

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Monthly meeting May 12 2015

The Mariner House

North Sq

Boston, MA

Meeting convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:30 pm with 17 members attending. The April 2015 meeting minutes were distributed for review

Annual **Election**

Election of Candidates:

Ballot reviewed for FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large. Nomination statements available for review by members.

Liz Greene, standing in for Clerk, Patricia Thiboutot, let the group know that a vote was not necessary because it is an uncontested ballot. A motion by the president was requested to accept the nominated Officers and Directors-at-large. A motion was made by ----- and seconded by Laura Benevento and voted unanimously

Those listed below nominated themselves and have been accepted for the 2015-2016 year.

President: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President: Ann Babbitt

Treasurer: Audrey Tortolani

Clerk: Patricia Thiboutot

Susanne Lavoie, Director-at-Large

Open Position, Director-at-Large

Joanne Hayes-Rines explained that our by-laws require that we have 2 directors-at-large and read the relevant sections:

IV.3.3.1 There shall be a minimum of two (2) Director-At-Large positions. The Directors-At-Large shall be elected at the Annual a meeting of the members. Directors-At-Large shall function as direct representatives of the general Membership and, as such, shall have no other specific Board responsibilities or duties.

By April 21, the deadline to submit a nomination, we had only one director-at-large nomination. Our bylaws provide:

IV .3.5.3 Continuity

Continuing Directors may act despite a vacancy or vacancies in the Board and shall for this purpose be deemed to constitute the full Board. Vacancies in any office may be filled temporarily through appointment by discretion of the President or direction of the Board, and shall be effective until the next election.

Therefore, as President, she appointed Joe Bono to serve as director-at-large for the 2015-2016 year and he has accepted the appointment.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee - Beverly Knight

As of today, we report 218 members and renewals are at 183.

Renewals account for \$900, in addition to a business donation

Treasurer Report - Audrey Tortolani

Audrey reports not very much activity during the month of April

The \$2500 deposit was made for the 2015 Annual Gala at the Boston Harbor Hotel. There has been an anonymous donation specifically to support the Park Ranger

Total organization assets are at \$351,500

Horticulture Committee Report. Meredith Piscitelli and Ann Babbitt

They reported that the recent lecture and advice provided by the "Rose Man" specialist, was very informative and helpful for all who work in the Park Gardens. The volunteers are following his advice, learned new techniques and are seeing positive results from their efforts. FOCCP paid \$300 for him to come up from Cape and arranged parking for he and his wife. He conducted an additional lecture for the community at the NE Branch Library, including coffee and donuts. The lecture was well attended and well received. This was all organized by Patricia Sabbey (chair of Fundraising Committee). Furthermore, she is exploring the potential for increased interest and support from Quincy Market merchants and harbor cruise companies. Any ideas or suggestions can be sent to Patricia at info@foccp.org.

Finally, Ann reported that there has been a delay in the City delivered mulch for the Crescent Garden. The beds are all prepared. Robyn Reed, Horticulture chair is working with the city to get this done.

A reminder that all are welcome to work in the Park gardens: Wednesday evenings 6-7pm and Sunday mornings 9:30 - 11 and all equipment is available for gardeners

Website and Internet Communications Report - Christina Sherry

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

- 1) the April 25 "Rose Man" lecture
- 2) the May 2 Tot Lot Clean-Up
- 3) the May Monthly news letter

The emails went to the usual number of recipients and were opened around the usual 1/3 rate

In April the website had 722 visitors, a big increase from April 2014's 495 visitors

Facebook numbers continue to rise from 441 likes in April to 451.

Infrastructure Committee - Ford Cavalleri

Some of the new trellis lights are now up for security. There is no dimming capability yet but expect to have this in time. There has been some negative feedback about brightness but the project is still in process. Ford building permit to be secured for the electrical work and installation of the dimming function. The goal is to make sure the work is done methodically and to get it right. Anticipate that next month color lights will be added - they may be bright initially as well. And some sections to be done before others.

Members have commented that restaurants and businesses say the lights are great and they like the bright illumination for security. Transients don't like them.

Ann Babbitt suggests thinking about dimmer lights till possibly 11pm and then brighter for late at night.

Beverly Knight suggests including an update/progress report for the news letter or website. Maybe every couple of weeks. Ford agreed he will prepare a bi-weekly update for the website and Facebook page

He reports the wisteria is beginning to grow and will have an effect as well and the trellis light project needs to stay ahead of that. He noted that the lights inside the canopy need to be bright for security but the lights facing

Atlantic Ave can be dimmed.

President's remarks - Joanne Hayes-Rines

Park Ranger Report

FOCCP gave \$20,000 to city to hire a seasonal park ranger for 35 to 40 hours till 9pm and starting 6 am They will be able to lock the rose garden for us. Details to be worked out. Interestingly, the Greenway Conservancy, and the Harbor pavilion are also hiring either security or park rangers as well

Last month the City of Boston's Park Ranger Chief Gene Survillo attended our monthly meeting and answered questions about the rangers.

On April 22, Joanne met with Gene at the Curley House in Jamaica Plain. The Curley House is the headquarters of the rangers and where they train new rangers. Following is my report to the board. It should be incorporated into the minutes for the record.

Report on Joanne Hayes-Rines Meeting with Gene Survillo, Chief of Park Rangers, April 22, 2015

1. Draft of Memorandum of Agreement attached
 - * Gene is editing the MOA for clarity
2. Details of Ranger Program in CCP
 - * Weekly, JH-R and Gene will create schedule for approx. 40 hour coverage in CCP.
 - * We can expect a ranger to be in the Park approx. 40 hours per week. Breaks and lunch time only affect if we want a ranger for 8 hours straight.
 - * Training of 4 Seasonal rangers began April 20. It is a 4 week program that will end May 15. On Monday May 18, we should expect weekly coverage of approx. 40 hours a week to begin in the Park.
 - * Rangers will be in the park between now and May 18 but not at a 40 hour per week coverage because the new seasonal workers are not yet available.
3. Tasks the Ranger can perform
 - * Rangers lock up Cobb's Hill every night at approx. 5:30pm. They can lock up the Rose Garden on Friday, Sat and Sunday nights. We would be responsible for unlocking them. We'll all have keys.
 - * Rangers will direct people to the rules of the Park and it's important that the rules are prominently displayed to back them up. I told him the Parks Dept added very obvious dog signs a couple of years ago. Gene said it would be helpful if we had the rules posted on the BBs.
 - * Gene's staff is pulling together history of CCP ... he would welcome additional info that we can give him. Suggestion: Also give them history of Long Wharf.
 - * Direct visitors to BBs for details of FOCCP and events in the Park.
4. Interesting Observations
 - * Sunday Night Movies. He was surprised we have had no problems. Said he will try to have a ranger swing by on some Sunday nights just for presence.
 - * Our events ... he'll try to have a ranger there for some time.
5. Tasks for FOCCP
 - * Post Park Rules on BB
 - * Work on history of CCP and Long Wharf
 - * Draft suggested one week schedule for coverage (attached)
 - * Send Gene movie schedule
 - * Send Gene schedule of our events in the Park
 - * Payment Schedule: \$5,000 due May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15

2015 Events

May 2 - Tot Lot Clean Up Meghan Denenberg

Small attendance -13 members - very cold temps affected the attendance but a success for those who did!

June 27 Independence Day Celebration -- Ann Babbitt and co-chair, Mary-Gaye Grizwin

Will plan to be careful about not planning too many activities - just the amount that the children can attend and absorb. Jenny The Juggler, Uncle Sam on stilts are already booked. Planning meeting to be scheduled.

Volunteers should contact Ann Babbitt

Summer Sunday Night Movies

Joe Bono has agreed to support this program again this summer. Sunday's - July 12 through August 16

Members Sunset Cruise

Tuesday, August 4. Boston Harbor Cruises is donating the boat. Stephanie Walker and Camille Hogan have volunteered to co-chair.

Oct 12. Columbus Park Celebration

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel. Ann Babbitt, Joanne Hayes-Rines and Meghan Denenberg are Chairs

Nov. 23 Trellis Lighting

Other Business

Joanne noted thanks to new member, Jean Grady for help with data base and mail merging help!

Joan Murphy suggested a PSA (public service announcement) about smoking ban in city parks - she spoke with the Park Ranger who will raise the issue to her supervisor. She also noted the need for more trash barrels in the park

Meredith Piscitelli asked for members to donate "no-longer" needed gloves and mittens and scarves. She will keep them until next January when she will leave them in the Park for whomever needs or wants them.

April 2015 minutes approved unanimously without change

Meeting notes prepared by Liz Greene, (filling in for vacationing Patricia Thiboutot)