

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes – 01-08-13
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:35 pm. 27 people were in attendance.

Introductions: New and existing members.

I. Committee Reports

Horticulture Report by Joanne Hayes-Rines

Joanne announced Mary Ann Esparro is “retiring” from her position as the co-chair of the Horticulture Committee. Robyn Reed is now the chair of this committee. Mary Ann was thanked for all of her hard work and dedication as the chair and co-chair this committee. All agreed Mary Ann did a tremendous job. Joanne reported there are approximately 15 active members of the Horticulture Committee and they will begin working in the Rose Garden and Crescent on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings in the spring.

Website and Internet Communications Report by Christina Sperry

Two monthly newsletters and one dedicated Casino Night email were sent since the last meeting in November.

The Casino Night email:

Sent on November 14, 2012. This was a final reminder to buy tickets and attend the event on November 16th. It was sent to 580 addresses with 130 opens (23%) and 18 bounces (3%). This is a lower number of opens than usual for newsletter but is on par for other Casino Night emails, save the first announcing the event, which was opened many more times than usual.

Monthly Newsletters:

The December 2012 newsletter was sent on December 4, 2012 to 582 addresses with 216 opens (38%) and 20 bounces (3%).

The January 2013 newsletter was sent on January 2, 2013 to 584 addresses with 195 opens (35%) and 22 (4%) bounces.

Each newsletter had very modest increases in recipients and had average numbers of opens and bounces.

There is now a mobile version of our website, foccp.org. The website should load faster and look better if you access the site from a mobile phone.

The calendar on the website has been updated with all FOCCP events known so far for 2013, including all monthly meetings. It will be updated throughout the year with details for all FOCCP events and will also include non-FOCCP events in the park, such as the annual Ahts event by the City of Boston. If you ever hear of any non-FOCCP events in the park, please let us know at info@foccp.org so the information can be added to the calendar if it is not already there.

Treasurer's Report

Virginia Kimball reviewed the year-to-date numbers and highlights including revenue from Casino Night and Sponsorships.

Casino Night Revenue:	\$31,035
Casino Night Expenses:	\$16,162
Casino Night Net Revenue:	\$14,873

Number of Attendees: 199
185 tickets sold

14 comped tickets (to large donors)

Sponsor Donations for 2012: \$36,500

Sponsors	Donation
Chiofaro Company	\$5,000
CL Waterfront	\$5,000
Sunstone	\$5,000
Tia's	\$5,000
Elite Boston Realty	\$2,500
Joe Bono	\$2,500
Land 'O Lakes	\$2,500
NorthEndWaterfront.com	\$2,500
Harbor Towers I & II	\$1,500
Golden Goose	\$1,000
Peabody Properties	\$1,000
Rowes Wharf Residences	\$1,000
Commercial Wharf Condo	\$ 500
Lewis Wharf Condo	\$ 500
Living Room	\$ 500
Mariner Condo	\$ 500

As of 12/31/12, YTD account balances are as follows:

Expenses	
Casino Night	\$16,162.30
Picnic 8/30	\$ 898.84
Blossom Fund	\$ 92.70
Comm of Mass	\$ 70.00
Horticulture	\$ 4,367.74
June 30th	\$ 2,480.45
Membership	\$ 1,778.76
Sculpture Project	\$ 2,650.00
Tax Prep	\$ 2,437.00
Tot Lot	\$ 926.84
Trellis 2011	\$ 5,427.50
Trellis 2012	\$ 15,225.00
General	\$ 1,388.80
Constant Contact	\$ 445.31
Sunset Cruise	\$ 2,120.00
Movie Night	\$ 30.79
Insurance	\$ 1,476.00
Website service	\$ 240.00
CC Day 2011	\$ 370.40
Savings Account	\$ 600.00
Eliot School	\$ 126.00
CC Day 2012	\$ 3,373.00
Landscaping	\$ 6,867.00
Circle Project	\$ 260.00
CC Fee's	\$ 293.00
TOTAL	\$ 70,107.43

Revenue	
Casino Night	\$ 31,035.00
Donations	\$ 1,752.00
Note Cards	\$ 643.00

Auction	\$ 355.00
Membership	\$ 11,466.00
Memb Online	\$ 3,315.00
Cruise	\$ 3,645.00
Raffle	\$ 331.00
Sponsorship	\$ 36,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 88,542.00

Account Balances as of 12/31/12

Checking	\$ 68,164.00
Savings	\$ 52,271.00
CD	\$ 37,091.00
Money Market	<u>\$102,945.00</u>

TOTAL \$260,480.00

Membership Report by Beverly Knight

283 Total membership
 98 Renewing
 84 New members in 2012
 1 Member in 2013

Membership dues in 2012: \$12,535

At least 1 social event will be planned for the spring

Fundraising Report by Joanne Hayes-Rines

In Sandra Harcourt's absence, Joanne explained that the Fundraising Committee includes the Sponsorship program; Sandra took the lead in developing this program in 2012. The program is meant to last throughout the year with sponsors recognized during different events and via the monthly FOCCP newsletters and website depending on the amount donated. If there are ideas for new sponsors, let Joanne know and she will communicate to Sandra.

II. Casino Night Report

Kim Caverly thanked everyone who helped with the first Casino Night Fundraiser. It was a great success! As mentioned earlier, there were 199 attendees and the net revenue was approximately 15,000. Specific thanks were given to the key subcommittee chairs including:

Virginia Kimball	Ticket Sales
Anne Devlin	Greeters
Patricia Sabbey	Check in, Raffle and Casino Cash
Ann Babbitt	Desserts and Photo Booth
Laurie & Maggie Cadigan	Auction and Raffle

Also thanks to Michael Feldman, the magician who performed for free throughout the evening.

There is a link to Matt Conti's photos from the evening on foccp.org

Joanne let us know Kim has agreed to chair next year's Casino Night. It is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd.

III. Rose F. Kennedy Greenway Conservancy Carousel Project

Jodi A. Wolin, Director of Development and Laura Jasinski, Project Coordinator provided an overview of the Carousel Project which will be in the approximate location of the temporarily set up carousel in place the last few summers. Here is a summary of what was reviewed.

- Fundraising for the project is complete – 3 million has been raised.

- Revenue projected per year is approximately \$175,000
- Carousel is expected to open Labor Day 2013
- The permanent structure will have a winter enclosure and ticket booth and only be closed January – March.
- Children in local schools (grades 2 – 4) were asked for their feedback and were inspirational in determining the “characters” which will include a lobster, grasshopper, fish and more. They also wrote a letter to potential sponsors.
- Jeff Briggs is the artist who developed the characters. There will be approximately 32 characters on the carousel; a few more than currently available.
- Landscaping is also included in the project; the carousel will be set among trees and there will be seating areas. It is handicapped accessible.
- Cost per ride is \$3.00. This price is no change from the current cost. There may be specials.
- Hours are 11:00 am until there are no more riders. Hours will likely change with the season.
- This project is considered a public program on the Greenway.
- Robyn Reed is a new board member on the Greenway

IV. North End Waterfront Health & Beauty Alliance Festival

Matthew Fothergill, who is associated with Hordon Heath, presented his ideas for a health and beauty awareness festival in the park this spring. He is in the preliminary stages of planning and wanted to get input from the FOCCP. Here is a summary of his vision for this event.

- Activities would be set up in the park related to health and beauty including yoga, boot camps, hair consults / salons, and potentially a fashion show.
- Local clothing stores would set up booths and offer products for sale
- Organic food
- Free giveaways
- 5 local bands would play throughout the day
- A donation would be given in order to gain access to these activities/booths. The profit from the event would go to the FOCCP group.

Matt is still working on planning and budgeting and also needs to get an OK from the city to have the event. Concern was raised about charging for an “event” in the park since it is a public area and you can’t close off the park. Concern was also expressed about the clean up after the event.

When asked for a suggested time frame for having this event, the group agreed June would be a good month to consider.

Matt let everyone know he welcomes suggestions and assistance on this project.

V. Updates on Old Business

Blossom Fund: \$10,000 grant was awarded to FOCCP! Thanks to Joanne for all her effort to obtain this grant.

Beautify Boston Grant Program: Awardees will be announced hopefully by the end of January.

Patricia Sabbey has volunteered to be on the Circle Renovation Committee. Other volunteers will be needed. Let Joanne know if you would like to be on this committee.

The project we are looking to get funding for will get water to this area, make it bigger (triple the current size) and there will be nice plantings, benches and a place people can walk through.

