

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 11/10/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Agenda 11/10/15

Meeting initially chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines, who had to leave at 7:00 to catch a flight. Ann Babbitt chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Recording the meeting: Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes were distributed.

President's Report

Joanne thanked everyone for the great work that was done to create one of the most successful Galas ever. It was successful because:

- the number of gift certificates that were brought in and the number of volunteers who hit the pavement to get them;
- thank you notes were sent to donors before the Gala for the first time;
- the number of attendees (more than 200) was our goal;
- the generosity of donors allowed us to invite some people in the community who otherwise would not have attended (NEMPAC, Eliot School principal and administrators);
- attendees supported our efforts by buying treasure chests and bidding on the silent auction items;
- most of all our team worked brilliantly and happily together!

2016: Our 15th Anniversary ... we'll be bringing together committees to plan and implement special activities in the Park so put your thinking caps on about what we can do to kick off our plans for 2016!

Welcome our guest, Jesse Brackenbury, CEO of the Greenway Conservancy.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce recently named Jesse one of the City's 2015 Top Ten Outstanding Young Leaders.

Conservancy is a non-profit group. They do all the work on the Greenway. 300 programs. Example Dance Party - 5 days of instruction by a NYC group. Celebrity Series Hosted the event. Spent over \$100,000. A great diverse event. Greenway open to hosting events.

Public Art - temporary bronze exhibits. Murals at South Station. Hired art director from Chicago. Sheep at China Town as it is the year of the sheep. Related to Fort Point Channel, the wool district.

-February - Year of the Monkey

-Massachusetts Artists welcome to exhibit

-Potential site for exhibits will be the front lawn of the No. Bennett School.

-Major expense - \$400,000 for boxwoods in NE Parks across from Public Mkt.

-Replaced benches with porch swings

-Model for Wharf District - need repair to granite over tunnel \$12 Million dollar project

-Trash cans rusting - not galvanized

-Committed to public art

-Major Project - Ring Stone - install set of sculptures

-Series of ambassadors - 20 people applied - to help explain the art

-2 Park Rangers started last year - working closely with ambassadors - act in an enforcement capacity. Work on issues of law breaking. Should not push homeless away. Partner with city hall and the Pine St. Inn. Offering services.

-Carousel open Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 20.

Holiday week open everyday.

Committee Reports

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed

The volunteers for the garden have stopped meeting for the season, although the roses are still blooming. The Parks Department will put down mulch on the center bed rose garden as soon as we have a first frost. After they do that, we will lock up the garden gates for the winter.

The Horticulture group will start meeting again to discuss what we will be doing for the next season in February, and we will meet in the garden in April.

-- Membership report – Beverly Knight as presented by Meredith Piscitelli

This is the up-to-this-date report for membership total, not including businesses: (actual membership only):

Total - \$11,841.00

Renewals: 232

New this year: 51

Grand total: 283

-- Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani

Expenses: \$31,000

Budgeted: \$35,000

\$36,500 Sponsorships

Gala Money: \$17,000

Bank Account Balance \$349,000

--Gala Report: Ann Babbitt

-200 Tickets sold

-Treasure Chest a success.

-Raffle Sales even broke through the roof.

-Doubled the amount of Gift Certificates received.

-Looking into how to enhance do's and don'ts

-No FOCCP Meeting in December

-Next Meeting second week of January

-- Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey

Patricia and Joanne met with sponsors. One Medical gave \$5,000. Using FOCCP as a platform to branch out. Boston Harbor Cruise is a sponsor. It took a year to develop a relationship.

--Website & Internet Communications Committee Report - Christina Sperry

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

The November monthly newsletter.

Two reminders about the Annual Fundraiser Gala.

The emails went to a usual number of recipients and were opened at about 30% or less, which

is a little less than the usual open rate of about 1/3. As a follow up to last month's meeting, the main Gala invite email was emailed the day of the meeting. I can now report that, consistent with prior years, this email was opened by more recipients than any other email sent all year, with 58% of recipients opening the email.

The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Facebook page has increased since last month to 593 "Likes!" I hope that at the next meeting I can report that we're over 600.

-- Infrastructure Committee Report - Ford Cavallari

Trellis is great shape. Top lights on. Everything been tested. Some strips with orange tag designated for replacement. Thursday, latest test. Everything lighting. Nina by Joe's will be dimmer. They will all be at the same level. 58% in survey want lights dimmed. 42% ok with the bright lights. Street lights are on DPW timer. Trellis timer needs to be reset to new time.

Nov. 23 Trellis lighting

Begins at 5:00

NEMPAC will perform beginning at 5:30. Starbucks bringing coffee and hot chocolate. Joe's American Bar bringing clam chowder. Marriott delivering cookies.

Other Business: Rita Pagliuca

In January I am going to ask the members of FOCCP to bring handbags, scarfs and costume jewelry to the next meeting. I am working with Dress For Success Boston to which I want to make the donation. This organization suits women for their interview, mentors them and then when they get a job provide two more outfits.

Minutes accepted with 2 spelling corrections.

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk