



**Friends of Christopher Columbus Park**

Agenda 6.11.19

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt

Recording the meeting is Audrey Tortolani

Board Members in attendance: Ann Babbitt, MaryGaye Grizwin, Ann DeLuca, Rita Pagliuca, Robyn Reed, Patricia Sabbey

Board Members missing: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Susanne Lavoie, Ford Cavallari, Patricia Thiboutot

Members Attending: 8. New Member: Paula Zavri

Minutes Distributed

Committee Reports

-- Treasurer's Report – Ann DeLuca

Revenue:

- Revenue through May 31, 2019 for the Park was \$19,911, which is 24% of the 2019 Budget of \$84,000. Prior year 2018 revenue was \$31,387. The decrease is due to 2017 Sponsorship Revenue of \$16,000 that was received in 2018.
- Fireworks revenue collected year to date is \$3,500. (Prior year was \$13,500. The decrease was due to 2017 Fireworks revenue received in 2018.)
- General Membership revenue through May 31, 2019 is \$15,206 which is 76% of the 2019 budget of \$20,000. Prior year membership revenue was \$12,361.

Expenses:

- Program Related Expenses year to date are \$17,909 which is 24% of 2019 budget of \$76,200. Prior year program related expenses were approximately \$15,895. The increase is mainly due to the expanded Valentine's Day event.

-- Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey – No Report

-- Internet Communications report – Ann Babbitt on behalf of Joanne

- March Newsletter: Open rate 43%
- Web site: On Events page added link to Parks Dept. for an events permit page.
- May Newsletter sent to 905 people – opened by 407 - 45 % open rate. Industry average open rate is 20%

-- Infrastructure Committee report - Robyn Reed on behalf of Ford

- Working on getting a sign for the planters.

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed

- BUNNIES! We noticed that something was eating the leaves of the hybrid tea roses, so we coated them with an organic peppermint spray, and wrapped each of them with deer fencing. So far it seems to be working. The Knockout roses look amazing and are all blooming.
- We planted 5 hellebore plants in the pachysandra area near the fountain, and will be adding more hostas to the area as we move the pachysandra to the other side of the garden under the
- Irrigation – just turned on for this season. Our spigot is still not working, although the plumber is scheduled to come by this week. We had been watering by hand, which is hard and dangerous work.
- Meredith has given out keys to the garden gates to anyone who wants to open or close them. There is a schedule, and please contact Meredith if you have questions about the schedule. Warren and his staff open the gates in the morning, and her crew locks it up at night.
- Everyone is welcome to join us – we will train you and provide all the tools and gloves. Please just wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing, as well as sun protection.

-- Park Art Curator report – Robyn Reed

- Rose and Simge tried a “yarn bomb” event in the park, and it looks like it was pretty popular when it first went up, but it is becoming worn and saggy and I have asked them to take it down soon, or fix it.
- Hopscotch ? Want it back? YES! Suggestion was to make it permanent. Robyn to ask the city.
- A group called GREENFEST is having many activities in our park for 3 days in August – 16-18 – concerts, art, activities, vendors and tents.

-- Membership report – MaryGaye Grizwin

Year to Date Results – Strong demonstration of support for the Park!

- May donations = \$1,911, an expected dip from April
- Total Membership donations at 72% of 2018 Ending Results
- Memberships = 55 % of 2018 totals
- One member renewed at the Trellis level (\$500)

FaceBook – Meredith.

As of May 1st, 1357 likes,

As of June 11th, 1385 likes

Posted pictures on Facebook are very popular. Below are examples of most popular:

Picture of 1st croquet lesson with Jack; 305 people responded

Bruins Jersey on Statue: Lots of people took pictures 531 people responded

Boston Latin Prom pictures; 411 people responded

People loved the yarn around the trees

Monk Picture/Information: 620 people responded, 6 shares

PLEASE CALL 911 – 311 when you see problems in the park. Boston relies on 911 for more than just emergency situations. The Police Department has asked that we call 911 to report things like skateboarders or noise disturbances.

The recently installed planters at the south end of the trellis near Tia's were moved by street performers – this is a perfect example of when it's right to call 911.

You can also call 311 or put a report in through 311 app in addition to calling 911.

Rita suggested hiring more appropriate entertainment e.g. jugglers to work in the space where the loud street performers are usually located.

#### Independence Celebration – June 29 - Report by Ann Babbitt

Ann needs more volunteers for this event. She will send an email out to the Ladies Group to see if she can find people for set up, clean up and general assistance.

Frankie can't do the Face Painting due to business travel. Does anyone know of people who can do face painting?

Molly and Marcy will do crafts

Are there other sources for other volunteers ...Vertex? Marcy will put something on the bulletin board

MaryGaye to ask some of the new members if they want to volunteer

#### Harbor Cruise

Tuesday, August 20. Tickets available online! \$40 per person. .

DJ can't do it this year – on vacation this week. Rita suggested Street Magic as an option

May increase the price for "at the door" tickets

Thinking of changing up the raffle; pay \$X for a "box". No raffle items yet. Looking for smaller value items \$20 - \$25.

Ann Babbitt suggested to coordinate efforts, so we don't duplicate solicitations

Rita suggested contacting Encore and all the restaurants associated with Encore. Patricia S. to try again.

Frankie usually gets gift cards from many of the restaurants.

Other Fundraising Idea: Marie suggested doing tours in the park for an hour ... charge \$10.

Ann D suggested to discussing at next Board meeting.

#### 2019 Movies in the Park July 21 – August 25 – 6 movies Cost: \$2850 (\$475 per showing)

Need to select the movies for this year. All must be rated G or PG. Joe's will do popcorn

Send ideas to [info@foccp.org](mailto:info@foccp.org)

Some movie ideas suggested thus far:

Mama Mia

Hair Spay

On the waterfront

Remember the Titans

Home Alone

Top Gun

Ghost Busters  
Marley and Me  
Jaws  
Close Encounters  
Rudy  
The Natural  
Pink Panther

#### BOSTON HARBOR FIREWORKS FUND

This year there will be 2 events:  
Thursday, August 29 ... Labor Day Kickoff ... 2 barges  
Tuesday, December 31 ... New Year's Eve ... 2 barges  
Fundraising efforts for 2018 came up short so there will not be fireworks to celebrate Independence Day.

Fireworks page is up on our website with link to how people can make a donation.

#### 2019 EVENTS

Valentine Month long event; Tunnel of Love  
Easter Egg Hunt – Ann Babbitt –  
Membership Social – April 3 – 6pm to 8pm  
Playground Celebration – May 4 -- Noon to 2pm  
Independence Day – Saturday, June 29  
Lawn Games – July 20 to Sept. 14  
Croquet on Wednesdays through August  
Cruise – August 20  
Fall Festival – October 5  
Trellis Lighting -- November 25 Monday

#### NO NEW BUSINESS

May minutes approved as presented  
Respectively submitted: Audrey Tortolani, FOCCP Member