

*FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK*

*MEETING 02/09/16*

*MARINERS HOUSE 6:30 PM*

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines, President

Recording: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Audrey Tortolani, Robyn Reed, Patricia Sabbey, Beverly Knight, Susanne Lavoie, Patricia Thiboutot.

Absent: Ann Babbitt, Christina Sperry, Joe Bono, Ford Cavallari

Members Attending – 14

Meeting began at 6:36 PM

Minutes Distributed

**Committee Reports**

**-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed: No Report**

**-- Membership report – Beverly Knight**

Invitations to Membership Social April 21st at Tia's going out end of March/early April.

It will be special invitation emphasizing 15th Anniversary.

**-- Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani**

Deposit on Gala major expense for January.

1 membership for January

2016 Budget discussed at January Board Meeting.

**--Fundraising Report: Patricia Sabbey:** See Oasis Report Below  
**- Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry - Absent.**

Patricia Thiboutot read Christina's Report.

One email was sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

- February monthly newsletter.

The email went to a usual number of recipients and were opened around the usual open rate of about 1/3.

The number of FOCCP Facebook followers and Twitter followers each increased from the January monthly meeting report. Pretty good for winter when there haven't been any park activities.

Meredith Piscitelli reported: Facebook Likes up to 629 in Feb. from 619 in Jan.

**-- Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari - Absent –No Report**

**-Discussion on Trellis Lights: Joe Vozzela** reported resetting the new blue lights on the ground . Look great in the snow. Dimmers have been ordered for the horizontal lights. Joanne explained that the LED lights were a product failure. No recourse with vendor as they are in China. In the past when LEDs were tried and failed there was recourse as former president was working with an American company that made up for loss.

**-Urban Oasis Project Update – Patricia Sabbey**

Urban Oasis Project. The first was last week with Peggy Reiser and Leslie Will from the Boston Committee of the Garden Clubs of America. Their Blossom Fund gave us Joanne and I have had two meetings regarding the seed money for the project. We met to bring them up to date on our efforts to bring this project to completion. Joanne and I met today with Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect, And Lauren Bryant, Project Manager, from the Boston Parks Department. They gave us an update on the plans to assess the potential sea wall and drainage issues including those at the spray

park. An engineering study will be conducted within the next month. The engineers will work at low tide to open the drainage outlets along the sea wall and video the interior channels to determine what, if any, work needs to be done. An assessment will also be made of the drainage issues at the spray fountain and remedial plans made. Lauren will get back to us when she has the results.

Discussion: Joanne stated time line for construction is for the fall.

Cost: \$225,000. Carmella Laurella of CL Properties has committed to \$25,000. Will fundraise for the rest. Meanwhile money is in the bank to start program. Keep same trees – benches around it between circle and Marriott another circle. Trees will provide shade. Sections will be irrigated. Maybe a water fountain will be added. Blossom Fund will receive recognition with a plaque. Sell benches. Examples of benches are on Broad Street and State Street. Could be teak. Joanne will bring plans to a meeting. The city has offered to oversee the project. This has come about because FOCCP has been working with the city on other projects.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee – Joanne Hayes-Rines**

On Monday, January 25, Ann and I met with Ryan Woods of the Parks Dept. to discuss possible ideas for special events in the park. Attending the meeting were Nicole Ferraro of the Boston Public Health Commission, which was responsible for the Boot Camp and Zumba classes in the Park last year. Jennifer Widener of the Park Dept. also attended the meeting. We came away with the following ideas.

- **DANCE PARTIES.** Ryan referred us to Terese Denunzio who is a DJ. She entertains both children and adults. She would be willing to perform in the park and brings all the equipment she needs.
  - For children, she brings hula hoops and limbo sticks and more. She performs at the Children's Museum and elsewhere.
  - She also performs for adults. They would be themed dance parties, e.g., Salsa, 60's, etc.
  - **NEEDED:** 2-3 people to continue the discussion with Terese to set dates for events and to determine if she is the correct person for the adult dance parties. If not, who?

- TAI CHI. Discussed this with the Health Dept. It may be added to the exercise classes they already do in the Park.
- USAF Jazz Ensemble. Some time during last 2 weeks in August. Not confirmed. It can be our 15<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration.
  - **NEEDED:** 2-3 people to plan the birthday celebration. Joanne will work with the Parks Dept. and USAF and Marriott to help make the performance a reality.

### **Volunteers for Committees:**

**Dance Party:** MaryGaye Grizwin, Jack Mc Carthy, Michele Brogan and Jason Gardner. Committee will contact Terese Denunizio and other DJs. Terese brings her own equipment and sound system. Concern regarding quality of equipment and how many people it will attract. Space is limited. Terese has experience with kids. Jason knows a DJ for adults. Rita Pagliuca suggested contacting Vinyl Groove of the North End.

**15th Anniversary Party:** Last 2 weeks of August. Joanne will send an email to committee to set a date. Date of Incorporation 2001. Date of party will depend on availability of Air Force Band. Meredith suggested sheet cakes to be placed under the Trellis. Contact neighborhood bakeries. Joanne will work with the Marriott for changing rooms for the band and refreshments for the band.

**Volunteers for Party Committee:** Chair: MaryGaye Grizin, Meredith Piscitelli, Jack McCarthy, Laura Benevuto, Rita Pagliuca. Rita will contact Cake Box for a cake.

Jason suggested having a theme for the party. Maybe street performers but they may detract from the event.

Joanne mentioned that NEMPAC and Landmark Orchestra are also celebrating their 15th Anniversary.

**Other Discussions:**

-Joanne will contact Parks Dept. to have Park's activities listed in their Summer Guide. April 1st is deadline.

-Chowder Fest: J. O'Brien of Joe's American Bar proposing a Chowder Fest. Joanne and Patricia Sabbey will set up a meeting.

*They will provide all the necessary equipment.*

-Street Performers. Jason suggested a Street Performers Festival. He will submit a proposal to the Board.

**2016 Events planned:**

Tot Lot Clean Up – Meghan to give a date

Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.

Sunday Night Movies ... July 10 - 17 - 24 - 31  
and August 7 - 14

Cruise ... date TBD

USAF Heritage of American Band Jazz Ensemble ...  
August TBD

Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10

Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4

Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21st

January Minutes Approved

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

PatriciaThiboutot, Clerk

