

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 10-08-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:37 pm. 18 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani
Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Virginia Kimball reviewed the highlights and overall balances. See details below. She also indicated membership is growing and the Oasis Fund is being kept separate with a current balance of \$22,000.

EXPENSES YTD (Through September 2013)

Casino Night 2013	\$ 1000.00
CC Day 2013	\$ 235.96
Horticulture	\$ 232.67
Membership	\$ 2,164.51
Constant Contact	\$ 334.71
Park Maintenance	\$ 7,630.00
Casino Night '12	\$ 49.03
July 4 th	\$ 3,698.05
Gifts	\$ 400.25
Blossom Fund	\$ 98.66
Meeting Fee	\$ 50.00
Tot Lot Cleanup	\$ 569.94
Comm of Mass	\$ 45.00
General	\$ 405.38
Trellis	\$ 5,105.00
Cruise	\$ 2,219.18
Insurance	\$ 687.00
Web site	\$ 239.99
Savings Account	\$ 450.00

INCOME

Casino Night 2013	\$ 1,755.00
Cruise	\$ 3,730.00
Donations	\$ 356.00
Note Cards	\$ 328.00
Raffles	\$ 746.00
Membership	\$ 10,530.00
Online Membership	\$ 4,030.00

Account Balances

Checking	\$ 60,808.97
Savings	\$ 52,681.74
CD	\$ 37,178.74
Money Market	\$102,984.06

Horticulture

Ford Cavallari reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The horticulture group has stopped working in the gardens on Wednesday evenings because it is getting too dark to work outside safely, but they will continue to work on Sunday mornings until the end of October.

Mulch for the center rose bed has been ordered from the Parks department and will be spread but only after the first frost happens. There has also been a request that the sea grass in the crescent be trimmed back for the season.

A few weeks ago one of the locks for the gates was completely off the gate - it was removed from the gate and it has been decided to not lock the gate on weekends because of the difficulty the group has been having in opening the locks and having the park rangers open the gates with any consistency. The heavy use of the park is over for the season and we don't expect there to be any major issues leaving the gates open until later in the year when we lock up the gates for the winter.

The garden will be extra clean for the Columbus Day event next week; everyone is invited to stop by the garden during the festivities. For the upcoming event, Meredith Piscitelli let the group know daisies have been planted under the bulletin board.

Trash barrels have been an ongoing issue in the park. Meredith let us know she recently placed a trash barrel in a key "party" location near the rose garden and it made a difference in reducing the amount of trash found in the area. She also let us know her request for a new trash barrel near the rose garden, has been responded to by Sean Lawler from the City of Boston. He has indicated in an email to FOCCP; "the work order for one large metal trash barrel is currently being processed and should be completed within a week or two." Thanks to Meredith's connection to Boston City Council President Stephen Murphy, we may finally be getting at least one new trash barrel! Thanks Meredith!

Mary Ann Esparo let the group know both gates of the rose garden were locked this morning until at least noon. The locks were changed and the keys didn't work. Joanne indicated the gates were open by 2:00 pm and she will tell Toni Pollak to remove the locks for the season.

Joan Murphy expressed her preference for the oil can type trash cans as they are less likely to have trash caught underneath them compared to the newer barrels.

Ann Babbitt informed us 2 rose bushes were donated to FOCCP by a woman who lived in the area but moved back to Cleveland. Ann and Teresa planted the "gold metal" rose bushes in the rose garden. Ann will see if she can find the name and address of the woman so we can thank her.

Meredith indicated the wood structure in the middle of the rose garden has rotted and she proposed it should be replaced with something made with wrought iron.

Membership

Beverly Knight thanked everyone who had responded to her request for additional help on the membership committee. She will get back to everyone after the Gala.

Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook administrator) indicated she is working on updating the membership database and there are approximately 289 members. Virginia let her know she will provide Meredith with information on 4 new members. Facebook "likes" have increased from 288 to 294.

Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following:

Two emails were sent since the last monthly meeting:

1. The first of a series of emails about our upcoming Annual Fundraiser, Monte Carlo Night.
2. The October 2013 FOCCP newsletter.

They each went to roughly the same number of recipients, about 749. Like last year, the annual fundraiser email was opened by more people than is usual for our emails, though it

didn't break the 50% barrier that last year's email did. Appears when we add the Mayor's name, email gets more people's attention (not surprisingly).

As a follow to what Meredith said earlier, FOCCP has 294 Likes on Facebook. We would love to break 300, so if you haven't "Liked" our page yet, please do!

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari reported Matt Conti is working on the Infrastructure Report with Ford and it should be ready very soon.

Trellis Lighting update:

- The first order for the test lighting has been placed and he is on track to test these lights.
 - The lights will be put on a small section of the Trellis after the lighting ceremony in November.
 - These test lights will be monitored over the winter to ensure they work well before moving forward with replacing the rest of the old lights with the new lights.
 - In order to do the test, the old lights will need to be removed before the new lights are added.
 - The control box and lights are 2 potential points of failure.
 - Concern was expressed about the responsiveness of the electrician.
- Joanne indicated to all we will be taking a cautious approach to this major change.

II. Upcoming Events

Columbus Day

Ann Babbitt announced she is all set for the Columbus Day event to be held on Monday, October 14th. 9:15 is the scheduled set-up time and she asked everyone to pray for good weather. Meredith gave the last promotional poster for the event to Mary Ann Esparo.

During a recent committee meeting hosted by Joanne, Barbara Wallraff came up with the idea to raise additional money through an "adopt a light" program on the day of the event. Matt Conti has provided a metal picture of the Trellis which will be used to help promote this program at both the Columbus Day event and also at the Monte Carlo event. At the membership table at the Columbus Day event, there will be a person representing the "adopt a light" program and asking for a \$1.00 per light donation. Those who donate will be asked to write their name on a poster. At the Trellis lighting, those who have adopted a light will be acknowledged. An ad hoc committee has been put into place to come up with additional ideas to raise money. Co-chairs for this committee are Michele Brogan and Arlene Freed.

Ford suggested we consider have corporate sponsors for the Trellis lights and other items in the park. He had attended a recent meeting where Marty Walsh indicated it was acceptable to name things in a park if a corporation had donated money. As an example, Ford said if Liberty Mutual donated money for a bench, we could put a plaque on the bench to indicate it was donated by Liberty Mutual. There was some concern raised about whether we wanted to do this given it could make the park look too commercial.

November Fundraiser

Beverly Knight provided an update on the status of the FOCCP annual fundraiser. Kim Caverly, Beverly Knight, and Pam Girouard are co-chairs of this event. She passed out a press release about the fundraiser created by Ford Cavallari. It will be released today.

The event is on Saturday, November 16th at the Fairmont Battery Wharf. From 7:00 - 8:00 pm there will be a cocktail hour and from 8:00 - 11:00 pm, gaming, dancing and dining. The Luke Marantz Quintet will be playing music all evening and Patron Spirits Co. will provide complimentary signature drinks and pastries. The committee is working with Chef Arwi, from Aragosta to finalize the food options which will include passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, desserts and coffee. The price of the event per person is \$135.

Beverly also passed around the current floor plans for the event and reviewed the layout. The complete downstairs area will be available which includes 2 ballrooms. Ford Cavallari expressed concern about having food in the gambling area. She advised us these are the preliminary plans and they may change.

The invitations have been sent in the mail and newsletters will be sent regularly to help promote the event. A suggestion was made to obtain pictures of last year's event from Matt Conti to assist with the promotion. Posters promoting the event will also be distributed and displayed in local businesses and condominiums.

On October 16th, the committee will begin to have weekly meetings each Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the Mariner's House. Beverly encouraged all to push for ticket sales now. The capacity at the Fairmount Battery Wharf for this event is approximately 200.

Laurie Cadigan is heading up the auction committee again. She is looking for "priceless" items such as a unique experience or party. She is trying a "wine wall" this year and would like to find stores to donate a case of wine. 10 of the bottles should be worth \$20 and 2 worth around \$50. You would buy a "chance" for \$20.00 and hope to get the bottle worth \$50. If you know someone at a local store who would donate case of wine, let Laurie know. She also indicated they are looking for hotel gift certificates and a chef who would provide a cooking lesson at their restaurant. The auction committee is meeting tomorrow evening at Laurie's home.

Trellis Lighting

The Trellis Lighting will be held on Monday, November 25th. The city runs this event and FOCCP has agreed to donate \$500 to the city's non-profit fund for the Trellis Lighting event. Joanne is looking into where a FOCCP after-party can take place this year. She will be checking with both Tia's and the Living Room.

III. Updates

Urban Oasis Project

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an update on the Oasis project. Joanne, Patricia Sabbey, Lisa Meyer, City Chief Landscape Architect and Sherry Geldersma, the project manager from the Parks Department, attended a recent meeting where they discussed the project and ways to reduce some of the costs of the project. One idea discussed was obtaining money from donated benches.

Joanne also let us know we need to file for an extension of the Beautify Boston \$20,000 grant awarded to FOCCP as this project was supposed to be completed by the end of 2013. Joanne will write to Marchelle Jacques-Yarde from the Parks department to request a deferment of the final payment until 2014.

Patricia Sabbey and Virginia Kimball met with Cliff Hakim to obtain more information about stone benches being considered in the Oasis area.

IV. New Business

Mayor Menino is scheduled to attend our Monte Carlo Night and Trellis lighting. At Monte Carlo night, Joanne suggested FOCCP should give him an award of some sort. We need volunteers to work on this award idea. The following people volunteered to be on this committee: Virginia Kimball, Patricia Sabbey and Rita Pagliuca. One idea mentioned was giving him a picture of the Trellis.

On Friday, October 11th, there is an event at Battery Wharf to support the Columbus Day parade. The cost is \$65.00.

The previous month's minutes were accepted assuming changes communicated at the end of the meeting were incorporated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm