

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting minutes
May 10, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:45 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 27 members. Voting for the FOCCP Annual election began at 5:30 and continued throughout the meeting.

Joanne read her nomination summary and other candidates spoke to the membership as well.

The minutes of the April 2011 meeting were read and accepted

Membership report

Beverly Knight reported the following membership renewal and new payment figures:

23 members at \$25
18 members at \$35
12 members at \$50
28 members at \$100

Kim Caverly reported on plans for the June Social to be held at the Living Room. It is scheduled for June 2 from 6 to 8 pm. There will be a cash bar and appetizers. Since we hope to bring in new members to the organization, all are encouraged to bring a friend. Those wanting to attend should register at info@foccp.org

Treasure report

Virginia Kimball reports receipt of \$2025 in membership income as of 4/30/11 and additional funds received since that date as well. For those who are interested, detailed information on current balances for the checking, savings money market and CD accounts are available from Virginia

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparro reports that the work of the horticulture volunteers began 3 weeks ago. There were so many volunteers that the spring pruning in the center rose bed was done in one week. They will prune the shrubs after the first bloom. Wisteria should be coming in soon. The Crescent garden needs cleaning up. There is a new outside contractor to help with the planting and clean up. She reminds volunteers that work is done in the garden on Wednesdays at 6:30 and Sundays at 9:30. She asks for a commitment of at least one hour per week.

Fundraising report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the deposit for the November annual gala has been made to the Marriott. The Gala is scheduled for November 18

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers reports that the light poles in the park have been repainted. This was one of the items on the comprehensive committee report that was shared with the Parks Dept. He hopes to schedule a meeting for the committee. Joanne Hayes-Rines added that Bernie Lynch was looking into the possibility of new trash cans, but it may be too late for this summer. We've asked whether or not FOCCP might purchase them but no answer as yet. Donna Freni suggested contacting Councilor LaMattina.

Meredith Piscatelli mentioned that on a recent trip to Washington DC, she saw very effective comprehensive and consistent signage in a park she visited. She thought they might be a model for signs we might suggest to the city

Lighting report

Jay Thompson was unable to attend. Joanne Hayes-Rines reports we are still hoping to arrange for red, white and blue lights for the 4th of July.

Internet and communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that the May newsletter went out to 525 addresses and read by 152 users. 7 addresses bounced back and 14 users went to the membership link! Audrey thanked Meghan Denenberg for all the help she gives the committee. She plans a mid month newsletter as a reminder of the June 2 Social at the Living Room. Meredith Piscatelli reports 76 monthly Facebook users and that they seem to be responding to our information and photos

Jim Salini reminded us that the election notice needs to be on the Website

Cole Landers suggested By-Law changes, if necessary, in the fall instead of at the Annual Meeting. He made a motion. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously

President's report

Joanne Hayes-Rines outlined the current list of FOCCP 10th Anniversary events being planned.

June 2 Social at the Living Room

June 11 Tot Lot Clean up -- with a magician 9:30 to noon and maybe face painting and balloons. Sandra Harcourt suggested a poster for the Eliot School. Meghan Denenberg said she would make a poster and send by email

July 20 members only Harbor Cruise on Voyager II and the donated by Boston Best Cruises, Rock Island caterer, Cash bar, tickets \$45, there will be recorded music and the cruise will leave from Park side of Long Wharf/Marriott hotel.

Sculpture presentation and discussion

Joanne reports that the Park and city are the recipients of a donation of a sculpture designed by the world renowned Boston based artist, Kahlil Gibran. The sculptor is the nephew of very well known and loved author, Kahlil Gibran. The donation is being made by Mr. Gibran's widow, Jean Gibran.

The opportunity for the city and Park to receive this donation and for it to be potentially placed in Christopher Columbus Park came to us thru the efforts of FOCCP members, Meghan and Neil Denenberg and Mr. Denenberg's brother, a fine art dealer who represented the artist for many years.

Joanne explained that the FOCCP Board had met earlier in the month, seen the presentation of the sculpture and agreed to authorize the expenditure of \$1000 to engage Rebecca Reynolds, a public art consultant to assist with very preliminary exploration of the possibilities. Board members suggested exploring the potential for assistance from the Brown Fund and the Henderson Fund. Joanne also told the attendees that last week, she, other Board members and Jean Gibran met with the architect of the Armenian Memorial in Christopher Columbus Park to get his advice and expertise because of his experience with the efforts to bring that memorial to reality. He suggested that initially we needed to get the advice of a structural engineer and landscape architect to assess the real potential of placing the sculpture in the park

There was much discussion and suggestions. Cole Landers suggests we form an ad hoc committee to work on this because if we proceed, it will require a lot of effort and may take a number of years. Jim Salini suggests that as we proceed we track and monitor the finances of this effort independently. He also suggests the idea of a project manager approach. Donna Freni suggests we ensure early on that the city would be in favor of proceeding with such a project in a public park

Cole Landers motion: Move that FOCCP move forward with a feasibility survey and authorize the expenditure of \$10,000, subject to the approval of the city for this project in CCP. Motion seconded and passed unanimously

Cole also suggests getting a response from the city before proceeding

In her report, Joanne also reports Seven Sunday nite movies in the Park. These are being sponsored by FOCCP Board member, Joe Bono. Dates will be announced on the FOCCP website. All movies will begin at dusk

FOCCP annual election results were announced. All nominated members were elected as follows

Joanne Hayes-Rines, President
Trish Baumer, Vice President
Virginia Kimball, Treasurer
Sandra Harcourt, Clerk
Joe Bono, Member at Large
Meghan Denenberg, Member at Large

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm
Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk