

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park  
Monthly meeting  
January 11, 2010  
The Mariner House  
North Square  
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40 pm with 18 members in attendance.

The meeting started with a quick follow up discussion and comment on the recently held Gala. There were no negative comments or complaints among the attendees. All commented that the evening ran very smoothly; appreciated the hard work of all who made the event happen. Attendees expressed hope that event will be held at Marriott next year as well. It's important to settle on a date soon. Dates near Thanksgiving are not preferable. Committee will decide the date and report at next monthly meeting. Preliminary financial data shows that ticket sales were down slightly, corporate donations were up and auction income about the same; and overall expenses down a bit.

Photos of the event are available for purchase thru D&S Video. The password is: columbus.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Infrastructure report

Postponed - Cole Landers unable to attend.

Membership report

Beverly Knight reports that she is planning a membership drive for May 2011. In preparation, committee is clarifying roles and responsibilities of committee members. Ideas include a membership event or reception at a local restaurant. More details later.

Internet and communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that 518 newsletters sent out; 38% were read; 14 bounced back. Also reports that we have 57 active users on Facebook. Committee to meet this month to discuss new enhancements and ideas.

Joanne Hayes- Rines - President's report

Joanne announced that Christopher Columbus Park was the chosen charity of Frankie Boyer for her \$125 winnings at the Sorrento Cheese contest at the North End Fisherman's Feast in August 2010. Many, many thanks, Frankie for your kind donation!!

As a result of an earlier conversation and park walk thru which Joanne had with Councilor LaMattina, some of the lights on the park "promenade" have been improved. She asked attendees to check them out when again walking in the Park at night and

send positive and negative comments to Joanne. Hoping the rest of the lights will be improved soon as well.

Joanne mentioned that in the past we have had guest speakers on issues important to the Park and the neighborhood. She asks for suggestions that the membership may have on individuals or groups whom we might invite in the future

Joanne received an email from an organization called Boston Park Advocates who are hosting a meeting on January 29. Circulated contact information and asked anyone who is interested in attending to RSVP.

Joanne and Virginia Kimball have worked on a draft budget for 2011. They prepared a handout circulated at the meeting. Copies are available from Virginia Kimball. The budget provides more of a framework for the expenses of the organization as a whole and for each of the committees. Attendees reacted positively. There was a motion and a second to approve the 2011 Budget. Approved unanimously by members in attendance.

#### FOCCP Tenth Anniversary

Joanne reported a conversation she had with Missy Walker from Boston's Best Cruises. There may be possibilities for planning a July anniversary event on one of their cruise boats. Could be an evening members only event with a small musical ensemble, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails etc. Would not be a big event like the gala but we could plan it as a smaller fund raiser. Joanne will have further discussions with Missy and report her progress.

Other ideas included some kind of outing with the Harbor Alliance to celebrate the opening of the Information Center on the Greenway.

An FOCCP 10th Anniversary planning committee was organized: Joanne, Michele Brogan, Meghan Denenberg, Pamela Haring, Beverly Knight, Virginia and Liz Greene

#### Other business

Virginia Kimball received a letter from a 12 year old boy in California, sent to the Friends of Christopher Columbus, suggesting that Christopher Columbus would be a good candidate for a visit to his school. The letter generated quite a bit of discussion! Virginia will follow up with the school principal to get more info.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk