

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park  
Monthly meeting  
The Mariner House  
North Square  
Boston, MA  
June 9, 2015

Meeting called to order by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40 pm with 18 members present

### **Fundraising Report**

Patricia Sabbey was contacted by Ryan Mitchell, Director of Marketing for the Tavistock Restaurant Group. On behalf of Joe's American Bar and Grill he asked to meet about support that they may be able to provide. She thanked them for support for the Spring Tot Lot event.

The Corporate Information folder is in development to provide info, brochures, event posters describing how and where FOCCP spends funds.

### **Membership committee -- Beverly Knight**

Beverly reported membership revenue to date as \$10,280.00  
204 renewals, 47 new members for a total of 251  
Business renewals at 13 for a total of \$1185.00  
Girl Scout Daisy troop donation of \$75 used for purchase of daisy plants

### **Horticulture committee Meredith Piscitelli**

Meredith shared photos of North End Girl Scout Daisy Troop, a group of 5 and 6 year old girls from the North End -- she had received information from Mary Marengi that they were looking for projects in the neighborhood. They helped in the Park and also gave a generous \$75 donation that was used to purchase Montauk daisies for the Park

Meredith reported for Robyn Reed, Horticulture Chair, that the roses are in full bloom - a little late due to snow and the hard winter - some hybrids and bush roses were lost and little rain in May was also a problem.  
In addition, the water was not turned on and the mulch was not provided. Robyn has discussed this with the Parks Dept.

Meredith reported that the garden volunteers have changed the care process for the roses, following the recommendations of the Rose Consultant. This is working well. She reminded attendees of the Garden work schedule: Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

### **Treasurer report - Audrey Tortolani**

Audrey highlighted some recent expenses: \$9700 for Trellis wisteria cutting and recent expenses for the Lighting Project at \$1200, Tot Lot expense in May at \$1700.  
Full report available from Audrey.

### **Internet and Communications Report Christina Sperry**

One email was sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting, the June monthly newsletter. The email went to a usual number of recipients and was opened by 37% of recipients, slightly above the usual rate.

Last month, I reported that the website had 722 visitors in April and how that was almost double April 2014's 495 visitors. In May 2015, the website jumped up to 1,401 visitors! Last May we had 944 visitors. Last July we had our all-time highest number of visitors (1,984), and it looks like we may beat that this July if upward trends continue. We don't seem to have any new referring websites to account for the visitor increases, so I think it's just due to an increasing profile of FOCCP and the Park.

FOCCP Facebook page "Likes" are up to 470 as of today. We may yet hit 500 by the end of the summer

#### **Infrastructure committee report. Ford Cavalleri**

Ford reports that that full installation of colored lights is now underway. The scaffolding is up and weather permitting will continue the installation - Steve Mirabella, the electrician, is installing the lights with an assistant. The Parks Dept staff have been helpful in storing scaffolding when not in use. The color lights in the arch are fully installed on one section and a quarter way thru on the largest stretch of trellis. Dimmer functionality is still in process pending water proofing being completed. Ford reports the smaller section which is fully done could be viewed at a time certain. Waterproofing needs to be completed and Ford hopes inspection can happen sometime next week. Then, members may be able to view them at a scheduled time Ford brought example of color light for under the trellis - standard blue of past years and pink, aqua red green yellow. Impressive!

Not sure if the lights will be ready for the 4th of July. However, the dimmers may be ready for the July 12 movie in the Park

He thanks Warren and all the Parks Dept staff for all their help during this process

Hoping our annual coast for trellis and lights with new lights will be significantly reduced going forward.

#### **Park Rangers**

Joanne Hayes- Rines reported that FOCCP paid \$20,000 to support hiring an additional ranger. The Rangers will lock and unlock rose garden as they do at Copps Hill Burying Ground. Joanne ordered 2 cryptonite locks for the Rose Garden. The Park Rangers will get heavier chains and have keys to the locks. FOCCP officers also will have keys.

As to the issue of dogs off leash, the 20 year veteran ranger related that he can check dog tags and can get name of citizen from dog license if owners refuse to provide information who cited .

Joanne reminded the attendees that Jesse Brackenbury from the Greenway and also the U.S. Parks Dept and from the Park Information Pavillion on the Greenway (all non-profits) also are hiring guards for security, more likely a city responsibility.

Reminded attendees of the reception on the Park for Mayor Walsh on June 16.

#### **FOCCP Independence Day celebration Ann Babbitt and Mary Gaye Grizwin**

Scheduled for June 26 from 11 to 3.

Highlights include a Children's parade thru park, opening ceremony, NEMPAC soloists, raffles, activities, flags, kazoos, face painting. A planning committee of 10 met last week at Joanne Hayes Rines to finalize details. Posters are ready to be picked up and posted. A sign up sheet was distributed for additional volunteers. Event clean up at 3pm

**Sunday Nite movies in the Park**, again subsidized by Joe Bono, are scheduled from 7/12 to 8/15. Check the FOCCP website for details

### **Other News**

Joanne reminded attendees of the NEMPAC opera project. FOCCP Donated \$2000 to support the free performance in the park, scheduled for Sunday, June 28. In appreciation, NEMPAC provided FOCCP two tickets for the opening night reception and performance on June 25. Liz Greene and Mary Gaye Grizwin accepted these complimentary tickets

Julie Wormser from the Friends of the HarborWalk would be speaking at the NEWRA meeting at the Nazzaro Center this month and will talk about harbor issues. The Boston Harbor Alliance, which focuses on the 50 miles of coastline in the harbor is looking for financial support from the North End (all organizations) to support their effort

### **Summer Cruise**

New members, Stephanie Walker and Camille Hogan are chairs for the event scheduled for 8/4/15. They have reviewed some menus, are developing a budget and will be touring the boat. Details forthcoming

### **Annual Trellis Lighting scheduled for November 23**

Jean Brady moved to accept the minutes of May 2015 meeting. Joanne Hayes Rines seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned 7:49

Liz Greene

Standing in for Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk