

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
October 11, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 31 members

Joanne announced that there would be a new approach to the reading of the meeting minutes. The Clerk will read a summary of the meeting agenda items and any action items voted on. The complete minutes will be circulated to the attendees during the meeting. Voting to accept/approve the minutes will be held at the end of the meeting

Horticulture report

Robyn Reed reported on behalf of MaryAnn Esparro who was unable attend. She reported that the rose green blooms in September were magnificent. The volunteers will finish up the rose garden work in mid-November. The park irrigation and drainage problems persist. Mary Ann will be speaking to the Parks Dept personnel to review options.

Lighting report

Joanne Hayes-Rines said she had put in a work order for a spot light for the Christopher Columbus statue. The city did not take care of this so FOCCP paid Lentine and Co. for the work. Joanne let Toni Pollack, Parks Commissioner know that the staff did not do it.

Trellis holiday and tree lighting - Jay Livingston and Lentine and Co. will assess the trellis lights and also select which additional park trees will be lit.

Membership report

Beverly Knight report there are currently 238 members! And, 88 of these are new this year

She's hoping to plan another FOCCP social in March at The Living Room.

Internet & communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that many new pictures have been loaded on the website as a result of updates to the site

Four news letters have been sent out since September, including one for the 2011 Gala, the tot lot clean up effort and the monthly meeting.

Bounce back rate is low --- plus/ minus 3%.

Meredith Piscitelli reported that she created a page to inform people about the Gala and Silent Auction; users can note attendance at events . She reports many FOCCP members are on Facebook.

Tot lot clean up report

Michele Brogan was unable to attend meeting. Only a few folks were able to attend the clean-up but their efforts were productive. Weather was overcast and rainy which did not help! The group also cleaned the Beirut Veterans Memorial area as well.

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reports that the taxes were mailed in last week
She also reported from her research regarding FOCCP sale of photo note cards that non-profits can conduct 2 fund raisers annually without having to pay taxes. Joanne Hayes-Rines consulted with Friends of the Public Garden. They also sell note cards and accept donations for them.

FOCCP photo note cards

Meghan Denenberg reported that to date 16 boxes have been sold
And, she reported that the Columbus Day Raffle yielded \$368 (minus the cost of the Gala tickets which FOCCP donated)

Columbus Day event

Joanne Hayes Rines told attendees that the event was a great success. Parade participants began to convene in the Park mid morning. FOCCP program began at 10 and lots of families and children enjoyed all of the planned activities. (*****remember next year call city to tell them to turn off sprinkler the night before as the lawn was sopping!)

Friends of the North End Branch Library also had an info table at the event.

Joanne and several FOCCP members joined the beginning of the Parade, after the annual wreath laying in the Park. They marched with our banner, a few steps behind politicians and other dignitaries; cheers of support for the FOCCP as they marched thru the North End were appreciated by the marchers

Final cost not yet determined but likely more or less \$2500.

And to top off a perfect day, there was a wonderful after party at Matt Conti's!!!! Thank you, Matt!!!!

Committee will review pluses and minuses of event to ID best practices for future years

Triad

Application for funds to assist with engineering analyses was submitted to the Brown Fund

Ad hoc committee continues to work with Rebecca Reynolds, consultant to prepare another application to the Arts Commission

New business

Meredith Piscatelli described a BPL Book Cart which made library books available in the Post Office Square/ Leventhal Park. Meredith will find out how this works. Group thought it is an interesting idea to pursue.

Liz Greene will mention to her husband to share with the Library friends as well.

Bulletin board - Meredith says all complete - vine sculpture complete etc.

Gala report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro brought an example of flower arrangements to be done by 1-800-FLOWERS. All were in favor.

Patron Liquors will be supporting the FOCCP and the Park thru the complimentary specialty bar again this year

Mike's Pastry will again donate pastries and cookies for dessert

Mayor Menino and his wife will be attending the gala

Anne announced that our Junior Senator, Scott Brown, will be attending.

Ann suggested we highlight on the website that the Frank Zarba band and Sharon Zee, vocalist are the Gala entertainment.

Auction report/update

FOCCP received a donation from Tia's Restaurant - Lori Lilly

Rachaele circulated the auction contact list for all to verify the correct FOCCP contact person.

Joanne Hayes-Rines reports that Bill Belichick's sweat shirt/hoodie, which the NFL placed on the Christopher Columbus statue this past fall, will be signed by Bill Belichick, courtesy of FOCCP member, Jess Williams. It will then be one of the silent auction items

Deadline for auction Nov. 10 to prepare the auction booklet

Highlight certain auction items on website to generate auction excitement before the event

Ticket sales

Virginia Kimball reports slow sales so far, about 45 sold to date

Greeters report

Pamela Harring reports greeters are all confirmed.

Sponsors

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro will again approach Joe's American Bar and Grill to seek their support for the park and this year's Gala.

Meghan Denenberg suggested that we all emphasize our 10th anniversary and work hard to seek out new sponsors -new different ideas and auction items.

Motion to accept September 2011 minutes seconded and approved

Adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, substituting for Sandra Harcourt, Clerk