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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting - June 8, 2010
The Mariner House - 5 North Square - Boston, MA

The Meeting was attended by 27 members and convened at 6:30 pm by Joanne Hayes Rines. Senator Petrucelli was a guest at the meeting. FOCCP member, Donna Freni made introductions. The Senator made a short presentation and answered members questions before the official FOCCP business issues was addressed. He told members that he would look into the issue of new or different lawnmowers for the park.

Minutes were read and accepted.

Treasurer, Virginia Kimball, reported that little activity transpired this month. Total income from membership dues year to date is \$9060.00. The deposit was paid to the Marriott Hotel for the Fall 2010 Gala.

Mary Ann Esparo reports that Susanne Lavoie and Ken Lagace have again donated two bags of fertilizer for the rose garden. She also reports that Jeanine Maglione prepared a first aid kit which is now available in the Maintenance Shed. Some of the volunteers have occasionally encountered dangerous materials while working in the garden (syringes, glass sharp objects). All are reminded to always wear gloves when working in the garden.

She reports that a company called Converted Organics has donated a bag of organic fertilizer made completely of recycled food waste. It will be tried in the Crescent Garden. She noted that it is not harmful to kids or pets. Black bark mulch has been placed in the rose beds but additional coreopsis has not yet been planted in the Crescent. GTA, the company handling this has not been too responsive to inquiries.

Joanne Hayes-Rines reports that the sephora trees planted two years ago are not doing well, two have been replaced and one fell over in a wind storm. Schumacher and Halvorsen are looking into this and hope to have some resolution by June 15. Schumacher will consult with the Greenway for advice as well.

Anne Devlin-Tagliaferro asked for members to sign up for committees for the Fall Gala.

Beverly Knight reports current membership at 169. She plans to have the membership table at all summer events in the Park. A tablecloth with FOCCP logo if being ordered.

Audrey Tortolani requests members to get info for the Monthly Newsletter to her during the last week of the month which will allow her to get the email newsletter sent out to the membership before the monthly meeting

Cole Landers reports that he will shortly be sending an email to convene a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee sometime after July 4. He plans a committee walk thru of the park to identify issue to be addressed. He added that the issue of “doggy bags” is already on the committee list of issues.

Jay Thompson, chair of the Lighting Committee, reports that the current holiday lights are now four to five years old, many lights and the wiring are failing. They will be removed over the summer. He is consulting with colleagues about newly available alternatives and hopes to report progress at the next meeting.

Joanne also reports that she did a walk thru of the trellis and found that of the 158 permanent lights under the trellis, 49 are out which is not good from a security standpoint. She has discussed this safety issue with City Councilor Sal LaMattina and asked for his support for improvements. The Promenade lights, which FOCCP has raised a number of times in the past, also need to be increased. Danny Nuzzo suggested we explore a collaboration of the FOCCP with the City on these improvements

Joanne reminds us of the need for planning the October 12 celebration in the park. Fran Marrone, who led last year’s effort has agreed to chair the committee. More on this later.

Joanne noted that 2011 is the 10th anniversary of the FOCCP and she asked members to begin to think about how we might mark this event.

The Navy Band, as the kick-off of the City Summer Art Program, is scheduled to perform in the Park at 6pm on Saturday, June 26. Encouraged all to attend.

The August meeting will be held on Monday, August 9 instead of Tuesday. There is a scheduled concert in the Park on Tuesday, August 10.

Joan Murphy raised two issues: she feels there are not enough trash cans in the Park and asks if the large “big belly” receptacles would be possible; she suggests that someone should look into the problem of mud accumulating around the children’s fountain.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm
Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk