roland Nature Council to come in May to roll down the trail. Abe will also investigate additional materials which will need to be purchased to fill in the holes and divots.
- b. Update on Memo of Understanding with the County – Corey Johns – Not in attendance.
- c. Cemetery Research–Sya Kedzior Towson University should have the approval to begin in the next 2-3 months. A mason contractor looked at the wall of the cemetery and provided an estimate of \$50,000 - \$60,000 to restore the entire wall. Jim Kelly has started working on the research for the history of that area.
- d. Weed Warrior Leadership – Abe purchased several hundred dollars of equipment for the new Weed Warrior program. The first event was to have occurred this past weekend.
- e. Citizen Generated Request for Stream Bridges – Abe Yoffe – Ben Porter stated that the project is substantial enough to put this in as an official Capital Request of the budget. Kirk will put this together which should be submitted in the August / September timeframe.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m,

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
(President: Please confirm start time of May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.)**

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 4/12/22