VI. New Business

Events for 2013

Joanne asked everyone to think about what they would like to be involved in this year. She is suggesting 2 co-chairs for each event.

Events discussed:

- 4th of July Celebration, June 29th.
- Sunset Cruise, mid July, Wednesday night. Virginia Kimball to co-chair
- Picnic in the Park – Should this be held in mid September on a Saturday vs. a Sunday?
- Columbus Day, Monday 10/14. Ann Babbitt and Mary Marengi to co-chair
- Casino Night, Friday, 11/22. Kim Caverly to co-chair. Laurie Cadigan to head auction subcommittee. Will consider 1 room in the future so the event is not too spread out.
- Trellis Lighting, 11/25

The previous months minutes were accepted as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 02-12-13
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:38 pm. 18 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.
Meeting notes from previous meeting were distributed.

Matt Conti presented Joanne Hayes-Rines with a picture of the Board members from the Casino Night event. Joanne was very appreciative of the photo. A very thoughtful gift! Thank you Matt!

Introductions: New and existing members.

I. Committee Reports

Joanne announced Cole Landers has resigned as chair of the Infrastructure Committee. His contributions and guidance the last many years steered FOCCP in the right direction and encouraged the growth we've experienced. Cole took the lead on updating the Bylaws and created and presented reports to the City on Infrastructure problems. Thank you Cole!

Joanne initially approached Ford Cavallari to handle FOCCP PR, an ad hoc committee. Ford accepted this newly created role. She then approached him to head up the Infrastructure Committee and we are all very pleased Ford agreed to chair this committee and become a member of the FOCCP Board. Welcome Ford!

Horticulture Report by Robyn Reed

Robyn let us know someone walked over the center bed of roses. It is not clear if there is damage. The gates were open and now can't be closed because of the snow. Mary Ann let us know we were waiting for the mulch to be placed in the Rose Garden before locking the gates. This was not done until mid January. We can now lock the gates. As soon as the snow clears, Robyn will take responsibility for doing this.

Membership Report by Beverly Knight

The website has been updated to reflect the membership drive and to announce the March 21st Social. The Social will be held at the Living Room from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. There will only be one Social this year. The goal of the Social is to drive FOCCP membership. Existing members should bring potential new members. The Board will be in attendance.

The membership mailing will be a bulk mailing this year and the actual mail piece will be a very nice invitation-like format. Handouts will be provided at future meetings. Members are encouraged to distribute to friends to promote membership.

Website and Internet Communications Report by Christina Sperry

The February newsletter was sent on February 5th to 581 addresses. There were 200 opens (35.7%) and 21 (3.6%) bounce-backs. These numbers are about average for monthly newsletters.

There are now more ways to get in contact with FOCCP by email. We've long had the info@foccp.org email address, which is still active and still a very good way to get in contact with FOCCP about anything. Now, all Board members have individual foccp.org email addresses if you would like to contact any Board member about a particular issue. The format of the email address is: first name and last initial (no spaces) @foccp.org. Thank you to Ford Cavallari for helping to set this up for us.

We received a (free) Google Apps license and are in the process of setting up Google's non-profit online data management program for FOCCP. There will be more news about this at a later

meeting. If there is anybody who has experience with setting something like this up or who has interest in data management and would like to help, please let me know. Thanks again to Ford for setting this up for us.

Infrastructure Report by Ford Cavallari

Ford has received past reports and is in the process of setting up a meeting with his committee members including Matt Conti, Jim Salini and also Cole.

Treasurer's Report

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an overview of the numbers.

2012 Proposed & Actual Numbers and 2013 Proposed Budget

	2012 Proposed	2012 Actual	2013 Proposed
Surplus / Deficit	\$-1,922.00	\$15,855.34	
REVENUE	\$76,775.00	\$81,629.00	\$99,325.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$15,000.00	\$10,846.00	\$15,000.00
SPONSORS	\$35,200.00	\$36,500.00	\$40,000.00
Chiofaro Company		\$ 5,000.00	
CL Waterfront		\$ 5,000.00	
Sunstone		\$ 5,000.00	
Tia's		\$ 5,000.00	
Elite Boston Realty		\$ 2,500.00	
Joe Bono		\$ 2,500.00	
Land 'O Lakes		\$ 2,500.00	
NorthEndWaterfront.com		\$ 2,500.00	
Harbor Towers I & II		\$ 1,500.00	
Golden Goose		\$ 1,000.00	
Peabody Properties		\$ 1,000.00	
Rowes Wharf Residences		\$ 1,000.00	
Commercial Wharf Condo		\$ 500.00	
Lewis Wharf Condo		\$ 500.00	
Living Room		\$ 500.00	
Mariner Condo		\$ 500.00	
HARBOR CRUISE (135 tix)	\$ 6,075.00	\$ 3,645.00	\$ 6,075.00
CASINO Tickets	\$15,000.00	\$21,275.00	\$ 28,750.00
CASINO Silent Auction	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,665.00	\$ 5,000.00
CASINO Raffle/Casino Cash	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,055.00	\$ 3,000.00
NOTE CARDS	\$	\$ 103.00	
DONATIONS	\$	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 1,500.00
EXPENSES	\$78,697.00	\$65,773.66	\$97,240.00
EVENTS	\$41,525.00	\$34,303.45	\$41,000.00
Trellis Lighting	\$30,500.00	\$24,532.00	\$30,500.00
\$4210 Leahy Landscaping			
\$5427 Lentine (5/19)			
\$14,895 Lentine (11/17)			
4 th of July	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,480.45	\$ 3,500.00
Columbus Day	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,345.00	\$ 3,500.00
Picnic in the Park	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 899.00	\$ 1,000.00

Tot Lot Clean Up	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 927.00	\$ 500.00
Harbor Cruise	\$ 2,025.00	\$ 2,120.00	\$ 2,000.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,673.00	\$ 1,500.00
HORTICULTURE	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 4,150.21	\$ 5,000.00
GENERAL	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 856.00	\$ 3,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,585.00	\$ 3,500.00
CASINO NIGHT	\$ 12,535.00	\$ 15,726.00	\$ 20,250.00
Marriott food (\$39 ea)	\$ 5,850.00	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 9,750.00
Casino	\$ 4,185.00	\$ 4,360.00	\$ 5,500.00
Promotional Materials	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,423.00	\$ 2,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,703.00	\$ 2,500.00
BLOSSOM FUND	\$	\$ 92.70	
SCULPTURE PROJECT	\$	\$ 2,650.00	
CIRCLE PROJECT	\$	\$	\$15,000.00
MAINTENANCE: Trees	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 2,657.00	\$ 4,000.00
Schmacher	\$ 4,300.00	\$ 2,657.00	
INSURANCE	\$ 1,490.00	\$ 1,476.00	\$ 1,490.00
Liability-Directors & Officers	\$ 690.00	\$ 691.00	
Liability – Slip & Fall	\$ 800.00	\$ 785.00	
TAXES	\$ 2,347.00	\$ 2,347.00	\$ 2,500.00

Account Balances as of 2/12/13

Checking	\$ 71,954.84
Savings	\$ 52,329.69
CD	\$ 37,086.69
Money Market	<u>\$102,958.54</u>
TOTAL	\$264,329.76

These are GREAT numbers! Thank you to everyone who has contributed to FOCCP success.

Joanne reminded us we need to always be prepared for potential issues in the Park. Trellis lights, plants etc.

During the review of these numbers in the meeting, there were suggested changes to the 2013 proposed budget. During the next meeting an updated budget will be presented.

Fundraising Report

No report this month

II. Circle Project Update by Joanne Hayes-Rines

We learned this week we have been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the City of Boston's Beautify Boston program. With the \$10,000 Blossom Fund grant, this allows us to start the project with \$30,000. Estimated cost of the project is \$70,000 to \$80,000.

Joanne met with Liza Meyer, City landscape architect on 2/10/13 to understand the process. The outline of the plan is:

1. We will draft an RFP (request for proposal) for landscape architects. Liza will help us create it. The RFP will define the scope of the work, including the estimate of the size of new “mini-park”, need for seating, etc. Liza suggested we not be limiting in our RFP (for example, not defined size) so as to allow the designer to come up with the best idea. The RFP allows us to generally define what we want.
2. Liza will help us create a list of landscaping firms to send the RFP to and suggests we post the information on our website, include in our newsletter and look for other ways to get the RFP to landscape architects.
3. Once we have selected the designer, we work with them and the City will work with us, as well. Joanne stated she believes we need Liza’s input because of her experience. Liza is also asking the Parks Engineer to assign the project to one engineer who will follow the progress and assist us.
4. We will have at least one public meeting to which anyone can attend. It will likely be one of our monthly FOCCP meetings.

We will need approximately 40K of additional monies for this project. We will likely use some of the money from our account balance to assist with covering these costs.

The Circle Project needs to be “done” by the end of the year. Given this, Joanne reviewed the potential schedule for achieving this goal.

February-March	Draft RFP
March 15	Send out RFP
April 30	Select Landscape architect
June 30	Design Finalized
July	Contact potential contractors
October 14 th	Groundbreaking ceremony (Columbus Day Event)

Recommendations discussed in the meeting were to include Halverson in the RFP process. In addition, Meredith will provide the contact information for Chris Lucus.

Ford sent out a Press Release regarding the Beautify Boston Grant to North End Waterfront news, and local North End papers. The PR is also on FOCCP Facebook and the website.

Joanne recently presented the Circle Project at the NEWRA meeting and did a great job. Matt Conti videotaped it and can be viewed on www.northendwaterfront.com.

The Circle Project Committee Includes:
 Joanne Hayes-Rines – Chair
 Ford Cavallari (Infrastructure Chair)
 Mary Ann Esparo
 Susanne Lavoie
 Robyn Reed (Horticulture Chair)
 Patricia Sabbey
 Plus input from Board

III. Updates on Old Business

Matt Conti let us know Matthew Fothergill, who is organizing the Health and Beautify Alliance Festival in the Park has a date set. Matthew obtained a permit from the City to have the event on June 15th.

IV. New Business

Events for 2013

Events discussed:

- Picnic in the Park / Tot Lot Clean up. May time frame. Chairs: Michele Brogan and Meghan Denenberg
- 4th of July Celebration. Saturday, June 29th. Chairs: Laura Benevenuto and Kathleen Tedesco
- July 5th. Opera performance (City sponsored event)
- Sunset Cruise. Proposed date: Wednesday, July 17th. Chair: Virginia Kimball
- Movies in the Park. Sunday's July – August (6 evenings) Chair: Joe Bono
- Columbus Day, Monday, October 14th. Chairs: Ann Babbitt and Mary Marengi
- Casino Night, Friday, November 22nd. Chairs: Kim Caverly and Beverly Knight
- Trellis Lighting, Monday, November 25th

Event Planning Guide

Joanne has drafted an Event Planning Guide as a tool for future committee chairs for different events. The guide includes contact information, what needs to be done 4-6 months before the event, a budget sheet, signage information, and past vendors. The draft is being reviewed by Ann Babbitt, Kim Caverly and Mary Marengi. Joanne will "donate" this guide to the City of Boston when completed.

Trees in the Park

The Park has lost multiple trees during the last few storms and there was a discussion around replacing them and adding new trees. Below is a summary of what was discussed:

- The Living Room would like to donate an Evergreen tree.
- A friend of Sandra's would like to donate "colorful" trees. The trees he requested are not approved. Joanne is looking into potential trees and will get back to the group.
- We need to take into account the Circle Project when making decisions on new trees.
- The Oak stump will be removed.
- The replacement of the small trees near the entrance to the Park will be funded by Sunstone who donated \$5,000. They will likely be 3 dwarf crabapple trees.

The previous months minutes were accepted as presented with one change to the spelling of Hordon Health.

Meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 03-12-13
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Trish Baumer called to order at 6:33 pm. 13 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.

Meeting notes from previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Horticulture Report by Robyn Reed

The first volunteer meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 3rd at 6:00pm. Plan to meet at the shed. Robyn requested to have the Gala materials taken out of the shed to make room for the horticulture tools and supplies. A shelving unit has been added but there is not enough room for all of the Gala material. All agreed there was an opportunity to clean/throw away old materials. The decision was made for a small group to meet at the shed on Sunday, March 7th at 9:00am. Robyn to invite Meghan, Kim, Laurie and Beverly.

Membership Report by Beverly Knight

The primary focus is promoting the Membership Social to be held on March 21st from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at the Living Room. Beverly to speak with Christina about possibly doing an Outlook invite for this event. Newsletters will be sent out as reminders and Ford will ensure Matt is aware and publicizes the event. This is an opportunity to bring someone who may want to get involved in the Park to learn more. Most Board members will be attending the event. Appetizers and cash bar will be offered.

Following the Social, invitations will be sent to about 600 people from the FOCCP database. The membership mailing will be a bulk mailing this year and the actual mail piece will be a very nice invitation; according to Beverly, "it will look sharp!" Handouts will be provided at the April meeting for members to distribute to friends to promote membership. April/May is officially membership time! Renewals can happen anytime. An extract of the database will be done and there was some discussion on how to best accomplish this task. Beverly to discuss further with Meghan and Ford.

Website and Internet Communications Report by Christina Sperry

Meghan Denenberg reported on behalf of Christina. The March newsletter was sent on March 5th to 581 addresses. There were 208 opens (37.1%) and 21 (3.6%) bounce-backs. These numbers are about average for monthly newsletters. It is interesting to note the number of people subscribed to the newsletter has consistently increased over the past year. In March 2012, the newsletter went to 479 addresses, so we've increased outreach by nearly 100 addresses.

Ford Cavallari, who has been reviewing the database, indicated that membership has gone up consistently; about 20-25% each year.

Infrastructure Report by Ford Cavallari

Ford provided an update on the Circle project.

- The goal is to send the RFP (request for proposal) out to potential landscape architects by April 15th.
- The Circle will be about 1200 square feet vs. the current size of about 400 square feet.
- Plantings and irrigation will be the primary focus.

Trish provided additional information from Joanne regarding the Circle project.

- The draft of the RFP for the services of a landscape architect has been sent to Liza Meyer, the Park's Department's Chief Landscape architect.
- Also helping FOCCP on the project will be Boston Parks Project Manager, Sherri Geldersma.
- Liza and Sherry are reviewing the draft of the RFP and our timing of events.
- Trish acknowledged and thanked Robyn Reed, Patricia Sabbey for their help on the RFP.

Ford is starting an initiative focused on the Trellis Lighting and will plan to include Jay Thompson. He indicated Danny Nuzzo believes the lighting system will need to be renewed and we will need to obtain input from the City of Boston. We are hopeful the City will take on this project. Trellis lights will turn off right after the marathon.

Joan reported some granite has been chipped due to trucks plowing the snow and kids skateboarding. We discussed added reflective sticks for the snowplows. Joan also reported a missing barrel previously located near the Circle area. Ford will look in to both of these issues.

Treasurer's Report by Virginia Kimball

Virginia let us know there is very little going on given the time of year. There is very little revenue and expenses and we have not touched the CD's. Below is a summary of Expenses, Income and Account Balances for January and February.

EXPENSES	January	YTD	February	YTD
Savings Account	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00
Constant Contact	\$ 37.19	\$ 37.19	\$ 37.19	\$ 74.38
Park Maintenance	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00		\$2,400.00
Totals:		\$2,487.19	\$ 87.19	\$2,574.38

INCOME

Donations				
Note Cards	\$ 92.00	\$ 92.00		\$ 92.00
Membership	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 60.00
Totals:		\$ 127.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 152.00

Account Balances:

Checking	\$ 72,067.03	\$ 69,554.84
Savings	\$ 52,329.69	\$ 52,337.72
CD	\$ 37,086.69	\$ 37,100.92
Money Market	\$102,958.54	\$102,962.49
TOTAL	\$264,441.95	\$261,955.97

Fundraising Report

No report this month

II. FOCCP Sunset Cruise Event

Virginia Kimball, Chair of the Sunset Cruise event, provide us with an update.

- Date has been set for Wednesday evening, July 17th.
- Boston Best Cruises will donate the boat again.
- We will likely use the same caterer.
- There will be a cash bar.
- The cost per ticket is estimated to be the same as last year, \$45.00.

The previous months minutes were accepted as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
 Monthly Meeting Minutes 04-09-13
 Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:42 pm. 25 people were in attendance.

Meeting recorded by Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.
 Meeting notes from previous meeting were distributed.

The Board members in attendance were introduced at the beginning of the meeting.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report by Virginia Kimball

EXPENSES	January	YTD	February	YTD	March	YTD
Horticulture					\$ 129.90	\$ 129.90
Membership					\$ 568.78	\$ 568.78
Savings						
Account	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00
Constant						
Contact	\$ 37.19	\$ 37.19	\$ 37.19	\$ 74.38	\$ 37.19	\$ 111.57
Park						
Maintenance	\$ 2,400.00	2,400.00		\$2,400.00		\$ 2,400.00
Casino Night					\$ 49.03	\$ 49.03
Totals		2,487.19	\$ 87.19	\$2,574.38	\$ 834.90	\$ 3,409.28

INCOME

Donations					\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Note Cards	\$ 92.00	\$ 92.00		\$ 92.00		\$ 92.00
Membership	\$ 35.00	\$ 35.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 60.00	\$1,060.00	\$ 1,120.00
Totals		\$127.00	\$ 25.00	\$152.00	\$1,160.00	\$ 1,312.00

Account Balances

Checking	\$ 72,067.03		\$ 69,554.84		\$68,694.04
Savings	\$ 52,329.69		\$ 52,337.72		\$52,396.62
CD	\$ 37,086.69		\$ 37,100.92		\$37,116.67
Money					
Market	\$102,958.54		\$102,962.49		\$102,966.86
Totals:	\$264,441.95		\$261,955.97		\$261,174.19

Membership Report by Beverly Knight

The membership drive is currently in process. This year, a different approach has been taken and you will receive by mail a membership invitation soon. Please join or renew right away. If you have already joined or if you sign up online, please share the membership invite with a friend or neighbor. Membership levels are as follows:

Fountain:	\$ 25.00
Family:	\$ 35.00
Tree:	\$ 50.00
Rose Garden	\$ 100.00
Trellis:	\$ 500.00
Park:	\$1000.00

Beverly asked those in attendance to pick up 2 or 3 “calling cards” to distribute. Specific contact information can be written on the back. Please share with potential new members. Every new member is important and valuable to the Park.

Website and Internet Communications Report by Christina Sperry

Website:

Our website, foccp.org, no longer has a dedicated mobile version since it was buggy and wasn't displaying all the features of the main website the way we would have liked. It did load faster and not require as much phone scrolling as the main website, but now all features are available again no matter how you access the website, and it's important to us for everybody to always be able to access all events, safety, and other park information online.

Internet Communications:

A lot of email newsletter and notices were sent since the last meeting as FOCCP events increase with spring. Emails sent:

- * April 2013 newsletter
- * Two membership social invites
- * Membership drive notice
- * Special notice about the agenda for today's meeting

All emails were sent to an average number of addresses (approximately 580) and opened an average number of times (about 33%), though the special notice about today's meeting was opened the most at about 39% so thank you everybody who saw this and came today.

Links in the three membership-related emails were clicked double or triple the usual amount (approximately 10%) for non-newsletter emails, so it looks like they may have encouraged people to join/renew membership online, or at least investigate this option.

Infrastructure Report by Ford Cavallari

Infrastructure:

Ford is compiling a list of issues the parks department should address including cracked granite and broken railings. It has been a hard winter and there is a lot of damage. If you identify additional damage or issues in the park, please send an email to info@foccp.org. If you have pictures, send these along as well. The complete list of issues will be compiled in about a month and then given to the parks department.

At a recent Greenway session, Ford met with the horticulture/maintenance folks. It was a good opportunity to network and potentially work together.

Trellis:

Ford would like to rejuvenate the trellis task force recently led by Jay Thompson. We're within a year of needing replacement lights on the trellis. This group would assess the

situation and move things forward. There may be additional options to consider given new technology. Joanne mentioned that the trellis lights cost \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year and at times up to \$45,000 per year.

Database:

IT infrastructure has been showing its age, and we've had a working group pulled together to assess options. Google is being more and more leveraged and Gail Hudak's son-in-law, a CA-based Google employee, has offered to help us get even more value out of our non-profit license. The database migration is in its final stages; currently waiting for reviews.

Media:

There is a need to do a press release to announce events for this summer. Ford is working on this. He will include the Hordon event as well as the upcoming FOCCP sponsored events as shown on the website.

Horticulture Report by Ford Cavallari

Ford reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The first volunteer meeting, originally scheduled for April 3rd, will now take place on April 17th at 6:00 pm. The initial meeting was postponed due to weather. The gates to the rose garden are now open and the City will mulch the rose bed this week.

