

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Meeting July 14, 2015

Mariners House, North Square

Meeting Chaired by Joanne Rines-Hayes

Recording the meeting Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Meeting began 6:40 PM - Adjourned 7:47 PM

18 Members in attendance

June Minutes were distributed.

Guests: Maria Lanza - replacing Nicole Leo of the Mayor's NE, WE and Waterfront Neighborhood Services

Committee Reports

- Membership Report - Beverly Knight

217 Renewals

47 New

1 Today

TOTAL 265

\$11,126.27 Goal \$15,000

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

Independence Day under budget from last year.

Maybe next events we can hire professional help.

Maybe even a big screen for such major events - Soccer etc.

Membership: \$12,000 includes, individuals, businesses. checks and online payments-paypal.

Account Balance: \$334,363.00

Independence Day Expenses & Revenue	Expense	Revenue
Jenny the Juggler Entertainment	\$375.00	
NE Aquarium – Tide Pool	\$455.00	
NEMPAC	\$366.00	
Peter O'Malley Magician	\$700.00	
Mary S. Jayne (Uncle Sam Stilt walker and character)	\$300.00	
Flags (Online Stores)	\$ 65.13	
Boston Balloon (Loose Balloons)	\$250.23	
Rental Depot (tables and chairs)	\$191.34	
Posters and handouts	\$144.71	
Face painting supplies & water	\$ 47.21	
Misc Supplies (Noisemakers, Flower Lei's, Tattoos)	\$103.66	
Donations/ticket sales		\$290.00
Total	\$2,017.42	

Independence Day - Ann Babbitt & MaryGaye Grizwin

Our Independence Day event on June 27th was a rousing success, thanks to our enthusiastic performers and our volunteers who made balloon bouquets, helped with the setup, welcomed guests at our information/membership table and manned the face painting table.

Our performers for the event included Jenny the Juggler, Peter, the Magician (also acting as MC throughout the day and Jim, the Bubble Guy...who continues to be the main attraction. He was truly a find. Thanks to the Parks Dept for recommending him.

A special thanks, again, to our super salespersons, Meghan's niece & nephew and the Marengi brothers for a very successful raffle. Who can say "no" to such enthusiastic salespersons. They raised \$290.

Discussion: Spaced out performances so that children were not overwhelmed by all the activity.

NEMPAC provided instruments to show the children and let them try them instead of handing out individual ones.

Suggestion: Have someone take photos during the event.

Firetruck a big hit as well as Police Officer Boyle. Someone called 911 while the sirens were going off.

Plastic toys were a big hit.

Uncle Sam brought his own Minion.

– Horticulture report – Robyn (Meredith Piscitelli)

The roses have been trimmed as needed, and the center bed roses are starting their second bloom. We have many rose bushes that we need to purchase to replace the ones we have lost, but those will be purchased and planted in the fall.

The crescent flowers are looking spectacular, and we will be trimming the Spirea in the next week.

We continue to monitor the irrigation system, and it still is not 100% effective. It is still only working in spots in the rose garden, and it appears that it is not working at all in the flower beds in the middle of the walkway. Although those beds are planted and maintained by the city exclusively, it certainly affects the overall look and feel of the park, and most visitors assume that is part of the FOCCP's work, so it is critical that it be working properly. Meredith has contacted the city about this and we hope they will respond quickly.

Our volunteers have been great, and show up reliably, and work hard, but we can always use more help. If you'd like to help, please come to the rose garden on Wednesday or Sunday.

Other comments: Irrigation system - Meredith explained that hoses are old and are breaking apart and that is why they are leaking.

July 22 at 6:30 PM a Memorial Service for Mary Ann Esparo in the Rose Garden. Marianne is the former chair of the Horticulture Committee and the Rose Garden was her inspiration

– **Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey** - absent - no report

– **Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry**

Three emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

- Reminder about the June 27 Independence Day Celebration in the Park,
- Remembrance of FOCCP member and former FOCCP Board member Mary Ann Esparo, and
- The July monthly newsletter.

The emails each went to a usual number of recipients. Mary Ann's email was opened by nearly 50% of recipients, which is much more than the usual 1/3 rate.

Last month, I reported that the website had 1,401 visitors in May 2015 and that in July 2014 we had our all-time highest number of visitors: 1,984. That is now the *former* all-time high, since June 2015 had 2,423 website visitors. This month is already at 1,366 visitors and should meet or exceed June's number. Most of the visitors seemed to be direct visitors or visitors via a search engine, but a lot of visitors also came via a link at the City of Boston's Summer Events website.

FOCCP's Facebook page had 470 "Likes" as of the last monthly meeting. I'm happy to report that we are now over 500! Thank you to Meredith, who puts a lot of work into making the Facebook page active and informative.

– **Infrastructure Committee Report - Ford Cavallari (Joanne)**

- The installation of the lights and hardware is closing in on completion
- Crews worked much of June to put up the lights, and electricians are still working on the circuits
- The bottom color lights and white arch lights now fully in place on the trellis
- The upper color lights will be installed at the end of the wisteria season
- The installation of waterproof electrical boxes and conduit is about 80% complete
- Full hookup of the small Nina section (color and dimmable white) is about 70% complete, and remaining hookups down trellis will proceed after Nina testing is completed
- Final electrical work, testing, inspection and other important activities take place in late July and through August/September
- During July and early August, some of the current white sections need to be taken offline for extended periods during rewiring, and these lights will be changed over to dimmable circuits via controllers in the electrical boxes
- Although most of the lights are in now place, the colored lights will not be turned on until November
- The Nina section will be test-illuminated several nights in early August, exact timing TBD

Sunset Cruise – Tuesday, August 4. Camille Hogan & Stephanie Walker

Different Boat from last year. Boat being donated. Will try to pick up at Park.

Cost \$45. person. Do not have to be a member of FOCCP.

Food has been ordered: shrimp, pizza, sliders, cheese and crackers.

Joanne bringing desserts from BJs.

There will be some seated table with table cloths. Some high rise tables.

Outside deck is covered.

Music and dancing a possibility.

Posters being distributed by Meredith Piscitelli.

Funds go to Christopher Columbus Day Event.

Sunday Night Movies, July 12 – August 16

July 12 (Sunset 8:21)	Driving Miss Daisy – PG (99 min)
July 19 (Sunset 8:17)	Toy Story (81 min)
July 26 (Sunset 8:10)	Shrek 2 (2004) (93 min)
August 2 (Sunset 8:03)	Indiana Jones & the Temple of Doom -(118 min)
August 9 (Sunset 7:54)	Money Ball (PG-13) (133 min)
August 16 (Sunset 7:44)	Sabrina (Harrison Ford) PG (127 min)

Discussion: Ann Babbitt will cover July 26 and August 9.
About 100 persons (local as well as those from other states and countries)
attend movie night sponsored by Joe Bono.

Park Ranger Report - Comments from members:

We pay \$20,000 for 40 hours a week to the City of Boston.
Postive response on Park Ranger. Serve as Ambassadors to the city.
Oversee homeless, off lease dogs, drugs. Improvement with dogs off leash which is safer
for children playing on the grass. Good about bike rules.
Rose Garden gate being checked. The rangers are interacting with
the public. Have given out a few tickets.
Spoke to Jump & Jive to tone down their noise.
Overall there has been a tremendous improvement in safety in the park. The white trellis
lights are also proving to be a safety measure.

Guests.

Maria Lanza: North End, West End Waterfront Neighbor Services replacing
Nicole Leo. Maria will advertise FOCCP events in her newsletter. Submit any comments
to her. Promotes city services and is on call for emergencies.

Jack McCarthy: Works locally at Edward Jones Financial Services. Attended the Independence
Day event and was very impressed. Likes to garden so he decided to come to the meeting
and to join FOCCP. Suggested planting Lavender that would complement the roses. Also,
enlist high school students for events as they need community service credits.
Meredeth in touch with Girl Scouts.

2015 Events

Oct 12. Columbus Park Celebration

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel. Ann, Joanne and Meghan

Nov. 23 Trellis lighting

Non FOCCP Event

Fireworks on Labor Day, Sept. 5. Boston Harbor Association
Other: NEMPAC concerts on Thursday evenings.

Minutes accepted with 3 typo changes.

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk