

**Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2011
The Mariners House
North Square
Boston, MA**

Meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm by Joanne Hayes-Rines

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Special Report: Matt Conti brought copies of the Haz-Mat flyers to distribute to ours members encouraging all of us to attend. See flyer for details.

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Minutes from last meeting were read by Sandra Harcourt and were approved

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Horticulture report - Mary Ann Esparo

- All the volunteers are working well.
- Cleaning Rose Garden and will continue to prune and trim the Wisteria.
- The city painted the Christopher Columbus lettering on the trellis.

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Treasurers, Infrastructure and Lighting Committees will report next month.

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Membership report - Beverly Knight

- 233 current members
- 85 new members this year

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Internet Communications report - Audrey Tortolani

- 510 emails address for updates with 8 bounce backs, research and resolved
- 130 new Face book readers up 30% from last month
- 181 opened emails
- There were three communications sent with an industry open rate of 28%.

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Harbor Cruise Report by Joanne

- At our July 12 meeting, a week before the cruise, we had 65 initial tickets sold.
- Additional tickets were sold. We had 107 guests in addition to the owners.
- We collected \$4,600 in ticket sales and our cost was \$1,900 for a net \$2,700. These figures are rounded and have not been verified.
- We had planned to use the proceeds of the cruise to fund the Columbus Day event. Last year's event cost \$2,883 so the approximate \$2700 raised on the cruise is just about what we needed.

PUBLICITY: The Boston Courant covered the cruise and photos were in a recent edition. Boston's Best Cruises may offer to do additional cruise(s), possibly in the fall.

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“Triad” statue update -- Our consultant, Rebecca Reynolds, and Joanne met with structural engineer Leonard Morse-Fortier of Simpson Gumphertz and Hager on Monday, July 18. He has sent us a draft of our next steps. Next meeting Tuesday the 23rd to discuss next meeting. Lots of group discussion.

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Columbus Day event -- Sunday, October 9

Joanne has a call into Aaron Michelwitz regarding the parade timing.

- The team that worked on last year’s event has been asked to take on the same responsibilities as last year.
 1. Kathy Ray -- will contact the Tanglewood Marionettes for their availability
 2. Trish -- check in with the magician for availability
 3. Joannewill contact City Stage Company and NEMPAC
 4. Mary Marengi -- contacting fire and police departments could get antique fire truck
 5. Jess Williams will coordinate West Lawn activities
 6. Matt Conti, Judy Whitwell and Michele Brogan will also help day of the event with balloons, etc.
- Last year we started at 10:45 am, but since it’s on a Sunday this year, what does the membership think of starting that early on a Sunday morning? Group agreed to 10:30
- Joanne will have a committee meeting at her home in September but I anticipate an event similar to last year’s.
- A suggestion was made to get the city to fix the bricks along the walkway.
- If you have any additional ideas for kids’ activities please submit them

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Sunday Night Movie Update

- Sunday, August 7 -- cancelled due to rain
- Sunday, August 14 -- Fever Pitch
- Blind Side being moved to the end of the month since it was cancelled by rain
- Following the showing Princess Bride there was a lot of litter.
- A suggestion was made to get cardboard trash cans for these types of events
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New Tot Lot Clean Up Committee Update ... chaired by Michele Brogan

- Audrey publishing the upcoming Tot Lot Cleanup work days in newsletter.
- Aug 20 and Oct 1 from up 7-10 am will be big clean up days. The snow shovels really work well for cleaning the sandy areas.
- A suggestion was made to put up a laminated signs on the fence around the lot announcing the upcoming clean up dates and asking for volunteers
- Joanne offered to get more snows shovels

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Fundraising Report - Ann Devlin Tagliafero

- A Committees meeting is coming up in early September.
- Please think about how you can help
- There are a lot of things to be done, will need help with details.
- Timing of invitation still needs to be discussed
- Donation Forms for the silent auction need to be distributed

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Other business

The caterer for our membership cruise, Ellen Wilson's son was in an accident. Through our resources gifts were given including a signed ball by John Lester. Thank you all for the goodwill

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Meeting was adjourned at 7:50