

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
Sept. 14, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, Mass.

The meeting was convened by Trish Baumer due to Joanne's absence at 6:40 with 20 members in attendance.

August meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reported the bank balance at the close of 8/31/10 at \$199,922. Five tickets for the Gala have been sold.

She reports that to date the bill for the black mulch has not been received from the landscaping company, GTA. Mary Ann Esparo, Horticulture committee, mentioned that the incorrect mulch may have been used. She will let Virginia know before bill is paid.

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparo reports that the gardening season was coming to a close. Volunteers in the gardens will no longer work on Wednesday evenings and will finalize the remaining work on Sunday mornings.

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers reports his committee met last week. Primary issue now is painting the black furniture in the Park. He said that Joanne had set up a meeting with Ken Crasco and the committee members for October when they will discuss the main issues identified. The goal will be to identify which issues will be addressed by the City and which by FOCCP.

The trash barrel issue is on the committee list. We would prefer the attractive large barrels or the Big Belly solar type rather than the old style smaller barrels.

Robyn Reed mentioned that a barrel seemed to be securing the metal plate covering the water works for one of the fountains. This is a safety hazard. New info cards with the phone number of the PARK LINE (617 635-7275) were made available to the attendees. This line is available to report problems in city parks. Robyn plans to call and report this.

Membership report

Beverly Knight reports \$10,640 in membership dues for 2010 to date. There have been FOCCP table at 3 Park events this summer, including the Ahts in the Park event. We now have a new FOCCP banner which can be used on the stage at future events. It will be stored in the maintenance shed.

Internet/communication report

Audrey Tortolani reported that the September newsletter went out to 523 email addresses and only 23 bounced back and 178 people opened newsletter on line --- a rate of 35%!

They have updated the volunteer main page and are working on the pages for each committee. The monthly meeting notes are now posted.

Virginia Kimball asked about some of the links currently on the FOCCP Facebook page. Meredith Piscatelli will check with Alexa, who assisted with setting up the Facebook page and report back.

Meredith Piscatelli, with assistance from Sandra Harcourt, stained the bulletin board black. A brass plaque with "donated by FOCCP" is being made for the board. Plans for shrubs and granite blocks in front of the board are underway.

President's report

In Joanne's absence, Vice-president Trish Baumer reported. Columbus Day planning moving forward; will be family oriented, including a small parade around the park with musicians, invited local legislators, Mayor Menino, the Italian consul and others, wreath laying and short ceremony at the statue, activities for children, marionettes, magician, NEMPAC instrument petting zoo, fire truck and more. Scheduled 10/11/10 from 11 to 3. \$3000.00 approved for the event by the membership.

She reported that the sophora trees and others that had not been doing well seem to be improving with the recent pruning and fertilizing. Schumacher Co. will give us a quote on future costs for this effort which can help to prolong the life of some of the fragile trees.

Ken Crasco from the City is considering new security lights for the trellis.

Fundraising Gala

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the Frank Zarba band and Sharon Zee, singer, have been chosen for the gala music. She will let the committee know the date of the next meeting.

Auction committee

Beverly asked for the membership to sign up to contact potential donors; distributed new letters and forms. She reminded membership that donations to the Gala in amounts less than \$2500.00 do not include individual tickets. Benefits of sponsorship are outlined in the Gala sponsorship materials.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk