

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 07/08/14
Mariners House, Boston, MA*

Meeting chaired by Audrey Tortolani in Joanne Hayes-Rines' absence

Called to order at: 6:32 P.M. - Adjourned at: 7:20 P.M.

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

Patricia distributed minutes for review by those who were at last month's meeting.

Laura Benevenuto requested to be placed first on the agenda to give her Independence Day Celebration report.

**Independence Day
6-28-14**

NEMPAC	284	
Tanglewood Marionettes	607	
Peter O'Malley Magician	700	
Steve Klein (Balloon Wizard)	450	
Boris Koski	450	
T-Bone (Tom Stankus)	575	
Flags (Online Stores)	82.03	
Boston Balloon (Loose Balloons)	223.75	
Rental Depot (tables)	198.2	
Posters	227	
Raffle Money		240

Next Step Living - donation for table		150
Total	3796.98	390

Laura indicated it was a successful event even though the numbers were down from last year. She thanked all the wonderful volunteers who helped make the day a success.

Committee Reports:

Horticulture report – Robyn Reed - Absent - Emailed Report

We have added a small fence around the center bed to discourage people from stepping into the actual rose planting area. I'd love to hear feedback on whether it is working or not, so please feel free to let me know if you see a difference in how people use that area.

Ford and I "fixed" the water main break the other day - we are not experts, but it should have held up when the water turned on.

The key box has been moved because we do not feel it is a secure location to keep the keys to the shed anymore.

Joanne Hayes Rines: sent an email to Bernie Lynch, Parks Dept. maintenance chief, re break in Rose Garden irrigation system. Copied Commissioner Cook and Ford on the email.

Meredith reported that buntings were stolen. Roses are amazing this year thanks to the winter weather! Second blooming now. Huge buds. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers.

Meredith also showed photos of the oil drum trash cans that she and Robyn decorated. Asking Coast Guard when they do their bi-annual cleanup of the harbor that they pick up any barrels or benches that have been thrown into the harbor.

Membership report -- Beverly Knight - Absent

Meredith Piscitelli Reported for Beverly.

\$13,755 from Invitations sent to corporations and condo associations

\$ 217.00 Membership Renewals

\$ 79.00 New Members

\$ 296.00 from Membership

Facebook: 06/11/14 332 Likes

07/07/14 352 Likes

Meredith read complimentary notes sent with donations and membership fees.

One note stated that dogs were a huge issue in the park.

Discussion on dog issues ensued in regard to off leash dogs. Ford asked that photos of off leash dogs be sent to him. He also announced that NEWRA will be taking up the discussion at the August Meeting. He will keep the group informed.

Website & Internet Communications Report - Christina Sperry

Two emails were sent to our mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

- 1) A special bulletin about upcoming summer events in the Park
- 2) The Monthly Newsletter,
- 3) They all went to a usual number of recipients and were opened/viewed at the typical ~1/3 rate. The summer bulletin email had more link clicks than usual, so people were definitely interested in learning more about various events. The two big events of interest based on link clicks were the City of Boston's Summer Fitness Series and the FOCCP Harbor Sunset Cruise.

Remember to visit FOCCP's online calendar of Park-related events for a lot of great things to do throughout the summer and into the fall, and then check the FOCCP Facebook page for pictures of these events and other happenings in the Park.

Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari

We've had 1 outdoor meeting of the Infrastructure Committee meeting this month (on 6/5 in the Park with electrician Dino Coutlis) as well as a number of other park onsite walkthroughs for the trellis lighting project.

An indoor meeting of the Committee is scheduled for tomorrow (7/9) at 5:30 at the Pilot House to hammer out details of the Phase 1 test.

We circulated copies of the electrical plan obtained from Bellalta 3 (who had images of both page 1 and 2) to interested Committee members as well as back to the Parks Department

We carefully calculated power requirements of installed lighting (132A) and revised proposed lighting (124A), and validated that there is enough power feed to handle these configurations

We negotiated a "special run" of the LED light strips with Hehong to be manufactured at 1/6 normal LED density - this will allow us to squeeze below the power ceiling

We devised a labor and power-saving installation strategy which we plan to test in the center trellis later this month (top and bottom)

We have ordered 50M additional color LED and 100M white LED for our Phase 1 test - these are just shipping out of Hehong this week

The Phase 1 (field test) is currently slated for late July. The customer order is planned for early August. We expect materials here by end-of-September and a Phase 2 (full) installation in October

A lot of thanks to Bob Venuti and Joe Vozzella who stepped up strongly in June to help guide us toward resolution of the power questions

We effected some emergency repairs on the rose garden irrigation system, which has been effectively out all season (several line breaks).

While I was able to repair the very visible break at the center (near the new rose trellis), there appear to be 2 more underground breaks which I have been unable to locate. The Parks Department has thus far been unable to get the contractor who's reportedly taking care of the rose garden irrigation system to repair the system.

Media:

No media activity after the Independence Day Celebration, or planned for July

We held a Google "bootcamp" for Board members and committee chairs on 6/13, and plan another for late-July

Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani

June: Expenses: Tot Lot - \$1,950.00

Independence Day: \$3,714.95

NEMPAC Opera: \$1,750.00

Revenue: Membership online & checks: \$1,500.00

Donation: HordeN Health \$1,800.00

Combined Accounts: \$318,676

From now on sponsorship money and membership money will be separated.

Fundraising Report: Chair Patricia Sabbey - Absent - No Report

Members Only Harbor Sunset Cruise: Wednesday, July 23. Chair: Virginia Kimball. Boat donated by Boston Harbor Cruises. \$45 per adult member or guest. Boarding

begins at 6:30pm. Cruise from 7pm to 10pm approx. Hors d'oeuvres by Taste of the Town Caterers. Cash bar.

Joanne's Report on meeting with Interim Parks Commissioner Chris Cook and Chief Landscape Architect Liza Meyer on Wednesday, June 11. The 1 ½ hour meeting covered many topics:

- 1) Oasis Project. Liza still wants the design "tweaked" and will communicate with the landscape company that FOCCP engaged for the project, Bellalta 3 Design. As of last week, Liza had not contacted them nor had she responded to follow up email from Joanne.
- 2) Trash Barrels. The was, "Those oil promised we would August. 20. Joanne members will meet Lynch on July 15 in have 10 Big Bellies board will determine location and also will cans. In the interim, Committee member the look of the ugly
- 3) Stones in spray problem of mud someone from the Parks Dept. maintenance crew decided in the spring to put stones in the area. The stones spread through the grass and onto the spray fountain. Joanne requested they be removed and they were ... finally on Thursday, June 26



first thing Chris Cook said barrels have to go!" He have new trash barrels by and several board Maintenance head Bernie the park. Bernie says they for Columbus Park. The how many we want and request traditional trash Hort Chair Robyn Reed and Meredith Piscitelli improved trash barrels. fountain. To solve the around the spray fountain,

Chris was extremely complimentary about FOCCP and has a special regard for the park because when he was head of events for the City, he had many events in the park. I anticipate an excellent working relationship with the Parks Dept.

Columbus Day Celebration, Monday, October 13 ... Chair: Ann Babbitt - Absent
Discussion if lights will be sold. Suggest to Ann that maybe they could be sold at event.

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.

**** Annual Fundraiser: Friday, November 14. Boston Harbor Hotel. Wharf Room.**
**** Trellis Lighting: Monday, November 24**

New Business - No New Business

June Minutes Approved

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk