



Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – March 14, 2022

CVPC Board Meeting
Annual Membership Meeting

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Kate Joyce, Sya Kedzior, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector, Kim Shapiro, and Abe Yoffe.

Park Staff: Kirk Dreier Absent:

Guests: Please see a list of registered members who participated in the Zoom meeting below.

1. WELCOME FROM PRESIDENT – Abe Yoffe

- a. Abe called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was conducted online using the Zoom meeting app, due to safety considerations during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. A quorum was established.
- b. Abe welcomed the Council Members who were in attendance via Zoom. A list of those in attendance are noted below. We are pleased so many members of our Council chose to attend this evening's meeting.
- c. Vice President, Kim Shapiro, presented a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on the 2021 year in review of notable items which occurred in the park. This presentation will be posted on the website, along with the approved minutes and it was distributed with the Agenda Packet to all registered participants.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Meeting minutes acceptance from March meeting. The minutes were accepted as written and are posted on the CVPC website: <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>.
- b. Finance, Kristin McFaul, Treasurer
 - 1) 2022 Financial Documents – Receipts - Kristin presented the Budget vs. Actual and Balance Sheet reports for the period ending 3/13/22. We are very pleased with our income vs. budget, especially in the area of donations. We anticipate next month's membership income to increase significantly since memberships expire 3/31/23. Currently, we are 25% of budget for dues and 53% of budget for general donations.
 - 2) Kristin noted that the Polliwogs program sold out within an hour. Discussion ensued about increasing the attendance cap from 10 to 15 in order to accommodate more children since the majority of this program will be held outside.
 - 3) Mia presented the fundraising updates which were part of the Board Agenda Packet. For the period January 1 through March 14th, we received 77 membership/donations from 68 donors, totaling \$10,547.52.
 - 4) A complete listing of the balance sheet may be requested via the website under the Cromwell Valley Park Council section.
- 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. A listing of expiration dates was included in the Board packet.
- f. Board Elections. The slate was distributed in various methods according to the CVPC Bylaws prior to tonight's meeting. The Nominating Chair, Kelly Emerson, read the slate and the nominating report. Nominations were requested from the floor, but none were presented. The slate of candidates was presented, and voting occurred for the renewal of terms for those people highlighted below. The voting occurred and the slate was accepted unanimously.



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OFFICERS:

President Abe Yoffe Term April 2021 – March 2023

*Vice President Kim Shapiro (renew) Term April 2022 – March 2024

Treasurer Kristin McFaul Term April 2021 – March 2023

*Secretary Mia Walsh (renew) Term April 2022 – March 2024

DIRECTORS:

*Director Sya Burynd Kedzior (renew) Term April 2022 – March 2024

*Director Bill Curtis (renew) Term April 2022 – March 2024

Director John Canoles Term April 2021 – March 2023

Director Joe Rector Term April 2021 – March 2023

3. MANAGEMENT (Committee Reports)

a. Park Staff Report –Kirk Dreier

- 1) Primitive Technology weekend is scheduled for May 7th and 8th and Dr. Bill Schindler from National Geographic will be the guest speaker on May 7th. Park Staff has been working to organize this event.
- 2) Deer culling occurred with 38 deer removed from the Park.
- 3) Property Management cleaned up the rocks which had washed out of one of the tributaries in June 2021. New grass was also planted at the entrance of Sherwood.
- 4) Staffing is still in the process for the Seasonal Naturalist position. Ranger Breena will be finishing her temporary posting at the Banneker Museum, which she has been staffing for the last 11 months.
- 5) School programs are taking place after two years of hiatus and currently 11 schools will begin coming at the end of this month. These are all private schools as public schools are not yet having field trips.
- 6) Trail Guide Training begins on March 23rd and will be occurring at CVP, Marshy Point and Banneker.

b. Leaseholder's Report – Talmar, Kate Joyce

- 1) Preparation for spring plantings have been occurring and Talmar is looking forward to new programming in the spring.

d. Buildings and Grounds – Rick Childs

- 1) The riding mower was received in March. The Billy Goat mower was approved to purchase and should be arriving soon. The Trails Committee has been off to a great start using the new equipment.

e. Programs – Kelly Emerson.

- 1) PPI's – Gilchrist's Steps of Hope event is moving forward for June 12th. Kelly will let the Council know what type of assistance will be needed.
- 2) The Baltimore Road Runners Club held a very successful Superbowl Run, despite the snow which decided to bless our park that morning.
- 3) The Towson Arts Council event was discussed, including what volunteer expectations the TAC would expect from CVPC, given that the Migration Celebration event will be held the following weekend.

f. Volunteers – for Pat Novak – Kim reported the board member volunteer hours total for the month of February



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included 138 hours, including planning for Migration Celebration, meetings and Diversity and Inclusion efforts.

- g. Membership – Kim - Our numbers for this month in 2022 at 531 are significantly higher than the previous 4 years, each under 400. This is an addition of 15 members from the prior month's report.
- h. Communications – Mia Walsh
 - 1) Our total followers on Instagram is now 1,456, an increase of 1.7% from the prior month.
 - 2) Our most popular Facebook posts included the deer skull post, the American Mink photos and our call for newspaper for the animal cages. We reached 6,700 persons and had 2,700 engagements in the last 30 days.
 - 3) The Annual Report has been completed and printed. It will be mailed out in April.
- i. Volunteers – Pat Novak / Kim Shapiro
 - 1) Pat and Kim discussed the various volunteer opportunities available within the Council. There are opportunities for recurring, one day or several hours, with both weekend and weekday possibilities.
 - 2)
- j. Ad Hoc Committees:
 - 1) Migration Celebration – Kim Shapiro – Kim gave an update on the Migration Celebration planning, which continues to have a lot of support from within CVPC. Kristin mentioned that McFaul's will have a new food truck available by that time and that CVPC should consider utilizing that as a source. The lack of food / drinks was one item that the Council would like to address for 2022.
 - 2) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Abe Yoffe - Pat and Abe met regarding this topic. When an open position becomes available on the Board, we would like to widen the diversity of our board to reflect the membership and park visitors more accurately.

4. NEW BUSINESS

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Trail for All surface – Abe contacted Jeffrey Budnitz from Lake Roland Nature Council who proposed several dates in April and May to bring the roller out to help with the surface.
- b. Update on Memo of Understanding with the County – Corey Johns – This is still currently in process with the County.
- c. Cemetery Research–Sya Kedzior Sya did not have additional updates from the prior month.
- d. Weed Warrior Leadership – Abe was pleased to announce that Laurie Taylor-Mitchell has again agreed to take on this role, with the assistance of a second in command. She would like to see more Council members participate in this program.
- e. Citizen Generated Request for Stream Bridges – Abe Yoffe – Abe stated that Ben Porter is aware of this request and will be on his items to address in the near future.
- f. Adult Programming – Kim Shapiro. The Council is pleased the Park Staff added the Senior Stroll program beginning in May for those 55+ to get in nature for a lovely walk. In addition, the Department of Aging is hosting their Free & Friendly Forest Meetups on Tuesdays at noon from March 29th – May 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m,



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The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. – ELECTIONS

- **NOTE: This time has been updated to 6 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Mia Walsh, Secretary 4/1/22

Attendance Sheet

Filter criteria used to generate this report

((Session Status : Registered
AND
Session : Annual Meeting - March 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
AND
Camper Season : Spring 2022 (2022)))

Camper's Name	Comments	MC
Blum, Jill		
Ciesielski, Jack		
Ciesielski, Maureen		
Cupps, Aaron		
Harman, Wayne		
Kridenoff, Keith		
Mills, Albert		
Murphy, Kate		
Noon, Edwin		
Pelsinsky, Amy		
Schroeder, David		
Schroeder, Kate		
Simon, Arnold		
Varisco, Frank		

Annual Meeting - March 14, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.



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Cromwell Valley Park Council

The Cromwell Valley Park Council (CVPC) is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the stewardship of Cromwell Valley Park as a public space for passive recreation and educational programs. The CVPC works in cooperation with the Baltimore County Department of Recreation and Parks and other entities to maintain, preserve and protect the natural environment and historic structures in the Park.

Cromwell Valley Park Council

Executive Board

OFFICERS:

<i>President</i>	Abe Yoffe	Term April 2021 – March 2023
<i>Vice President</i>	Kim Shapiro (renew)	Term April 2022 – March 2024
<i>Treasurer</i>	Kristin McFaul	Term April 2021 – March 2023
<i>Secretary</i>	Mia Walsh (renew)	Term April 2022 – March 2024

DIRECTORS:

<i>Director</i>	Sya Buryn Kedzior (renew)	Term April 2022 – March 2024
<i>Director</i>	Bill Curtis (renew)	Term April 2022 – March 2024
<i>Director</i>	John Canoles	Term April 2021 – March 2023
<i>Director</i>	Joe Rector	Term April 2021 – March 2023

At the April 2022 meeting, the Executive Board shall vote on the following **Standing Committee Chairpersons**. These positions have no term limitations and are voted upon annually.

<i>Finance</i>	Rick Childs	
<i>Building and Grounds</i>	Rick Childs	
<i>Programs</i>	Kelly Emerson	
<i>Communications</i>	Mia Walsh	
<i>Volunteers</i>	Pat Novak	

2021 Support the Council provided for Cromwell Valley Park

- **Managing fundraising** (planning, soliciting, tracking through new fundraising tool)
 - Mia Walsh (Secretary), Kristin McFaul (Treasurer)
- **Coordinating donated funds for fixtures/installations at the Park**
 - Memorial and honor projects (benches, bluebird boxes, and other installations)
- **Coordinating planning and implementing plans for Council-sponsored events**
- **Managing social, electronic and print media to promote park programs**
- **Identifying and managing initiatives to improve visitors' experiences**
- **Managing membership renewals and communications**
- **Championing capital initiatives at the Park** – appeals to politicians to support spending
- **Supporting staff**
 - Raising targeted funds for new projects and equipment for park maintenance and support
 - Raising issues identified by park visitors – dumping, defacing park installations, etc.

2021 Memorializing and honoring loved ones

Burdyck Gazebo restoration project

- Memorial project – Marlane King (Burdyck family)
- \$6,008 donated specifically plus \$4361 CVPC funds and general donations
- Gave an existing installation new life
- Project led by **Joe Rector** (CVPC Director)
- Supported by **Rick Childs** and the Trails Committee (part of Buildings and Grounds Committee)

Bench Installations

- Memorial projects
- Projects led by **Mia Walsh/Abe Yoffe**
- Supported by **Rick Childs** and the Trails Committee

Bench donors:

- Kormanik \$1,100
- Standeven \$1,000
- Platak \$1,000
- Bullen \$1,590
- Frame \$ 1,000
- Chandler \$1,000

Memorializing and honoring loved ones

Support of Wild & Domestic Life

Memorial and honor projects

- donations
- Projects led by **Mia Walsh/Abe Yoffe**
- Supported by **Rick Childs** and the Trails Committee

Rolon Pond

Memorial project

- \$3679 in donations
- Project led by **Mia Walsh/Abe Yoffe**
- Supported by **Rick Childs** and the Trails Committee

Supporting park projects & maintenance

Maintenance Equipment

Donations & Council commitment

- >\$6500 in donations and \$4500 in budget
- Enabled purchase of 2 maintenance vehicles
- Project led by **Rick Childs**
- Supported by **Mia Walsh** for fundraising

Bluebird Boxes

Donation from Halten Garden Club \$630






Mutt Mitt Stations

Donations and CVPC commitment (keeping our park and trails clear) \$1,645



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 <p>We did it! We hit 4,000 followers this week! That's up from 1,800 in 2019.</p> <p>Posted 11/7/21</p> <p>Image & Video content Critter Cam: Bill Curtis PHOTOS: Images reposted from CVPC tags on FB and Instagram, along with the photographers of the Cromwell Valley Park Wildlife and Nature Photographers Facebook Group.</p> <p>Promotion Communications Chair: Mia Walsh Print newsletter – Sya Kedzior Website – Mia Walsh Social media (FB & Instagram) – Mia Walsh Events posting on Facebook – Pat Novak Email Blasts – John Canoles & Kim Shapiro</p>  <p>Photo by Bobby Phillips</p>	<p>Event Planning: New in 2021, the Migration Celebration</p> <p><u>Designing a 2021 fall event:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-restriction-friendly event • In keeping with park character • Inviting to our community  <p>Photo by Dennis Murphy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ September event ❖ Aligned with hawk migration along the park ridgeline ❖ Educational activities ❖ Games & Crafts ❖ Animal & Nature exhibits ❖ Food <p>Team: Volunteers: Pat Novak Promotion: Mia Walsh Planning led by Kim Shapiro Planning Team: Park staff – Kirk Dreier, Laura Page, Anne Wedgeworth Board members - John Canoles, Abe Yoffe, Bill Curtis, Kelly Emerson, Pat Novak</p> 
<p>Looking ahead in 2022</p> <p>Building diversity in the CVPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Novak, Abe Yoffe, Kelly Emerson, Sya Kedzior • Project is in development. <p>Expand Migration Celebration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Shapiro, John Canoles, Abe Yoffe, Pat Novak, Kelly Emerson & Park staff • Project is underway. <p>Accessible Trail improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Canoles • Maintenance planned <p>Supporting Capital Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abe Yoffe/Mia Walsh • Working with Baltimore County to move planned projects ahead  <p>Historic Cemetery Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sya Kedzior • Proposed by Jim Kelly • Research underway, with assistance from Towson University 	