

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
November 9, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston. MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40pm.

A brief report from the Auction Committee member, Cathy McCarthy was the first agenda item in order to allow her to attend the simultaneously held Auction Committee meeting. She reported that the committee was following up with prior donors and requested assistance from the membership with specific donations where contact names were lacking. She reported that many auction items have been received and work of the committee proceeding according to schedule.

Joanne Hayes-Rines added that the auction close out process was being reviewed to ensure less confusion and a smoother process for winning bidders.

Minutes of the October 2010 meeting were read and accepted by the attendees.

Horticulture committee

Mary Ann Esparo reports that all fall activities have been completed by the volunteers. The Parks Dept will mulch and cut the sea grass when the temperatures have gotten colder. Volunteers have placed holiday garlands and bows around the Rose Garden. The outstanding bill to GTA has been paid. Mary Ann added that the pruning of the wisteria this year should result in a very lush blooming in 2011

Lighting sub-committee

Jay Thompson reports that all the old holiday lights have been taken down. Because the new lights have been delayed in shipping (due to weather related problems), an alternate lighting vendor was identified. May result in not being able to light the entire length of the trellis at this time, but within a short period after the official lighting. Many thanks to Jay for all his efforts on this.

Internet and communications

Audrey Tortolani reports that 521 newsletters were sent; 197 opened and 9 bounced back. No major changes have been made since the previous month. A letter was sent from Joanne to web subscribers as an additional reminder of the Gala.

Fundraising Gala

Ann Devlin Tagilaferro reports the Mike's Pastry will donate 500 pastries and desserts to the Gala. Approximately 300 tickets have been sold to date, although more may be already in the post office box which Joanne will check tomorrow.. Joanne described the anticipated flow of event with check in in lobby of ballroom, drinks in the palm court on second floor, cash bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, complimentary specialty drinks from

Patron Liquors, power point presentation with pictures of park events throughout the year and dinner in the ballroom. The menu will include roast beef, turkey carving station and much more. A new band has been engaged. A photographer will be available. The auction will close at 9pm.

Trellis lighting

Scheduled for Monday, November 22 at 5:30 - also dependent on weather. Marriott is donating 300 cookies, hopefully Starbuck's will provide coffee and hot chocolate. NEMPAC will provide music.

Other business

Jim Salini reminds members of a concert at the North End Branch Library and urges all to attend

Adjourned at 7:35

Minutes done by Liz Greene, Clerk