

BPC Board Meeting Minutes June 5, 2017

Albany Public Library--Bach Branch

Meeting Attendees: Felton McLaughlin, Grace Bennett, Elisabeth Draper, Marsha Penrose, Gabi Sarhos, Marjorie Geiger, Nancy Costello and Cathy Sims-O'Neil of 2 Marion Avenue.

Not in attendance: Anne Savage

--The meeting began with acceptance of last meeting's minutes.

--The treasurer's report had been submitted by Anne and was considered. It was noted that about 40 small and 20 large bricks have been purchased. There was a request for a donor certificate to be used for tax purposes, and a thank you note will be sent for this purpose.

--Gabi followed up on her e-mail of May 8 regarding the NYSFOLA workshops. There were vendors at the meeting who do applications. Ours is a stormwater retention pond with no direct outlet. Multiple expensive tests would be needed for copper sulfate and it is common knowledge that it would fail. Also, the standard has been lowered with the intention of use for swimming and fishing areas. Only 5 or 6 applications seem to be acceptable by the new standards.

Gabi spoke at the meeting with Brad Bowers from Solitude Lake Management, the company employed by the city for applications of GreenClean Pro and Sonar. There were scheduled treatments on May 24 and June 1, and some improvement has been noticed. It was suggested that perhaps Brad would be willing to attend a meeting and/or give more detailed information specifically about Sonar.

It was mentioned that we are still on the waiting list for C-SLAP water testing in 2018.

--There was a discussion of how to educate the community on such matters as how algae grows, and the effects of homeowners' lawn maintenance on the pond. Perhaps Gabi's design ability could be used to get the word out. It would be helpful if information about lawn maintenance that would be more pond friendly could be offered to people as an alternative.

--Grace brought up our higher member count and the corresponding higher dues to NYSFOLA. (Subsequently, the Board voted by e-mail to pay the increase without objection.)

--All playground surveys were reported to be positive, with the exception of one comment regarding the loss of the dinosaur rides. Elisabeth has spoken to Brie and the Board discussed:

1. Concerns about closeness to the road
2. Necessary configuration
3. Wheelchair accessibility to certain equipment and ADA compliance
4. The fact that a single spinner may be undesirable
5. The amount of cement needed and the city's ability to handle it
6. Bonded \$50,000 earmarked for play equipment
7. Possible swapping out fence costs with city
8. Approvals that are needed to confirm
9. Recreation Dept's responsibility for maintenance
10. Coverage by warranty and Kompan plan to explain what's needed
11. The use of manufactured wood fiber chips which get compacted
12. Where the ADA entrance should be
13. Survey period to be closed down next Sunday 5/11
14. E-mail Board vote to take place Monday 5/12

*****voting by email was approved, provided we continued to field positive comments and don't field any comments that may require some thought and need a discussion.***

15. Timeline to be requested after vote
16. Installation of fence by city or Kompan
17. Estimation of schedule

***** July 15th as the date by which we'll have DGS/Rec Dept/city approval on the site plan and construction docs provided by Kompan so they can be locked down and the equipment ordered. Using Kompan's 8-10-week delivery schedule, that would mean the equipment arrives in the 9/15-10/1 timeframe. And would leave us a month for installation. Please note these are very optimistic dates and if DGS runs into buried gas/electric/water lines or other complexities, we'll most likely be looking at an installation next spring.***

18. Everything coming from Europe may be held up in immigration
19. Custom colors are good but take a little longer
20. There's no update on signage--Gabi described Eagle Point's sign as flimsy
21. Massry check has not arrived
22. Difficulty of recycling existing playground equipment

(follow up note from Marjorie: I did pass along the idea to the Albany Land Bank that they explore the possibility of partnering w/the city to obtain old playground equipment as it is replaced w/the new equipment...to be used by their Land Lots for \$100 Program. Some community groups are applying to purchase the lots to be used as play areas for community children. The Land Bank thanks us for the suggestion.)

--As discussed by e-mail among Board members from May 8 through June 2, knotweed

Is a persistent and growing problem. Two pertinent e-mail responses from Amy were referenced:

5/1 I was hoping the black plastic would deter the growth until we have our summer intern on board, and then later this summer, the youth group to redo the work. Hopefully, it is at a stage where we can do a bit of control now and hold off for the intern/summer youth group to do a more intensive pull and replacement.

6/2 As for the Japanese knotweed, we plan to perform the same work as last year but are going to try to go a bit more in depth with it. This will mainly consist of preparing the ground better, using more durable tarps, possibly the addition of carpet remnants (without making it look like a dumping ground), and attempting to ditch around the area. I am still brainstorming and will let you know more details as they come. I am planning to hand pull the water chestnut as it emerges.

Elisabeth stated that, according to her mother, there is an herbicide gel (Roundup) that is really the best defense. The process involves cutting low and injecting into the stem. The feasibility of using volunteers for such a program was discussed, and Elisabeth said that Meredith Younge, a master gardener, might be of some assistance.

--Elisabeth talked about learning from All Over Albany that a solo goose had died, probably by natural causes, and was removed by a wildlife worker. Also the eggs were prevented from hatching since the mother was dead.

(follow up note from Officer James Brooks: Regarding my last email regarding the incidents towards the ducks/geese at Buckingham Pond. After contacting NYS EnCon Headquarters, I recently received an email from NYS EnCon Region 4 Commanding Officer Capt. Caife who informed me that members of the US Wildlife Service/Airport Wildlife Hazards obtained permits to control the water fowl (ducks/geese) around the Albany Airport which included Ann Lee and Buckingham Pond locations. According to DEC, the USWS were oiling the eggs to prevent hatching. Apparently that's standard procedure. He has no knowledge any fowl intentionally getting killed. But we all know that is not the case, as we know something happened. He did mention in his email, that the persons doing this procedure were operating red or green trucks with USDA Wildlife on the vehicles.

I realize this is something you may not want to hear, but this is what I found out during my investigation. When went to the pond the other day, I did notice all the ducks were gone. Couldn't get an answer from DEC if they were relocated or not, or if the ducks were a result of illegal poaching. NYS DEC has closed their case, but I have all the state/federal contacts if I need to follow up.

--Grace reported that there were 147 members previously and with the new members the total is now 177.

--There is no website followup to report, and there has been no known contact from Jason Cortes.

--Marsha sent the following detailed e-mail regarding the BLNA meeting on 5/11/17:

There was a presentation by the school district on how schools are doing and how they will be moving grades around next year.

There was a presentation on the library. All branches are very busy. Each has many activities they offer. They have renovated the main branch

Old business:

- 1) CDTA is doing a traffic study of the neighborhood
 - 2) Still waiting to hear about "roll out" speed bumps on Buckingham. They can't get enough enforcement to effectively slow down traffic. There continues to be speeders and cars running stop signs on Buckingham.
 - 3) They instituted one way streets - Tampa and Buckingham, - going in the same direction. This does not help. People who live on those streets can't get home without driving way around to Cortland. People living there are NOT happy. They feel they have had no say. Directors said that they were all supplied with flyers asking for comments. They want further discussion on the one way streets. It looks like this may not be settled.
 - 4) Street markings or lack of them continue to be a problem. many cars driving as if there are 2 lanes. "If there are no lane markers, then it is only one lane".
 - 5) suggestions made to discuss the problems with the hospitals because as the hospitals grow, so does the traffic. And now there are new apartments being build on lower New Scotland which will add to the congestion.
- It appears the making Tampa and Friebel one way in the same direction has not helped the situation. Neighbors want more discussion.

--The Board has one opening and Gabi has a possible candidate.

--There is alleged movement on the path to the shoreline according to Joe Coffey.

--Gabi asked for clarification from the minutes of the Board's last meeting regarding the CREDC yearly applications for grants. There may be trail work applicable through Parks.

--The next BPC board meeting will be 7:30 to 9 on **July 10** (first Monday is part of the holiday weekend).