

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 08-13-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt called to order at 6:43 pm. 23 people were in attendance.

Meeting videotaped by Matt Conti

Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Virginia Kimball provided a summary of the balances as of the end of July.

Checking Account	\$ 60,808
Savings Account	\$ 52,682
CD Account	\$ 37,178
Money Market Account	\$102,984
Total:	\$253,652

Horticulture

Ford Cavallari reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The rose garden center bed roses are smaller this year due to some weather damage and diseases which are now under control. In the crescent area, the Echinacea is doing very well its first year. The committee will now begin trimming the grasses in this area. The wisteria will also be getting trimmed. There is some question as to how much should be trimmed given the lights on the Trellis. The Horticulture group has been great this year and all efforts are appreciated

The Horticulture committee meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00. All are welcome. Gloves and clippers are provided. Please plan to wear close-toed shoes.

Membership

Ann reported on behalf of Beverly Knight. There has been little activity however, there will be a full report at the next meeting.

Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following information.

There were 7 emails sent out in the last month. 5 were related to the summer movies, 1 for the Summer Cruise and 1 monthly newsletter. Each email was sent to approximately 764 people. Christina reported the monthly newsletter received more than the usual number of clicks on links. Many linked out to the FOCCP Facebook site where there is much information about events along with pictures. Don't forget to Like Us on Facebook. Recognition was given to Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook manager) who does a great job updating the site with many stories and pictures.

You can find a link to the FOCCP Facebook page in any email newsletter and on our website.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari informed us there was some PR related to the movies and there will be more in the fall related to the upcoming FOCCP events included the Columbus Day celebration and annual fundraising event.

The switch from Homestead to Google is almost complete. There is still some internal training which needs to take place.

The Infrastructure committee is meeting on August 28th at 6:00 at the Pilot house to discuss Park damage, the trash barrel issue and other items related to the maintenance of the

Park. A primary focus will be discussing the Trellis lights. An evaluation of the technology is in process.

II. Recent and Upcoming Event Reports

Harbor Sunset Cruise

Virginia Kimball provided an update. There were 89 guests at this event. The weather was great, the food was nice and a relaxing evening was had by all. The gift bags were great!

Expenses: \$2220

Revenue: \$3730

Profit: \$1510

This money generated from this event will be used to help fund the Christopher Columbus Day event.

Urban Oasis Project

Patricia Sabbey provided an update. A list of considerations is being reviewed along with the Site Survey. The next step is to create a schedule and to share with the Urban Oasis project committee. Bellalta 3 Design has been very responsive. They are moving along and are "on track" according to Patricia Sabbey.

Movies in the Park

Ann Babbitt let us know the last movie in the Park will be held on Sunday, August 18th and it will be The Great Gatsby (1974 version). She needs someone to introduce and Laura Benevenuto volunteered.

Columbus Day Celebration

Ann Babbitt, who is chairing this event, is looking for volunteers to assist with the planning and also on the day of the event. A sign up sheet was passed around. The celebration will be held on Monday, October 14th. The committee has met once.

November Fundraiser

Kim Caverly provided an update. The name of this event is still being finalized but it will likely be called Monte Carlo. Kim, Beverly Knight, and Pam Girouard are co-chairs of this event and Laurie Cadigan is heading up the auction committee. The venue will be new this year; Fairmount Battery Wharf and the date is Saturday, November 16th. The complete downstairs area will be available. There will be a quintet playing music all evening, Patron will donate the bar and pastries. There will also be a café with an espresso cart. The price of the event per person has not been determined yet. The committee is working with the chef at Aragosta to finalize the food options which will likely include passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, desserts and coffee. There will also be signature drinks available; the names will be associated with the Park.

III. Tia's on the Waterfront Update

Ann introduced Lori Lilly from Tia's on the Waterfront. Lori let the FOCCP group know she is planning to sell Tia's in October of 2013 after owning the restaurant for 32 years. She "handpicked" the new owner which is expected to be the Cronin Restaurant Group. Ann thanked Lori for her many years of support of FOCCP.

Lori introduced Bobby Ciampa, Cronin Group CFO. He let the group know Cronin is the owner of Jerry Remy's at the Seaport as well as other regional eateries and development. He mentioned the only change they are contemplating is staying open through December with the same hours to accommodate Holiday parties. The intention is to keep everything status quo; staff, menu and hours. These may change in the future if it makes sense. Lori let us

know the current manager is staying with Tia's. Lori asked the FOCCP for a letter of support. They would like to present this at an upcoming liquor license hearing.

Ford asked about getting neighborhood input and Lori indicated she has already reached out to Suzanne Lavoie, Wharf District Council President. She also let the group know she had contact the Mayor's office and has been following the guidelines they have provided to her.

IV. Additional Information

Letter from Park User

Ann read the following letter from a person who contacted FOCCP via info@foccp.org.
Hello -

In the past, my attempts to reach out to the 'powers that be' have pretty much been about issues or problems concerning the park. Usually this meant dogs, the homeless, etc.. However, this time my family and I want to thank you for how great the park has been this summer. I'm sure it takes quite a bit of lobbying, work and effort to help with the issues mentioned above, so we just wanted to let you know we appreciate all that you've done. The park is clean, people are respecting the leash laws, and it's been a place where we take our boys almost daily, all summer long.

Thanks again for your efforts.

Best Regards

Joe Madden CPC/CTS
CEO / Headhunter

Picnic Tables

Ann let the group know the Board had voted to pursue looking into picnic tables for the tot-lot area. Meghan Denenberg did the research and the proposal is to purchase 2 bright blue metal picnic tables with attached benches. These would be placed in the tot-lot area in the shade. There would be an inscription saying these are "Provided by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park". The cost of both picnic tables plus shipping is \$1400. Because this amount is over \$1000, a vote needed to take place to approve this expenditure. A vote was taken in the meeting and approval was given to purchase the picnic tables.

After the vote there was some discussion about how hot the seats could get given they are made of metal. Because it is a mesh design (holes in the metal) and because the tables will be in the shade it was agreed it should be fine. Lori Lilly let us know she has similar type metal chairs which are in the sun at her restaurant and they do not get too hot.

The previous months minutes were accepted without change.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm