

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
August 9, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, Mass

The meeting was attended by 17 members and convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines.

The minutes from the July meeting were read and accepted.

Horticulture committee:

Mary Ann Esparo asked the horticulture volunteers to attend the meeting so they could be introduced to the rest of the membership. Many of the volunteers were not able to come. The membership acknowledged their very important contribution to the beauty of the park.

Mary Ann reported that there had been yet another wedding on Sunday afternoon. It continues to be a very popular wedding venue.

Although Greg promised the coreopsis would be planted this week in the Crescent Garden, it still has not been planted. Mary Ann will tell him to cancel the planting as it is now too late. She reports again that Greg is unreliable and she will convey this to the Parks Dept.

She reports there are insufficient trash barrels in the park. Cole Landers reports that trash barrels are on his committee's list and will be looking into getting more and/or different placement of the barrels. One suggestion was for the temporary cardboard barrels to be used on busy weekends as well as for events. Matt Conte mentioned that there seem to be more barrels in the North End generally and that we might direct our requests to whoever has arranged for those.

Lighting committee

Jay Thompson reports he is getting new technology ideas from companies that work with outdoor and seaside locations. He has two proposals. He hopes to present his research to date at the next meeting. He reports that Ken Crasco got the original trellis design to him very quickly after his request. He reports that the current lights will come down in Sept. The wisteria will be pruned in October. Hopes for the new lights for the holiday season.

Infrastructure

Cole Landers held a committee meeting last week with 4 attendees. Overall the park is in better shape than expected. They reviewed all infrastructures -- granite, stairs, stanchions, fences, lights, poles, etc. The committee will summarize the review and outline the actions items for consideration. For example, they find that all the metal is painted black and needs attention; some benches have naming plaques as the Park's Dept has a naming program (is this a FOCCP funding opportunity?). Mary Ann Esparo

asks is it's possible that a resin or some such material has been developed that would discourage skate boarders?

Joanne suggests that the final summary report of the Infrastructure committee be forwarded to the parks commissioner.

Membership

Meghan Denenberg gave the committee report in Beverly Knight's absence.

She reports we now have 200 paid members, a new tablecloth with our logo. The walking tour of the park and waterfront was a success. She solicited volunteers to help staff the membership table for August performances. She posed the question whether or not we should routinely have a donation basket on the table?? Often we speak with folks from out of town for whom it doesn't make sense to join as a member but who are interested in supporting our efforts.

Internet committee

Audrey Tortolani reports that of the 513 email news letters sent out last month, only 13 bounced back! Reminds all that there is a Facebook link on the website. New updates will be added each month. She reports that the FOCCP purpose, mission and PDF of the By-Laws is now complete and available on the website.

Fundraising committee

Ann Devlin Tagliaferro was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

There will be a committee meeting at the end of the month. The invitation design is underway; plan to mail them in September.

Remarks from Joanne

New business: Joanne reports that a FOCCP member Mr. Gerald Monahan, called Beverly Knight to ask about any FOCCP interest in the creation of a sand pit for dogs in the park. The rules for sand pits are set forth in city ordinance. There was no interest among attendees in pursuing this issue. She will let him know and also advise him that there is a dog owners group forming in the North End and they may be interested in pursuing.

Shakespeare in the Park. Plans proceeding for the performance later this month. The monies for the amplification system have been approved. She reports that Francine Gannon is still pursuing possible reimbursement for the FOCCP support.

Solutions still being pursued regarding the sophora trees

Mary Ann Esparo will draft a letter for Toni Pollak regarding the problems with the current landscaper.

Problems continue with the mud that accumulates around the fountain. Joanne will discuss with Ken Cracso. She asks whether this might be a project the FOCCP could take on?

Columbus Day planning meeting to be set. Will report at the Sept meeting

Adjourned at 8pm

Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk