

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Annual Meeting Minutes 05/13/14
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:36 pm
21 people were in attendance.

Special Guests: David Lustick, Bob Chen and Leah Bamberger were welcomed to the meeting.

Recording the meeting were both current Clerk, Audrey Tortolani and future Clerk, Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes of previous meeting were distributed by Audrey.

Introduction of Board Members, members in attendance including a new member.

Committee Reports:

Horticulture:

Meredith Piscitelli reported on behalf of Robyn Reed.

The roses bounced back from the winter in a spectacular way - they look healthy and seem to be thriving. We will wait until the first bloom to cut the bushes back, in the meantime we are trimming and feeding the plants. The trellis for the center bed is moving along slowly, but we hope we will have a new trellis in place before the end of June.

Meredith added that the new trellis is being built and should be ready in 10 days. If you would like to join the group, we meet on Wednesdays at 6pm and Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Membership Report:

Meredith Piscitelli reported on behalf of Beverly Knight.

159 Renewals, plus 50 New members. Many new members were from the Membership Social and some from the Tot Lot clean up event.

Meredith reported up to 324 Likes on FOCCP Facebook.

Facebook and Bulletin Board are kept up-to-date with all FOCCP activities

Internet Communications Report: Christina Sperry

As the weather improves and the park gets busier, so does FOCCP.

Four emails were sent out to our mailing list since the last monthly meeting

- 1) Reminder about the April 9 Membership Social
- 2) Reminder about the April 18 Egg Hunt in the Park
- 3) Reminder about the May 2 Playground/Tot-Lot Clean-Up
- 4) The May monthly newsletter

They were all sent to a usual number of recipients and were opened/viewed at the typical 1/3 rate.

Infrastructure Report - Ford Cavallari - absent
Meeting at Mariner House Thursday the 15th at 6:00 PM for his committee to discuss lights on trellis.

Treasurer's Report:
Virginia Kimball gave her last report as Treasurer.
Here is a summary of all the numbers, YTD April

Expenses	YTD through April
Casino Night	\$2,500.00
Lighting Project	\$ 620.53
Membership Drive	\$ 1,709.04
Member Social	\$ 1,023.58
Horticulture	\$ 103.74
Tot Lot	\$ 1,752.51
Gifts	\$ 63.07
Supplies	\$ 155.04
PO Box Rental	\$ 128.00
Casino Night 2013	\$ 167.00
Constant Contact	\$ 148.76
Transfer to savings	\$ 200.00
Income	YTD through April
Membership	\$5,965.00
Online Membership	\$1,435.00
Credit for return	\$ 63.00 (deposited for returned lights)
Account Balances	YTD through April
Checking	\$ 98,008.07
Savings	\$ 53,210.89
CD	\$ 37,318.01
Money Market	\$103,002.55
Paypal	\$ 2,658.01
Oasis Project	\$ 24,000.00
Total:	\$318,197.53

Deposit of \$2500.00 for Casino Night was made to Boston Harbor Hotel

Clock presented to Virginia as a thank you for her contribution to the FOCCP board as Treasurer.

Virginia will chair the Harbor Cruise Committee, July 23rd.
Cruise is for members only. It is a good community builder.
She is looking for items for the Goody Bags.

Election of Candidates:

Ballot reviewed for FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large.

Audrey Tortolani, Clerk, let the group know that a vote was not necessary because it is an uncontested ballot. A motion by the president was requested to accept the nominated Officers and Directors-at-large.

Those listed below nominated themselves and have been accepted for the 2014-2015 year.

President: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President: Ann Babbitt

Treasurer: Audrey Tortolani

Clerk: Patricia Thiboutot

Meghan Warner Denenberg, Director-at-Large

Joe Bono, Director-at-Large

Committee Chairs: 2014-2015

Internet Communications: Christina Sperry

Horticulture: Robyn Reed

Infrastructure: Ford Cavallari

Membership: Beverly Knight

Fundraising: Patricia Sabbey

Guest Speakers:

David Lustick, Graduate School of Education, Associate Professor, Mathematics & Science Education, UMass Lowell, Principal Investigator on the ScienceToGo.org
Topic: ScienceToGo Project, an educational project about Climate Change and its effects.

Mascot - Ostrich - Ozzie and other ostriches are being used as an educational tool on Mass Transit and in various sites that could be affected by climate change. One such ostrich is in the Park.

The object of the ostriches and posters on Mass Transit is to encourage discussion on climate change. The ostriches are in 8 locations. Each one represents different levels of change. The posters have the ostriches questioning climate change by one ostrich and the others provide answers to the naysayers.

This is called the New Normal Poster Use. Will continue for 12 months.

Mass Transit has provided the space free of charge on the trains.

Clear and simple method. People can text questions.

Bob Chen: Professor, School for the Environment, UMass Boston
Discussion: Communicate complex science to the general public.
Cool Science: Formal education in schools. Students produce art work about climate change. They are on buses in Lowell.
3 Phases: Reality, Relevant, Hope
What is Boston Doing?
12 month project
Targeting riders on the T
500,000 riders on T, 38% see ostriches
Act of riding the T, a step in the solution

Leah Bamberger, Greenovate Boston, Mayor's Office, Special Assistant to the Chief of Environment, Energy & Open space
617-635-3425
Discussion: Get word out to community - resources for people & businesses to take part working with Greenovate.
City began future planning in 2007.
After Sandy - making sure buildings are prepared for flooding. BRA & Developers are working together. Making sure Municipal Buildings are prepared.
Park was recently flooded during a storm.
The City is updating climate action plan. City has reduced emissions and reduced acid rains. Preparing for the unavoidable.
Pamphlet given out - 2014 Greenovate Boston, Community Summit, Saturday, May 31 from 10am-5pm at Joseph P. Martin Conference Center at Harvard Medical School.
Websites: GreenovateBoston.org and sciencetogo.org

Easter Egg Hunt: Meghan Warner Denenberg
Living Room initiated the egg hunt.
Becca Griffin organized the stuffing of 1500 eggs
Very well attended - heard it was the best yet!
Return eggs, if possible, to recycle.

Tot-Lot Clean Up: Meghan Warner Denenberg
Hired Leahy Landscaping to remove sand and add new sand before the event.
FOCCP bought 2 new blue picnic tables (same color as playground equipment)

35 new members signed up: (total)
18 Paid members: 5 checks \$175.00
 10 credit card \$350.00
 3 Cash \$105.00

 Total: \$630.00

 Raffle: \$200.00

 Total: \$830.00

Entertainment: Big Joe the Storyteller and Fire truck

Ribbon Cutting

Benevento's Pizza provided by Joe Bono

FOCCP paid for a New Bulletin Board and had it installed on shed in Tot Lot

Other News:

Letters:

Joanne read a letter from Tia's regarding adding a second tier on its building
Bill Ferullo, attorney in charge of permitting process. Could start in fall if approved.

A second letter from Kate Gorman, Manager of Tia's regarding adding an entertainment license including Music and TV's. The letter did not specify indoor or outdoor amplification.

Tia's previously held a license for indoor entertainment. New owners have to reapply.

Updates from Joanne:

-Reminders:

There will again be a special Memorial Day show in the Park honoring veterans. Once again it will feature the Metropolitan Wind Symphony as well as The Boston Children's Chorus. It was a wonderful and moving performance last year so mark your calendars.

Click on calendar on foccp.org and there is a link on May 26 to the page where you can reserve seats.

-Monday, June 2nd: Coffee with Mayor Walsh in the Park, 9:30-10:30.

-Kick Off - Exercise Program in the Park - 5:30PM - 7:00PM

The exercise program will have the following classes in the CCP:

Mondays: There will be a Zumba Gold class at 6:00 pm

Fridays: Boot camp at 6:30AM

-Independence Day Celebration: Saturday, June 28 - CHAIRS: Laura Benevento, Kathleen Tedesco and Diane Royal.

-Sunset Cruise is ON. July 23rd. Boston Harbor Cruises is donating a boat for this event.

-October 13 - Columbus Day

-November 14 - Monte Carlo Night at Boston Harbor Hotel - Wharf Room. Tickets: \$135.00 per person

-November 24 - Trellis Lighting

More News

-Meredith told group that a magazine Southern Living will be featuring photos by Matt Conti and herself in an article about CCP as a great place for a picnic. Matt contacted the magazine.

-NEWNC Election of Officers: Saturday, May 17th from 10:00Am - 2:00 PM

Location: Nazzaro Center on Prince Street

-Meredith asking for identity of unknown addresses

Movies:

Sunday, July 13 - Field of Dreams

Sunday, July 20 - Sleepless in Seattle

Sunday, July 27 - My Neighbor Tortoro

Sunday, August 3- BIG

Sunday, August 10 - Star Wars Episode 1

Sunday, August 17 - Happy Feet

Joe Bono has agreed to sponsor the movies again.

Last Month's Minutes:

-Christina Sperry noted changes to the minutes which were corrected and then approved.

Meeting adjourned: 7:52PM

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk