

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 10/13/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:35 P.M.

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

August Minutes were distributed.

Attending: 21 members including 8 Board Members

Committee Reports:

-Horticulture: Robyn Reed

While the roses are still blooming, we are ramping down the care of the roses and the plants in the crescent to ready them for winter. We have stopped trimming the roses and now we are allowing them to form rose hips to nourish them for the winter. We will NOT be trimming them back in the fall as we used to, shifting that activity to the spring. We plan on meeting at least this coming Sunday, and perhaps one or two more weeks, but the absolute last day will be Sunday October 25.

The wisteria was trimmed a second time this year for the lights, but I am sure it will only help the blooms for the spring.

The gates will remain unlocked during the week until the city comes and puts mulch down after the first frost. Then we will lock the gates for the winter.

Meredith will give a discussion on the Daisy Troop that donated money and time to plant new daisy in the crescent.

We had a spectacular year in the garden this year – the wisteria bloomed abundantly after the spring trimming, and continue to thrive all summer, the thinning of the lillies last fall , and the feeding of the plants in the crescent made for multiple blooms and wonderful healthy plants all summer. In the rose garden, we trimmed aggressively in the spring, and fed the plants monthly, and we were bug and disease free until just a few weeks ago when black spot and powdery mildew showed up, but considering how dry it was and that fact that we introduced 14 new plants in August , I'd say it was an incredibly successful year in the garden.

I want to thank everyone who came out to help in the garden – we had a number of new volunteers who were invaluable (Mary, Jack, John, Sean) some former members that came out again (Jeannine and Joseph) and the die-hards – Meredith, Mimi, Therese and Ann, are amazing people who gave their all this summer. It truly is group effort and I am honored to work with such caring, hard workers. I look forward to working with all of them next spring.

-Membership Report: Beverly Knight

TOTAL - (without Businesses) = \$11,681.70

TOTAL - (with Businesses) = \$12,866.70

Renewals = 229

New members = 50

-Treasurer Report-Audrey Tortolani - See Attached Report

-Fundraising Report: Joanne reported for Patricia Sabbey

2 new sponsors:

- One Medical Group located on State Street \$5,000 - Gold Level. Member of group attended Movies in the Park. He was impressed and went back to his group and told them they needed to support FOCCP.
- Boston Harbor Cruises. Meghan and Audrey attended a function where they met Matt Murphy. He will be donating \$5,000 - Gold Level.
- Carmella of CL Waterfront Properties will be donating \$5,000 - Gold Level.
- Joanne gave the new GM, Ed Rocco, of the Marriott a fundraising packet. He is originally from Boston and would like to support FOCCP. Another \$5,000 - Gold Level. He would like to be on the mailing list.
- Joanne also will be contacting Sun Stone and Tia's.
- Tia's After the Trellis Lighting Party will be paid by FOCCP.
- Joanne meeting with Matt Conti of NEwaterfrontnews also with manager of Joe's American Bar.
- Joanne asked Sanibel for invoice for the work they are donating so she will know the value of their work.
Could be Gold Level.
- Century Bank donated \$1,000. Bronze Level.

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report - Christina Sperry

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

The October monthly newsletter.

Bulletin about Columbus Day weekend events, including our annual Fall Festival, Sunday's Columbus Day parade, and Friday's North End Columbus Day Committee Reception where FOCCP received the Michael A. Nazzaro Jr. Community Leadership Award.

Reminder about the Annual Fundraiser Gala.

The emails went to a usual number of recipients and were opened at the usual open rate of about 1/3, although the Gala email was sent today and has surely been opened more since I checked the numbers earlier today.

The website is starting its regular winter trend of receiving fewer visitors. Of interest this month, it's interesting to note that people visiting the site through a search on Google or other search site have found it most commonly (over 30% of the time) by directing searching for "foccp" in some form. Many people know the group!

Facebook: Christina for Meredith

10/13/15 565 Likes

09/05/15 550 Likes

Infrastructure Committee Report: Ford Cavallari

-End stretch of lights

-3 Phases;

1. Attaching lights to timber done in June and July.
2. Rewiring of Trellis Lights that have been there since 1975. Use more circuits. Steve donating electrical work could amount to \$10,000.
3. Taking attached lights - high voltage and hooking them together

Nina is 100% completed

Santa Maria 100% completed

Pinta - last to have wisteria trimmed.

Should be cleared this week. Men will return to put more lights because wisteria grew after it had been trimmed. 50% cover top, 100% bottom.

Deadline: Nov. 16th. White lights will be dimmed.

Michael A. Nazzaro Award - Joanne

FOCCP was the second recipient of this award. The first recipient was Mayor Thomas Menino.

The award is given by the Christopher Columbus Parade Committee. Phil Orlandello of the Regional Review said "it was about time"! The Committee was so impressed by the Park's beauty and the dedication of its volunteers.

Columbus Day Fall Festival - Ann Babbitt, Chair.

A beautiful day for a festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Festival such a successful event. It was a long day but worth it!

Aaron Michlewitz and Sal La Mattina were in attendance.

Sal from NEMPAC gave a beautiful rendition of Ole Solo Mio.

Triple the number of people from last year attended the event.

Festivities included a visit from the Boston Police Canine Unit, Mounted Ranger, Firetruck, Mickey Mouse, Christopher Columbus on stilts, Mickey Mouse, Elsa from Frozen, Face Painting by the Parks and Recreation Dept., tatoos, Aquarium, Big Joe. Jack McCarthy kept the youngsters busy doing tatoos while they waited in the line for face painting. Bubble by Boston Harbor Cruise Boat and the Bubble Man.

Bake Sale was a success. Raised \$505.

Raffle raised: \$350.

A Day to Remember.

Gala Meeting:

Meghan: Ticket Sales slow. 39 tickets sold at 26 days out. 158 tickets sold last year 28 days out.

Started ticket sales earlier last year.

Meredith: Posters going up.

Laurie: Silent Auction looking good. Franklin Park Tour, Behind the scene tour at the Aquarium, Celebrity Chef, Makeover Fashion Designer, The Point, Designer on Prince Street, Holiday Gift Wrapping by Laurie.

Flowers: Therese will be doing the flowers. Suggestion by Allison to try buying the flowers at Trader Joe's or Boston Public Market.

Joanne: Menu: 6:30 Bar, 7:00-7:30 Appetizers.

7:30 - Food will be served buffet style with 4 stations. Slider Station Beef and Crabcake, Stuffed Chicken, Vegetable Pasta Dish, Mixed Salad.

Dessert; Adriana from Caffe Paradiso will be providing cannoli.

Band: Boston Bean Town Swing Band

2015 Events

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel, Ann, Joanne and Meghan

Meetings every Tuesday

Nov. 23 Trellis Lighting

Joanne asked if minutes were approved.

Minutes approved as presented.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

* History of FOCCP Galas

DATE	VENUE	ATTENDANCE	TICKET PRICE
October 2001	Marriott	300	\$65
October 15, 2004	Marriott	400	\$65
March 24, 2006	State Room		\$100
Nov. 9, 2007	Marriott	375	\$100
Nov. 21, 2008	Intercontinental	468	\$100
Nov. 13, 2009	Marriott		\$150 (by 11/1 \$135)
Nov. 19, 2010	Marriott	330	\$125
Fri., Nov. 18, 2011	Marriott	293	\$125
Fri., Nov. 16, 2012	Marriott	180	\$100
Sat., Nov. 16, 2013	Fairmont Battery Wharf	200	\$135
Fri., Nov. 14, 2014	Boston Harbor Hotel	247	\$150
Fri., Nov. 6, 2015	Boston Harbor Hotel		\$150

Ticket Sales by Week

2012 Casino Night Ticket Sales. Friday, Nov. 16, 2012

10/17/12	60 (30 days before event)
10/23/12	90
11/5/12	142
11/7/12	153
TOTAL	180

2013 Monte Carlo Night Ticket Sales, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013

10/29/13	107 (19 days before event)
11/5/13	141
11/12/13	189
TOTAL	200

2014 Gala Ticket Sales, Friday, Nov. 14

10/7/14	88 (38 days before event)
10/14	107 (31 days)
10/21/14	158 (24 days)
10.27.14	170 (18 days)
11.3.14	194 (11 days)
TOTAL	247

2015 Gala Ticket Sales, Friday, Nov. 6