

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
Mariner House
Boston, MA

April 10, 2012

Joanne Hayes-Rines convened the meeting at 6:40 with 21 members attending

Treasurer report.

Joanne gave a brief overview of current finances in the absence of the Treasurer, Virginia Kimball. The detailed figures are available from Virginia

Horticulture report

Robyn Reed reported that the city has been contacted to remove mulch but it has not been done yet. Tomorrow nite from 6 to 7pm will be the 1st night this season for the horticulture volunteers. There is not much to do yet, so there will be a brief orientation. A reminder to volunteers that no open shoes are allowed when working in the garden. Work hours will continue to be Wednesdays 6-7 and Sundays 9:30 to 10:30. This year the plan is to focus more on the Crescent garden - replant in partnership with the city and also replace some rose bushes around the gated garden

Membership report

Beverly Knight reports 51 members: 20 new and 17 new at the April Social at the Living Room, which was very successful! Goal is to increase numbers over the 2011 membership

Members who renew early - online promotion to win for dinner for 4 at Neptune
Going green-- trying to do more on line

Internet and Communications

Audrey Tortolani reports the March news letter sent out; April news letter went to 550 and 31.4% opened; Very few bounced back
Website updates -- new calendar and all FOCCP events by month
Facebook showed 177 likes!

Lighting report

Joanne reported for Jay Livingston who could not attend. The Board, with advice from Jay have decided to leave the trellis lights till after Patriots Day.

Boston Harbor Alliance, Tom Powers, President

Tom joined the meeting to make a presentation on progress of the Alliance and current activities.

Joanne thanked him for his helping us work with Boston Best Cruises for a successful cruise and fundraiser last summer as well as his support of the FOCCP Blossoms grant proposal

He provided updates and info on his work as President of Boston Harbor Island Alliance.

Summer activities, which have increased significantly should be on website late April and include events such as: June 19 free ferry day; Aug.24 free ferry day; Live music at pavilion; June 30 Tall Ships 1812 event; Sundays and Mondays - kids activities; Boston Light trips - Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays - leaving from the Aquarium; Clambake summer shack on Thursday and Friday nites; Jazz concert on Sundays 1-4; Peddocks open this year - artists events, concerts (get there from Georges Island); Sailing regatta on Sept 29

FOCCP events

Joanne reminded attendees about: the Tot Lot clean up May 5 - 10 to noon. Mary Marengi - beginning to survey a possible shade cover for the tot lot. May explore application to the Schilling shade foundation which exists specifically to assist children's areas with shade from the sun

Ann Devlin- Tagliaferro will explore possibility of a mini version of bulletin board posted for the wall of the maintenance building for tot lot news, etc

FOCCP Tall Ships Event on 6/30. 1812 celebration in park. Ideas include decorate bikes, scooters etc. - see if coast guard will send sailors, juggler, greenway toys, music from NEMPAC; a parade in the Park; red, white, blue balloons. Any interested volunteers, contact Joanne

Sunday nite movies

Starts July 15. Seven nites - need ideas for movies

July 18 -- Harbor sunset cruise

Maybe plan a clambake on Spectacle Island / with Summer Shack and Boston's Best Cruises

August 19 -- Picnic in the park -- Jess Williams and Michele Brogan coordinating

Robyn Reed reported on the Blossom grant proposal-- presented proposal to the Blossom Fund. MaryAnn Esparo did the presentation which focused on plans to improve the round garden near the Marriott. Decision expected in November. If successful, would provide \$50,000!!! We included a commitment to raise \$10,000 for new benches

May annual election. As usual, there will be self nominations. They are due 4/24. Nominations due 4/24

Note cards: Meghan Denenberg looking for anyone to help with more marketing of the cards

Joanne reported on issues related to the credit card machine rental for the 2011 Gala.
Now nearly resolved. Further update next month

Meeting adjourned at 7:55

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