

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 03/08/16
Mariners House, Boston, MA 6:30 PM*

Meeting initially chaired by Ann Babbitt

Patricia Sabbey filled in for Ann.

Recording the meeting: Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes were distributed.

Meeting began at 6:34.

Board Members Attending: Ann Babbitt, Patricia Sabbey, Robyn Reed, Beverly Knight, Christina Sperry, Patricia Thiboutot.

Absent: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Joe Bono, Susanne Lavoie, Ford Cavallari, Audrey Tortolani.

12 Members Attending.

Committee Reports

-- **Horticulture report** – Robyn Reed

The Horticulture volunteers had a winter meeting a few weeks ago to discuss our plans for the upcoming season. We had a great turnout of 13 people, including 2 new volunteers.

Because of the warm winter, we are able to start working in the garden almost a month earlier than we normally do. The gloves are all washed and ready for use on our first garden meeting on this Sunday, March 13 at 9:30am. After that, we will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and every Wednesday at 6pm. New volunteers are always welcome.

Some of the plans we have for the season are to work with the city to replace and refill the ground cover pebbles, install a spigot in the garden, assess and possibly replace the irrigation and implement new weed control.

Our first meeting will be just cleaning the garden and weeding. We will be cutting back the roses in a few weeks.

Wednesday, April 6th Walk in the Park with Ann Johnson. History of Park from 1973 to redesign to present. Meet at Rose Garden from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. Slide presentation at North End Library after Walk in the Park. Co-sponsoring with Friends of North End Library.

-- **Membership report** – Beverly Knight

\$260.00 from membership renewals and new. 6 renewals and 1 new.

Membership drive beginning in April. Invitations being sent out. Advertising will include 15 Anniversary Celebration. Membership Social at Tia's on April 21st. Allison Seavey will be coordinating the event. Signs will be up for volunteers to sign up for committees.

Shooting for 500 members. Currently over 300.

New database will be able to track members who need to renew and to track those who have now renewed in past years.

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

The \$\$ paid in February in the Trellis Lighting section is the cost for the blue laser lights and cords purchased by Joe.

-- **Fundraising report** – Patricia Sabbey

See report below on Oasis Project.

-- **Internet Communications report** - Christina Sperry

One email was sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

- March monthly newsletter.

The email went to a usual number of recipients and was opened around the usual open rate of about 1/3.

There is no notable news to report about the website. The number of visitors per month in 2016 has been similar to 2015, which itself was up much more over prior years.

Facebook: 629 Likes last month. As of today 642 Likes.

Meredith told members if they are taking photos of the park to be sure to name the location.

Such as: photo taken from Joe's or Marriott etc. There has been another Facebook Page from the Christopher Columbus Plaza which has caused some confusion. Meredith will sort this out.

-- Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari Absent.

Joe Vozzela reported there was concern that the blue lights were hurting people's eyes.

Had to lower the lights.

Urban Oasis Project Update – Patricia Sabbey

Urban Oasis ... No news but the parks department is working on engineering study

April 6 Walk in the Park and talk at library has been confirmed

Sponsor certificates are on display. Please take one or more and present to sponsors with whom you have a connection.

15th Anniversary Planning Committee Reports

- **15th Birthday Party Planning Committee** report by Chair MaryGaye Grizwin.
Committee members: Ann Babbitt, Laura Benvenuto, Francine Gagnon, Jack McCarthy, Rita Pagliuca, Meredith Piscitelli, Marie Salvati.
USAF Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. Tuesday, August 23. 6:00pm. Confirmed.
Joanne sent a letter to the Mayor inviting him to the event. Chris Cook invited, too.
Other officials will also be invited.
MaryGaye reported that the committee is working on logistics for party. Cake or cupcakes. Anticipating number of people. Band can draw as many as 500 people.
Working on expenses for cake/s, balloons, water, banner, posters, programs.
Motto: Keep it simple.
Discussion followed regarding cakes, cupcakes, logistics of cake etc.

The next meeting of the committee will be Wed. March 23rd at Edward Jones. Meeting open to anyone who would like to join the committee.
Thereafter, meetings will be at the Mariners House.

- **Dance Party.** Committee members: Mary Gaye Grizwin, Jason Gardner, Jack McCarthy, Michele Brogan.
- Jason Gardner reported that his group is working on obtaining a DJ.
- Planning 4 dance events. 3 Thursdays evenings and 1 Sunday afternoon for children.
- Researching lights, instructor for dance lessons. Will also consider changing the format to one event. Will look into cost of DJs and dance instructors.
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- **TAI CHI.** Joanne and Patricia Sabbey discussed this with the Health Dept. and asked for recommendations for instructor. Will be sponsored by One Medical. Patricia will contact Laughing Buddha.
- Patricia Sabbey will check on NEMPAC Events for conflicts on days of events.
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2016 Events

- Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.
- Sunday Night Movies ... July 10 - 17 - 24 - 31 and August 7 - 14
- Cruise ... Tuesday, August 16. Chairs Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker. **Camille and Stephanie will be submitting report.**
- USAF Heritage of American Band Jazz Ensemble ... August 23
- Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10
- Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4
- Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21

New Business: Ann Babbitt

We've had inquiries from a resident on an Easter Egg Hunt in the Park. Becca has planned the hunt in the past with financial support from The Living Room. Members of FOCCP have helped stuff and hide the eggs and helped on the day of the event. Ann contacted Becca and asked if she was planning a hunt this year. She was planning to contact us. Her idea is to have the hunt on Friday, March 25. She's checking with John at The Living Room, once again asking for his support. I haven't had confirmation from her. In the event it will be held, would there be volunteers to help stuff the eggs the week before and some members to help hide, etc. on the day of the event?

February Minutes Approved.
Meeting Adjourned: 7:17 PM
Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk