

May 10 2016
Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
The Mariner House
North Sq
Boston, MA

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Joanne Hayes Rines. Twenty members were in attendance

2016 Election

The nomination statements for officers and board members were read aloud by Liz Greene. As all the positions were unopposed, voting was not necessary. Meredith made a motion that was seconded to approve the slate of nominations. The motion was carried unanimously.

Election results as follows:

President - Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President - Ann Babbitt

Treasurer - Ann De Luca

Clerk - Patricia Thiboutot

Directors at Large - Joe Bono and Susanne Lavoie Lagace

Christina Sperry has stepped down as Chair of the Website and Internet Communications Committee. The new chair and board member is Kelsey Griggs who will handle the newsletter. Anthony De Carolis will be responsible for the website.

Membership committee

Beverly Knight reported membership at 135. A draft reminder email is under review to be sent those who did not renew yet. Audrey reported that membership checks still being received. Meredith shared some positive comment cards that have been received

Treasurer report

Audrey Tortolani presented her final treasurer's report! April saw more more activity with the NEMPAC opera payment, payments for the Membership Social, which came in under budget, at \$2456 and \$6255 in membership dues received. Current bank balance is at \$338, 661.00. Two donations from North End businesses, including Antico Forno were received. (Revenue and Expense sheet attached)

Horticulture report -- Robyn Reed (in Robyn's absence, reported by Joanne Hayes-Rines) Despite the cold weather, the roses and plants in the crescent are doing quite well. The volunteers have been cutting back the roses as instructed by the rose expert who visited with us last year. It looks like we lost 2 of the older hybrid tea roses in the center bed, but we will not be replacing them this year. The bonica roses in the small semi-circle outside the east gate were very old bushes and we lost most of those this year. We were expecting to replace those and we did plant 3 bushes last year but we will be buying about 10 new bushes for this area this year. The volunteers have also been feeding the roses and the plants in the crescent. The water spigot is now functioning. We have a few new volunteers who have been coming regularly (Carol, Carol and Pauline) and they have been great enthusiastic additions to the group.

Meredith Piscitelli reports her concern about a regular group of homeless individuals hanging around rose garden who make her nervous. Joanne Hayes-Rines emphasizes the need to call 911 to make sure there is an ongoing record of calls to police

Fundraising report - Patricia Sabbey
No report

Website and Internet Communications Committee report - Christina Sperry
Christina shared her final report as chair. Three emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last meeting:

1. Invite to the Annual FOCCP Membership Social
2. May monthly newsletter
3. Notice of the Annual FOCCP Tot Lot (Playground) Cleanup

The emails each went to the usual number of recipients, with the newsletter and Social emails being opened a bit above the usual open rate of about 1/3 and the Playground email opened a bit less.

Visits to the FOCCP website in 2016 continue to increase each month, with April visits increasing to 1,033. Also, this is an increase from previous years. Last April we had 722 visits, April 2014 had 475 visits and April 2013 had 380.

Last monthly meeting, I hoped that the FOCCP Facebook page would get over 650 Likes, and it has!! It's now at 652 Likes.

President's report. Joanne Hayes-Rines

Park Ranger- FOCCP paid \$20,000 for coverage last year - Joanne has spoken to the city about success of program and the need to continue. Hoping to hear final answer soon.

Tot Lot

Meghan Denenberg reported a successful event despite the cold weather. There were 30 to 40 attendees with lots of new folks included. The Fire Department sent a fire truck. Staff from KinderCare participated, Joe Bono provided pizza and Aaron Michelwitz provided sand toys.

Yoga in the Park

Patricia Sabbey reports that free weekly yoga sessions will be held in the Park. Details are being finalized for Tuesday's or Thursday's. The start date is to be announced. FOCCP is supporting the cost of the yoga teacher

August 4 Dance Party update - no report
Michele Brogan not present

Sunset cruise August 16

Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker are chairs for the event. We will sail again on the Rendezvous. There will be a raffle with some gift cards left over from other events. Winners will be limited to one item. Camille and Stephanie are reviewing the menu comments from last

year before finalizing this year's menu. Boston Harbor Cruises may have more caterer options this year. Kelsey Griggs helping with planning as well.

FOCCP August 23 Birthday Celebration - Mary Gaye Grizwin

Mary Gaye reports that she has a great committee! All are in the process of working on the various aspects of the celebration. The Heritage of America Band will be playing and the day's events should be concluded by 8 or 8:30

The celebrations will include a birthday cake - especially designed by Claudio from Modern Pastry, cupcakes from Lulu's and a balloon decorated stage for the festivities. Folding chairs, table with tables cloths will be available for attendees. Posters, programs and banners are being prepared. Joanne reports that the mayor has been invited

Mary Gaye also reports there may be additional volunteers from One Brick Boston

FOCCP Independence Day celebration - Ann Babbitt

Saturday, June 25 12 to 4

Ann asked for volunteers and passed around a sign up sheet. She will contact volunteers about any planning meetings

Ann anticipates participation from the Aquarium, the Fire Dept who will bring a fire truck, Uncle Sam on stilts, the Bubble Guy, a Park Ranger on his horse, a puppeteer, NEMPAC Musical petting zoo, as well as various activities including face painters and tattoos and possible bake sale.

Sunday Night Movies, sponsored by Joe Bono

Joanne reports that the movies will begin on July 14 and run for 6 Sunday nights

Joanne made a motion to approve the April Meeting minutes; motion seconded by Meghan Denenberg. Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene for vacationing Patricia Thiboutot