

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park  
Monthly Meeting Minutes 02-11-2014  
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:34 pm. 26 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani  
Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

### **I. Committee Reports**

#### Treasurer

Virginia Kimball indicated there was not much to report for January except stamps were purchased.

#### Horticulture

Robyn Reed let us know a sub-committee was formed to address the replacement of the trellis in the center of the rose garden. They have created a RFP and sent it out to multiple potential vendors.

#### Membership

Beverly Knight reminded everyone at the meeting they could go online to sign up for FOCCP membership for 2014. The membership drive letter to potential members will be sent in April and there will be a membership social either the end of March or beginning of April.

Thank you notes to those businesses that donated items for the Silent Auction for Monte Carlo Night fundraiser have been completed thanks to Rita Pagliuca and Jeanine Maglione. Thank you!

#### Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following:

One email was sent to our mailing list since the last monthly meeting; the February monthly newsletter. It went to a usual number of recipients and had an open rate that's typical for recent years. I expect there to be a small (typical) increase in the number of emails sent in the coming months as we head into our Spring Membership Drive.

Last meeting, I mentioned how the FOCCP Facebook page just passed the 300 Likes mark on Facebook. It's been creeping up more, and is now at 310 Likes. Thank you to Meredith (who primarily maintains the page daily) and to our Facebook friends for helping to raise the profile of FOCCP and share news about our great organization and the beautiful park. More and more pictures and events will be there as winter thaws.

#### Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari let us know he has spent \$459.00 on new lights to test for the trellis. He explained to the group he is testing new technology and is still seeking to obtain certifications on this new technology. Joanne provided some additional information to the group about the trellis lights. The holiday lights on the trellis were installed in 2009 and 4 years is the life of the lights. We're now in our 4<sup>th</sup> year so we

need to make some decisions on what to do next year. Ford explained the current lights are like Christmas tree lights and are wrapped around the trellis. There are maintenance costs associated with turning the lights on and off and also fixing lights throughout the season. The new lighting technology should last longer, require less maintenance and generally reduce expenses after the initial upfront investment of about \$100,000. Ford also mentioned the summer lighting on the trellis is very old as well.

Meredith reported the lights on the trellis have been on during the day. Seems there have been some issues with timing as the lights should only be on in the evening. Joanne will call the electrician.

Ford has created a backup for the database. This will minimize issues for corruption of the main database.

No news related to Press Releases.

### FOCCP Board Report

Joanne informed the attendees the Board met on January 27<sup>th</sup> and approved the Revenue and Expense budget for 2014. Total Projected Expenses = \$107,337 and Total Projected Revenue = \$113,000

Primary expenses include: Trellis Lighting, Horticulture, Maintenance, Harbor Cruise, Independence Day and Columbus Day Celebrations and Annual Fundraiser Night.

Primary Revenue items include: Sponsors, Membership, Harbor Cruise and Annual Fundraiser Night. Joanne recognized some of the sponsors including Tia's, CL Waterfront, Chiofaro Company, NorthEndWaterfront.com, Al Dente, Sunstone, and the Marriott.

Joanne gave examples of what the all-volunteer FOCCP group does throughout the year including the following:

- The Horticulture group maintains the rose garden and circle area
- FOCCP pays for the Trellis Lighting
- Tot-Lot clean up
- Events in the park such as movie nights in the summer (thanks to Joe Bono) and the Columbus Day celebration.

Joanne introduced Nadia Unruh, who has volunteered to work with Joanne and Meghan as Fundraising Coordinator. Nadia is a paralegal with fundraising experience and she has offered to assist in organizing this year's fundraising efforts.

### Dates for FOCCP 2014 Events in the Park:

Independence Day Celebration: Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup> (Park Application filed) This event will coincide with the NEMPAC Opera event on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, so it will be a weekend of events in the park. In accordance with the FOCCP bylaws that state, in part, the mission to promote and utilize Boston's Christopher Columbus Park, FOCCP members have approved sponsoring NEMPAC's Opera in the Park at the cost of \$1750 to cover the expenses. Michele Brogan suggested a paid performance of the Opera in an enclosed area could be a revenue generator. This will be considered next year.

Columbus Day, Monday, October 13 (Park Application filed)

Annual Fundraiser: November Date TBD

Trellis Lighting: Monday, November 24

Movies: Sundays July 13 through August 17 (6 nights - same as last year) Joe Bono has agreed to sponsor the movies again.

## II. Cycle Track on Commercial Street

Joanne introduced Vineet Gupta and Dave Matton from the Boston Transportation Department who updated us on the proposed design for Commercial Street for a cycle track. Per the handout distributed at the meeting below is a summary of the proposed design which was handed out at the meeting.

The proposed street design removes the two existing on-road bicycle lanes and combines them into a two-way cycle track. The cycle track would be mainly at sidewalk level along the northern or waterfront side of Commercial Street except in the area adjacent to Christopher Columbus Park, where it will be on road. It will extend from Prince Street Park at Charter Street south to the Rose Kennedy Greenway at Mercantile Street.

A cycle track is a family-friendly bicycle facility which is designed to reduce conflicts with pedestrians and motorists.

Key features of the design are as follows:

- There will be no loss of on-street parking as a result of this design.
- The number of travel lanes will be the same as those on Commercial Street today to maintain traffic capacity; signal timing improvements will also be made.
- The cycle track will be of a different material than the sidewalk to differentiate from the pedestrian zone and to reduce conflicts.
- In addition to having a different material, the cycle track will be separated from the pedestrian sidewalk by street furniture such as a grooved concrete strip, light poles, and trees.
- The width of the pedestrian sidewalks will remain the same, and they will be reconstructed to meet accessibility requirements. The curb line along the southern side of Commercial Street will remain as it is today.
- Pedestrian ramps on the southern side of Commercial Street will be reconstructed.
- There will be no loss of existing trees. New trees will be added to the waterfront side of the street.
- Signage will warn pedestrians and bicyclists about exiting cars at driveways. Likewise, signage will also warn vehicles of bicyclists and pedestrians, where appropriate.
- The Public Works Department will be responsible for snow clearance on the cycle track.

Vineet explained the vision of the project is to make it easier to discover the Boston historic sites and to create a pedestrian friendly environment. This project is being partially funded by a Federal grant and is 1 of 4 projects. Total cost is 3 million dollars. About 80% is being paid by Federal government.

Dave explained research was done to show there is an opportunity for biking ... his belief is - if we build it, the bikers will come. To see the long term bike project plans, go to the Boston Bike Network site.

Additional topics discussed:

- When needed, lighting on the sidewalks will be replaced and accessibility ramps will be added.
- There will be separate bike signals on the cycle track. Concern was expressed about these signals being followed and what the ramifications

would be if they were not followed. The thought now is bikers don't stop or will go faster on this new cycle track. This could potentially be dangerous for pedestrians; particularly those crossing over the track.

- We learned the crosswalks will be repainted.
- Segways will be illegal on the sidewalks. Neither Vineet or Dave knew if the Segways or pedi-cabs will be allowable in the cycle track. They will research.
- Concern was also expressed about cars/delivery trucks double parking. Vineet & Dave indicated this was illegal now.
- Robyn thanked them for the current bike lanes as they make bikers legitimate. This will only enhance this legitimacy.
- Estimated time frame: Design should be completed by the summer and construction to start by end of year. They will keep us in the loop.

### **III. Tia's Presentation**

Joanne introduced Tia's management; Bill Ferullo, Legal, Ciaran "Mac" McNelis, an Operating Partner, Katie Gorman, General Manager, and Michael Kineavy, new COO.

Bill let the attendees know that Tia's will donate money, previously sent to the Parks Department for being on the Park, to FOCCP.

Bill presented the plan to renovate Tia's. Below is a summary of what was presented.

- The renovation will expand the seating at Tia's by 200 seats; a 25% increase in capacity.
- The expansion will be above the current indoor seating.
- There will be a 12-seat bar.
- Glass partitions will be installed to reduce noise as this will be outdoor seating.
- Views should be very good; the Harbor, Greenway and Christopher Columbus Park. Tia's does not want to impact the Park or the condo's with any noise issues.
- The overall renovation will turn Tia's into a year-round restaurant.
- There will be no direct access to the Marriott.
- Additional bathrooms will be constructed per standard regulations.
- The entrance to roof deck (staircase) will be on Atlantic Ave. All felt this was positive information as it would potentially reduce the noise of people coming and going.
- There will be no music.
- May consider a re-tractable roof in the future but not in the current plans.
- Design process is going on now. Permitting will begin in 2-3 months and then construction.
- Joan expressed concern over the stones from Tia's which often end up in the grass in the park. Joan picks these up regularly. Tia's explained often times children, who are eating at the restaurant, throw them in the park. Tia's agreed to assist with the cleanup of these stones in the park.

The previous months minutes were accepted without change.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm