

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
September 13, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was attended by 28 members and was convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines. Introductions were made as several new members attended.

The August meeting minutes were not read aloud. Liz Greene made a motion that they be accepted, seconded by Cathy McCarthy and approved unanimously.

Treasurer report
Contact Virginia Kimball for a copy of her report.

Horticulture report
Mary Ann Esparo thanked the volunteers for all the hard work during the summer. Next year, with some professional help, the committee plans to focus on the Crescent garden.
Joanne Hayes-Rines said that she and MaryAnn had met with the Greenway horticulturist and arborist and got some helpful advice. Suggested working on small projects at a time. Advised that it is very important to do soil testing before taking on a planting project. Joanne says she hopes the meeting will be part of building a positive collaboration with the Greenway.

Infrastructure report
Cole Landers has no report at this time. It has been one year since comprehensive FOCCP memo was sent to the Parks dept.
He plans to review what was accomplished and develop an updated "to do" list.

Lighting report
Jay Thompson reports he will be contacting the Lentine Co. to initiate activities for the annual trellis lighting. The lights on statue and rose garden need to be fixed.

Membership report
Beverly Knight reports no change since last meeting

Internet and Communication report
Audrey Tortolani reported that 3 notices were sent out to membership: the Tot Lot clean up event; the parks contest; and the 2011 Gala (opened by 511 readers)
Newsletter opened by 157
Facebook - 120 monthly active users - 70 in one week!
Website was updated to allow 2011 Gala ticket purchases

President's report

Joanne received a letter from the Friends of the Navy Yard looking for advice on steps for planning fundraisers. She planned a follow up discussion

Sculpture update

Application had been made to The Browne Fund for funds (approximately \$40,000) to engage a structural engineering analysis. Application included description of the project scope, letters from Joanne (on behalf of FOCCP), othabutter and a letter from Toni Pollack, Parks Commissioner.

Drafts of the letters are available for member review

Columbus Day event

The event will be shorter than last year because the city parade is being held in the NorthEnd. Will begin after 10 and run till around 1. Precise timing is pending. Activities to include City Stage, a magician, puppeteer, lawn games, raffle and a three piece band. Members of NEMPAC and the Friends of the North End Branch Library will be in attendance and provide information

Sunday nights at the movies

Joanne reports that the movies this summer were well attended and very successful. There were some issues with trash being left in the Park which will need to be addressed next year. The good news is that our sponsor, Board member Joe Bono has agreed to again sponsor the program for next summer. Many thanks, Joe!

Tot Lot

Michele Brogan has initiated a periodic clean up event for the Tot Lot. The last one before winter is scheduled for Sat 10/1 fro 7am to 10 am. Bring gloves.

Volunteers needed

Photo notecards fundraiser.

Meghan Denenberg has been working on a potential fundraising project: the sale of Christopher Columbus Park photo note cards. She prepared a mock set of Park photo notecards for member review.

Additional analysis needs to be done to sort out the sales projections, cost production and tax issues (as we are a non-profit) and to finalize the photos.

Joanne Hayes-Rines made a motion to authorize expenditure of \$1700 for the production of 400 box sets, provided that the photo edits are done and other issues sorted out. Liz Greene seconded. Then motion was approved unanimously.

2011 Gala Fundraiser report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the Auction committee is looking for fewer but more valuable items.

Beverly Knight listed the members of the committee: Carol Romano, Cathy McCarthy, Rachel Heulsman, Sandra Harcourt. They have increased the goal for the auction to \$15,000. Any ideas, suggestions for auction, email info@foccp.org

New auction forms have been prepared and will be on website.

Robyn Reed suggests seeking donations for specific items (gravel in rose garden, etc).

Joanne suggests creating a save the date magnet to be enclosed in gala invite. Save the date magnets are very minimal cost. She prepared a mock magnet with photo of the lit trellis for member review. Membership was supportive of idea if they could be produced in time.

Other issues

Ford Cavalleri suggested there might be an opportunity for some kind of collaboration between FOCCP and the Greenway/Armenian Heritage Sculpture in conjunction with the Annual Trellis Lighting in the Park.

Jim Salini informed the attendees of a scheduled concert of Sinatra favorites to be held at the North End Branch Library on Wednesday evening, Oct. 5. Contact the Library for more details

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene (for vacationing Clerk, Sandra Harcourt)