



January 14, 2021

Radnor Township Board of Commissioners:

We are grateful for the opportunity to share the progress of the Willows Park Preserve. Since our last meeting with you on June 14, 2021, the Preserve's devoted and collaborative board has taken the organization to a positive sustainable level through its participatory "first things first" management strategy. Our Executive Director, Will Nord, practiced sound leadership throughout 2021 reaching out to create strong community connections. Following CDC guidance and utilizing our outdoor assets, he has coordinated and hosted arboretum and wildflower walks, fishing clinics, "concerts in the courtyard", birthday gatherings, pruning and lanternfly workshops, fundraisers, several orchestra concerts (including Radnor High School), fitness training, weddings, and anniversary celebrations. Due to Will's excellent public relations skills the community has taken strong interest in and support of the Willows once again.

Our strategy of increasing community engagement and diversifying sources of income is working. We are still closing the books on 2021 but total income is projected to be around \$261,000. This number includes \$188,575 in public donations, a 50% increase over 2020. Several for profit organizations have also provided generous in-kind services, and the WPP has entered a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding with Peachtree Catering to provide catering services for the major private party events envisioned by our lease agreement. The WPP earns a percentage of Peachtree's fees and collects usage fees from the Licensee (i.e. client). Peachtree has made investments to help launch this partnership and in 2021 the WPP earned over \$30,723 in income from private events.

We have been informed the WPP needs to install ADA accessible bathrooms as well as a fire suppression system to the basement and the first floor of the facility to acquire our certificate of occupancy. Several estimates have been sought and we believe we can oversee and fund the bathroom renovations with current accounts. However, the installation of the sprinkler system is beyond our current financial means. We wish to discuss with the Commissioners the possibility of pursuing that project from funds Radnor has set aside for the Willows. We understand the Township has awarded a bid to improve domestic and fire line water service to the house, and the WPP would like to connect sprinkler protection to that service upon its completion. Without the Township's support the WPP will need to continue turning away events and our ability to raise funds, thereby hampering our ability to pursue further improvements to the facility.

The Preserve sincerely appreciates and respects the cooperative relationship with Radnor Township that has taken place over the past year, and we optimistically look forward to future collaboration to deliver our mission to make this outstanding facility available to the community and its residents.