

**Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Monthly Meeting
March 11, 2014
Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA**

The meeting was attended by 17 members and convened at 6:40pm by Ann Babbitt, Vice President, FOCCP

Meeting agenda included distribution of the previous month's minutes for review, Committee reports and remarks from Jesse Brackenbury, the new Executive Director of the Greenway.

Liz Greene substituted as Clerk for the vacationing Audrey Tortolani.

Treasurer Report, Virginia Kimball

Virginia reported little financial activity during the month:

Postal expenses

Invoice bills received for the Lighting Project

New income from memberships

Horticulture Report, Robyn Reed

Robyn reported that work gloves have been washed and gardening tools are being sharpened and readied for the initial spring gardening work in the Park. Date TBD

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the trellis design are due Saturday, March 15.

Membership Report, Beverly Knight

No date has been set for Spring Social yet, but should be set soon. It will be held at Tia's on the Waterfront. Stay tuned for details.

She alerted members that the Annual Membership drive will begin in early April and notices will be in the mail soon

She announced that the Committee has plans to have Paypal technology at future meetings and events for easier payment processing.

Communication and Internet Report

Christina Sperry was unable to attend. She sent a report indicating that the statistical pattern of internet communications continued as in past patterns.

Meredith Piscitelli reported facebook figures surpassed the 300 mark - now at 312.

Infrastructure/Media, Ford Cavallari

Ford reported that with the help of Google, access to the entire FOCCP database is now available the FOCCP Board.

He also reported that he has learned of a technology which allows small "micro" specialized mailings which may prove helpful to Membership Committee for targeted mailings

The "initial" set of new lights have arrived, been hooked up for testing and are very bright. He had to re-order some of the control mechanisms because they were incompatible. He has established good contacts with the manufacturers. By the next Monthly Meeting, he is hoping that he will have been able to test the lights outside. The current trellis lights will likely be turned off before April 19.

Urban Oasis Report

Patricia Sabbey reported that she and Joanne Hayes-Rines met with the Parks Department. Apparently, there are some BRA issues associated with the property adjacent to the Park that need to be addressed. The Project is in a "holding pattern" at the moment.

Other Business

Election Information, Ann Babbitt

Nominations for the FOCCP Board and Directors are due by April 22. Anyone interested should submit a self-nomination by that date to: info@foccp.org. The Annual election for the FOCCP Board and Directors will be held on May 13 at the May 2014 meeting

A Memorial Day Concert will be held in the Park on May 26, 2014. Stay tuned for program details and schedule.

Annual FOCCP Fourth of July 4th Celebration

The event will be held on Saturday, June 28. The Chairs are Laura Benevento, Kathleen Tedesco and Diane Royle. Several entertainers have already been engaged, but still much to do. The Chairs are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event as well as to take on specific responsibilities. Please get any new ideas to the Chairs. They will announce a schedule for planning meetings.

Other Events

Annual Columbus Day event: October 13

Annual Fundraising event: Date TBD

Annual Trellis Lighting: November 24

Guest Speaker, Jesse Brackenbury, Executive Director, Rose Kennedy Greenway

Now into his fourth year working with the Greenway, he has been appointed as Executive Director. He is thrilled with the job and happy to have this opportunity. He is a parent and his children also enjoy the Greenway.

He is acquainted with several FOCCP members including Susanne Lavoie, Chris Fincham and Robyn Reed, all through their work with the Greenway as well. He

attended the recent FOCCP "Casino Night" and has had conversations with Joanne Hayes-Rines about working together. He announced a "Pilot" effort involving Park Rangers on the Greenway to address the many common issues and problems that city parks share and hopes appropriate city or state services can be enlisted to help. He has met with personnel at the Pine St Inn and is hoping to continue coordinated efforts with them. He echoed his delight with the new Greenway Carousel and the effort to coordinate the blue Greenway lights with FOCCP trellis lights. The Carousel will re-open April 11 and will be open weekends and vacation weeks and then open all week by Memorial Day.

He reminded attendees of the Parcel 8 and 10 meeting tomorrow night, March 12, here at Mariner House. The meeting agenda will include remarks by a horticulturalist and individuals planning benches and outdoor furniture finishes.

The Greenway Gala will be held on May 13, 2014 on the Greenway, under a tent at the Rings Fountain. Sponsorships are now being accepted for this fundraising event.

Applications for pavers on the Greenway Mother's Walk are being accepted at this time. Each paver is \$500. They are available for purchase on-line. Members can also contact Greenway/FOCCP liaison, Robyn Reed for more information

FOCCP member, Joan Murphy, remarked that the skate board deterrents that have been installed along the Greenway are very effective and might also be effective in the Park

Patricia Sabbey moved to accept the February 2014 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Laura Benevento and approved without change unanimously by the members.

Adjourned at 7:15pm

Liz Greene, Clerk pro tem