

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
March 8, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes Rines.
The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reports that in February, we received a \$1000 donation from the Golden Goose, \$100 donation, \$25 in membership fees and paid out \$410 in expenses. She reports that the savings account at \$50,937 is doing better in terms of interest than the CD at \$50,014

Due to the closure of the the Marriott Hotel pool and health club, we are anticipating a reimbursement for the monies received for this auction item sold at the Gala.

Fund raising

Anne Devlin Tagliagferro reports the date now secured for the 2011 Gala is November 18 and the cost for the food/dinner has increased by \$7. She will be speaking with Patron Liquors about any interest they may have in being a sponsor for the Gala

Boston Park Advocates meeting.

Meredith Piscatelli, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Anne Devlin Tagliaferro and Beverly Knight will attend the 3/16/11 meeting.

Apparently the February meeting focused more on using Twitter rather than creating blogs.

Lighting sub committee

Joanne said that she and Jay Thompson were in touch with Lentine Co. about the date to shut off the trellis lights. All agreed that mid April would be appropriate. Joanne mentioned the possibility of some seasonal lights during the Fourth of July week. More on this later

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers report that there have not been any meetings with or responses on the Infrastructure Report from the Parks Dept since the Committee Report was shared with them some months ago. Joanne has a meeting with Parks Commissioner, Toni Pollack soon and will raise the issue with her. She announced that Ken Crasco with whom we have frequently worked is retiring from the City. He may still do some part time consulting with them however. Joanne asked all in attendance to sign a farewell card for Ken.

Membership

Beverly Knight reports 166 paid members. She and her committee are planning a membership drive in May and asks all who can to pitch in and help with the various tasks related to the mailing. We will use part of the April meeting to get the mailing completed. She asked for volunteers for the Membership Table at the annual Tot Lot clean up scheduled for June 11. She is working on a new brochure to be professionally printed and also highlighting the FOCCP tenth anniversary.

Internet and Communication

In Audrey Tortolani's absence, Meghan Denenberg reported 517 newsletters sent out in March and only 6 bounced back, but 2 were incorrect addresses. There were 63 Facebook users, 100 visits and 77 friends.

Horticulture report.

Mary Ann Esparo is ill and unable to attend tonight's meeting. Meredith Piscatelli reports tiny growth of daffodils

Joanne's report

Joanne has received an email from Shakespeare and Co inquiring if we are interested again this year in supporting a performance. Attendees voiced interest which Joanne will convey. No details on content, date or finances yet
She received info from an organization called City Parks Alliance, based in Washington, DC. They lobby Congress on park issues and charge \$50 to join for one year. Trish Baumer will check out their platform prior to our joining

Joanne listed some 10th Anniversary ideas:

Membership drive/member thank you event at a nearby restaurant - bring in new members thru a fun social event - maybe in May. Detail later from Membership Committee.

Tot Lot Clean up - June 11 maybe have a magician come and arrange for balloons
Movie nite in the park - Joe Bono interested in sponsoring 6 to 8 movie nites. Needs permit. Dates and movies to be decided. Possibly start in late June

Members only cruise in the harbor in July

Columbus day event in October -- should event be day of Parade or the next day??

Gala in November

Trellis lighting in November

Member comments

Joan Murphy reports much gravel all over the park walkways. The gravel appears to be coming from the around the trees at Tia's. We need to inform Lori Lilly, owner of Tia's when the restaurant opens shortly

Francine Gannon suggested investigating the possibility of sponsoring an art auction in the park - something that would be arranged by a third party but for which FOCCP could benefit by an admission fee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk