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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting - February 9, 2010
The Mariner House - North Square - Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 30 members and guests. David Kubiak from NEWRA attended. They have recently formed a Parks Committee and he was interested to learn from FOCCP. Member introductions. January meeting minutes read and accepted.

Agenda

Treasurer's report
Horticulture report
Fundraising report
President's remarks
Other announcements

Treasurer's report

Virginia Kimball reported the 2009 year end December checking account balance in the amount of \$61,731.61. She distributed expense and income reports for September, October, November and December 2009. The organization also holds two Certificates of Deposit totaling a little more than \$140,000.

Joanne asked that Virginia prepare a year to date report format for the monthly meetings. She also highlighted the significant funds that are needed for tree care, trimming and pruning as well as garden plantings and the holiday lights

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparro report that there are not formal meetings of the committee at present. They will resume in April

Fundraising report

Ann Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the committee will review possible date change for the Gala and well as a possible harbor cruise fundraiser (courtesy of Boston's Best Cruises)

President's remarks

Joanne received an email regarding the mud which accumulates around the children's fountain. There is also a manhole cover which seems to be sinking. She has raised both of these issues with Tom Sullivan of the Maintenance Department

She said that NorthEndWaterfront.com written by Matt Conti recently had a nice write up about the park. FOCCP meeting schedule will also be announced there as well as in the Regional review.

The work on the park kiosk is proceeding. Warren Mustachio will install. The board itself will be cork. Sign posts are pressure treated and will be painted black in the spring. She announced there will be a Tot Lot clean up effort this spring. Mary Marenghi will coordinate. Plan to schedule the clean up prior to Mayor's annual coffee in the Park on May 12. Stay tuned for date – likely May 1 or May 2. The FOCCP Board voted to spend \$200 on the effort.

Joanne will convene the By-Law committee to review Board and membership input on revisions and updates. New member, Mary Jo Savino has agreed to word process the current set of By-Laws so they can be further revised and edited.

Joanne reported that she has requested from the City, one case of ParkArts 2010 brochures. ParkArts is the umbrella organization for all citywide park arts efforts. The kick-off event is June 26 and ushers in the annual Harbor Fest and Naval Week. The membership voted to spend \$1000 to support this event. FOCCP will be acknowledged in the promotional material as one of the sponsors

Other announcements

Meghan Denenberg highlighted the need for new and additional volunteers for the fundraising, membership and horticulture committees.

Victor Brogna, President of NEWRA also attended the meeting along with other members of NEWRA leadership. A general discussion was held soliciting ideas and suggestions as that organization proceeds with newly formed Parks committee. They are currently developing an inventory of all open spaces used as parks (malls, plazas, squares, etc.). David Kubiak extended an invitation to the FOCCP to attend a NEWRA meeting to inform and provide feedback on the inventory as it develops.

Mary Jo Savino presented an overview of the 2010 U.S. Census and the need for more staff. She distributed brochures with more detailed info

The meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk