

Agenda 5/8/12  
Friends of Christopher Columbus Park  
Monthly meeting  
Mariner House  
Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order 6:38PM.  
Attended by 28 people plus guests Boston Parks and Recreation Dept. Commissioner Toni Pollak, Boston Director of Special Operations of Boston Public Health Commission Jim Green, and Boston Police Dept. Sgt. Tom Lema who will discuss the incident in the Tot Lot on April 20, 2012.  
Recording the meeting is Clerk Sandra Harcourt. Meeting minutes were approved

JH-R welcomed all attendees and guest introductions. Announced this will be an abbreviated business meeting to accommodate our guest speakers' discussion regarding the documented Tot Lot incident.

### I. Officer election

2012-2013 Officers  
President: Joanne Hayes-Rines  
Vice President: Trish Baumer  
Treasurer: Virginia Kimball  
Director-at-Large: Joe Bono  
Director-at-Large: Meghan Denenberg  
Clerk - Audrey Tortolani

Since this is an uncontested slate and there are no additional candidates for any of the positions, it was moved that we do not need to conduct a formal ballot process and we accept the Candidate Slate as put forth. Membership voted and unanimously accepted the nominations as read.

### II. Committee Reports

- Treasurer's Report – by Virginia Kimball as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, account balances were reported
- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed
  - Gardening group meets 2 times per week Wed. at 6:00pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am for one hour.
  - Rose bushes bloom two week
  - Weeded crescent
  - Irrigation not been turned on to date.
  - Wisteria trimming to continue
- Membership report - Beverly Knight
  - Membership renewal paper mailing almost complete
  - Internet sign up 48 members
  - Increase in membership, 30 at social approximate 270 total members, target 300
- Website and Internet Communications report – Audrey
  - Christina Sperry is new chair of the Website and Internet Communications Committee

Last report for Audrey as chair of this committee.

One newsletter this month sent to 533 email addresses, 2.8% bounce back, 32% opening, 181 like the site Facebook

--Maintenance - Cole Landers

Repair of sinking manhole covers and re-stamped asphalt. Last year bollards and metal surfaces painted and repaired

A booklet had been present to Toni Pollock in 2010 identifying recommended park repairs, many of which have been addressed

Update on Events

\*\*\* Tall Ships/Fourth of July Celebration Saturday, June 30 ... 10 am to 2 pm

Mary Marengi and Joanne Hayes-Rines are chairing the event.

Event will start at 10 am with "parade" through the park. Kids can decorate bikes, scooters, etc. We have 300 little flags to give away and 20 bigger ones for the parade and to decorate. Uncle Sam on Stilts, Jenny the Juggler, Big Joe the Storyteller and Magician Peter O'Malley will be the emcee of the day. NEMPAC Face painting, instrument petting zoo, children's games and more. Joe Bono had donated coupons from the Pushcart for game winners. A hot dog, drink and chips. Volunteers for the day are Konnie Duff, Liz Greene, Michele Brogan, Matt Conti, Christina Sperry, Dee Bendel, Frankie Boyer and Sandra Harcourt.

\*\*\*Sunday Night Movies, Starting July 15<sup>th</sup>. Sponsored by Al dente Restaurant. Seven movies donated by Joe Bono

\*\*\*Harbor Sunset Cocktail Cruise, July 18th ... chaired by Virginia Kimball. She has hired the same caterer as last year, Rock Island. Time 7:15 – 10pm. Boat donated by Boston's Best Cruises. Ticket Price: \$45 each for members and/or member's guest

\*\*\*Old Fashioned Picnic in the Park, Sunday, August 19, Noon to 4pm... chaired by Jess Williams and Michele Brogan. Promote neighborhood, rent tables, benches. Will have games \.

\*\*\*Tot Lot Clean Up Report – Meghan Denenberg

Fresh toys and 12 tons of sand were donated and placed by FOCCP. New families were signed up as members; about 50 people participated in the clean up

IV: New Business

Discussion of the April 20 incident in the park with 3 homeless people sleeping under the playground equipment. Neighborhood dad found them and a razor blade and "blood all over the place," as is stated in the police report. He called 911, the Mayor's hotline, and the City Councilor's office. No one responded.

Toni Pollack appreciated the report and agreed it took awhile for the team to get there. Toni clarified that protocol exists. Jim Green from The Pine Street Inn works with the police to sustain intervention to move people out of the park.

Sgt. Lema from BPD explained that every neighborhood has problems ( prostitution, panhandling etc.).

There is a city wide task force addressing this issue since 1993. There are protocols we should follow and we are encouraged to use them it enables the city to fund programs and patrols as necessary.

For emergencies and park rule violations: call 911

For 24 hour response to any problem in the Park, call the Mayor's service hotline: (617) 635-4500

To report a problem in the Park, call the Boston Parks & Recreation Department: (617) 635-7275

#### Recommendations

- 1) More lights. The 2 that are on the maintenance bldg are insufficient and will be covered by vines soon. Need floodlights that are directed onto the playground equipment.  
Who is responsible for knowing that the lights are burnt out? Point was made to add additional lights
- 2) How can we get police response to move homeless out of the Park? Follow above protocol.
- 3) Can FOCCP donate a camera that could be connected to the City's camera system? TBD
- 4) What is the HAZMAT procedure to alert the public to public health hazards such as blood and other bodily fluids in a city-owned playground? Follow the above protocol.

Meeting was adjourned at 8: 20

Minutes of April 2012 meeting were approved