

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 03/10/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA*

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt

Called to order at 6:40 PM

Minutes for Nov. and Jan. distributed.

Recording Meeting: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Audrey Tortolani

-Not much activity in March

-one membership

-Post Office Box Rental: \$128.00

-Balance Stable: \$344,523

Membership: Beverly Knight

-March slow

-Membership Drive Social April 9th at Tia's. Allison Seavey will be hosting.

-Flip Card invitation will be mailed April 1st.

-Meredith and Gail working on mailing.

-Newsletter will be posting information before April 1st.

Communication: Christina Sperry

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report

Christina Sperry

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

February monthly newsletter,

March monthly newsletter, and

Notice that the February monthly meeting was canceled due to bad winter weather.

The emails all went to a usual number of recipients and were each opened at the usual rate of about 1/3 opened. Following 2014's most popular email link being a January link to winter storm flooding pictures, the February newsletter links to Park blizzard photos and videos are now 2015's most popular email links.

There is no specific news to report about the FOCCP website, although the site is off to a good start chasing 2014's record number of website visitors. January to March numbers this year are so far higher than they were January to March last year.

The FOCCP Facebook page has gone from 397 "likes" to 433 "likes." That moves us over the hump of the number 400 and is nearly a 10% increase in people. "Like" us if you haven't already!

Horticulture: Robyn Reed

No report

Ann Babbitt announced a meeting on March 28th at Meredith's for Horticulture volunteers. Bring blue jeans to make an apron and bring your own mug. The group is looking for more volunteers

Also, an expert on roses will be giving a talk on roses in the Rose Garden and at The NE Library. Day and time in April to be announced.

Infrastructure: Ford Cavallari

- 1- our custom-made lights (customized to accommodate the limited power availability on the trellis) were completed on 10/29 at Hehong, our Shenzhen factory**
- 2- because we elected the "punt" option where we went with the old lights for another year, we delayed shipping and utilized the less-expensive container ship option, saving about \$3500**
- 3- the lights were shipped on 1/26 a successful inspection, finalization of paperwork with shipper Logfret and our January 13 payment to Hehong**
- 4- the lights are currently in Elizabeth NJ, having arrived at the port on 2/23, come through customs on 2/27, and arrived at our shippers warehouse (after customs release) on 3/6**
- 5- Audrey will make the final payment to the shipper this week and then the lights will be trucked to Steve Mirabella's Woburn warehouse and inspected again by Steve and myself - ETA is expected to be early next week**
- 6- Steve and I will also discuss at that time the installation schedule for the new lights, which we expect to be in the early-to-mid April timeframe**
- 7- Steve and I will also discuss replacement timing for the couple of strings of old lights that are out on the trellis now. Repairs to the trellis were suspended after our first major January storm due to ladder safety issues**
- 8- Based upon our last inspection of the trellis in January, Steve and I determined that the installation surface of the trellis is *not* yet ready for the LED lights. Lahey will need to come in to cut away some additional plant materials from the trellis. We expect that needs to be done in very early April**
- 9- Once the lights are in Steve's warehouse, we will reconvene the Infrastructure Committee and create an installation plan/timeline for the LED lights which can be socialized with the various stakeholders (most notably Dino at Parks and Rick, our ISD inspector)**
- 10- Cash outlays for remaining materials for the project (conduit, wire, DMX controllers, electrical boxes, waterproofing, etc.), already budgeted by the Board, will likely occur in mid-to-late March**

**Fundraising Chair: Patricia Sabbey - Absent
No Report**

Guest Gene Survillo

Gene gave a summary of the Park Rangers:

Park Ranger Chief Gene Survillo has served Boston's Emerald Necklace for nearly 30 years, and has been with the mounted unit since it's inception in 1982. According to an article in the Boston Globe on Oct. 15, 2014:

The rangers were established in 1982 as a seasonal program and expanded into a year-round force in 1988. Initially, rangers were not armed, but they were later equipped with mace and batons, said Park Rangers Chief Gene Survillo said. He said rangers have never carried firearms. They carry handcuffs and have the authority to make arrests.

Their training lasts four weeks and includes instruction in tactical defense techniques with batons and mace. The Boston Police Academy provides training in areas like self- defense, dealing with people who are emotionally disturbed or mentally ill, and learning city ordinances and state laws.

Survillo said rangers treat situations they encounter on a case-by-case basis, and call in additional resources like firefighters, emergency medical services, and police as needed. "We assess the situation and then we make decisions accordingly," Survillo said. "We've

been dealing with the various activities, both good and bad, in the parks system for many years now.”

The board of FOCCP has approved an expenditure of \$20,000 that will enable the Parks Dept. to hire one seasonal ranger and CCP will be patrolled by a ranger who will supplement the efforts of the Boston Police Dept to remove any homeless people who may be sleeping in the rose garden or the playground or elsewhere and to enforce the city’s leash laws and to generally monitor the park, welcoming visitors and residents. An anonymous donation of \$5,000 has been secured for the program, leaving FOCCP responsible for \$15,000.

Vote was taken. Funds approve unanimously.

November and January Minutes approved with changes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 PM

**Respectively submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk**