

Let There Be Lights!

Highlight of “Love Your Park” Week at McPherson Square

McPherson Square Park is brighter and safer for families and children.

The ‘Let There Be Lights’ dedication ceremony at McPherson Square on Thursday, May 14th was a highlight of Love Your Park Week and marked the culmination of four years of park improvement effort. The city capital project, whose original budget quadrupled, cost \$453,000, and required collaboration between Philadelphia Streets, Parks and Recreation, and Public Property Departments. The determined and persistent efforts of 7th District Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez were credited with bringing the project to fruition.

As Commission of Parks and Recreation Michael DiBernardinis kicked off the celebration, he noted that his two grandchildren were playing on the new playground in back

of the library. People agreed that it is something that wouldn’t have been thinkable four years ago when Impact Services brought community concerns about public health and safety hazards about the park to him and Councilwoman Maria Sanchez.

Installation of the 35 new lights began on the day after the spring snow melted. A dozen area children pushed the button and like magic, McPherson Square Park lit up, making the park bright enough to read a newspaper. Residents agreed that the park has been getting better every year for the last four years.

As Phyllis Martino, Director of Community Development at Impact Services noted, “Persistence matters. It’s been 51 months since we first filed complaints about the public safety problems at the park. To everyone’s credit, we got



immediate responses. So much has happened. We helped build the playground and ran over 60 events at the park and library over the last two years. Parks and Rec has been incredible planting trees, restoring Saturday library hours, taking better care of the park. Everyone in the city has really worked hard to scratch up the money to make things happen. This is a great night. We’re proud of the way people have worked together.”

Councilwoman Sanchez acknow-

ledged all the help and cooperation it took to get the project accomplished and indicated that she remained determined in helping to make the park a safer and better place for area families and children. “We are going to use the new lights to power a great holiday light display for Christmas and keep working to make this a great place for families and children.”

Deputy Mayor DiBernardinis indicated that new security cameras were also on their way.



Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. **HISTORY:** When did the U.S. Supreme Court become a nine-member body?
2. **General Knowledge:** The image of “Rosie the Riveter,” a woman working in a factory, arose from which war?
3. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What animal’s diet consists mainly of eucalyptus leaves?
4. **GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of the Czech Republic?
5. **MYTHOLOGY:** What was the name of Orpheus’ beloved wife, doomed to die from a viper bite?
6. **GAMES:** In poker, what is a full house?
7. **MEDICINE:** What causes rickets in children?
8. **LAW:** What is the legal definition of “chattel”?
9. **ETIQUETTE:** Who is traditionally supposed to host the bachelor’s party for a groom?
10. **MUSIC:** Who composed the opera “The Magic Flute”?

Answers

1. 1869, set by Congress
2. World War II
3. Koala
4. Prague
5. Eurydice
6. Three of a kind and a pair
7. Vitamin D deficiency
8. Personal property
9. The best man
10. Mozart