The garden shed was cleaned out thanks to Robyn, Meghan, Beverly and Laurie.

Fundraising Report

No report this month

II. On-Going Projects

Circle Project:

Joanne Hayes-Rines briefly gave a history of the area and described the project as a mini park within a park. The Circle Project, when completed, will triple the size of the current "circle" about 1200 square feet and be a place of tranquility and also include pathways to different areas. Plantings and irrigation will be the primary focus. 2 grants have already been awarded for this project, one for \$10,000 and a 2nd for \$20,000. The estimated total cost of the project is \$75,000.

Patricia Sabbey and Joanne Hayes-Rines met with Boston parks Project Manager, Sherri Geldersma to review the draft of our Request for Proposal (RFP) for the services of a landscape architect. Sherri is providing project development assistance and has made very good suggestions to improve the RFP. Sherri has been very helpful. The RFP will be send out by the end of April. The goal is to have the project ribbon cutting ceremony during the Columbus Day celebration on October 14th and have the Mayor in attendance. In order to accomplish this goal, we'll need to get a landscape architect moving quickly.

4th of July Celebration:

Laura Benevenuto and Kathleen Tedesco are co-chairs for this event. Laura provided an update and also passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to assist organizing and participating on the day of the event. They are working to solidify key people for the day of the event such as the man on stilts. Virginia reported she has some extra raffle prizes which could be used and it was agreed we would give away 2 tickets to the Harbor Cruise. Laura and Kathleen will be calling all vendors such as the magician and Big Joe the storyteller and then will have a meeting to discuss the details for planning the event with the volunteer group.

Summer Harbor Sunset Cruise:

Virginia Kimball let us know the date confirmed is Wednesday, July 17th. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend this fun event. Ticket price will be \$45.00 and include wonderful food, a great cruise around the harbor and a cash bar.

III. New Business

Dogs in the Park:

Joanne introduced Amy Hand, board member of RUFF, which stands for Responsible Urbanites for Fido. Amy has lived in Boston since 1994 and has been a permanent resident of the North End since 2007. She rescued a mix breed dog from Tennessee 5 years ago and has been a member of RUFF since its formal creation in June 2012. Amy let us know there were 12 members when the group first formed and now there are 200 + members from the North End, Beacon Hill, Charlestown and surrounding areas. The group meets monthly and takes part in picking up poop in the neighborhood and when needed in specific parks. They have led social groups including bocce, indoor dog playing, walks and wine tastings. Upcoming events include reading to children about dogs at the library. They have also done work at Spaulding Rehab. They are working to build awareness in the community including how to pick up poop and no dogs in any tot-lot. See ruffboston.org for more information on their mission and goals.

Mark Giannangelo also attended the meeting. He is the Animal Control Officer for the City of Boston.

What prompted this topic of discussion was the report of a dog owner being yelled at by another dog owner whose dog charged the man and his dog and his dog was not on a leash.

Below is a summary of what was communicated during the meeting:

- 1) RUFF representatives said Columbus Park is the hardest place for them to break into. Their experience is that those with dogs off leash are transient.
- 2) Our members' experience is that from 7am to 8am and from 6pm to 7pm the off-leash dogs are owned by local residents.
- 3) There's a sense that because of the prevalence of off-leash dogs some people believe the park is an off-leash park.
- 4) There is a sense of entitlement of those who have their dogs off leash in the park. They are antagonistic and verbally combative to anyone who asks them to leash their dogs. Ryan Zschau confirmed this by telling us of his recent experience.
- 5) Mark Giannangelo was very responsive. He let us know there are only 18 officers to monitor the entire city 24/7. He gave us the phone number to call to report dogs off leash. 617 635-5348
- 6) Mark also has a great relationship with a police sergeant in another area, and they work together on the off leash and other animal related issues.
- 7) Amy and Mark let us know it is most effective when a dog owner approaches another dog owner about leashing their dog.
- 8) If you know the person who is not leashing their dog, you can leave a message with the person's name and address. Mark's team will send them a notice.
- 9) Joan reported many of the poop bags miss the wastebasket and asked Amy to bring this up in the next RUFF meeting.
- 10) Mark volunteered to do an education session in the Park.
- 11) A separate area for unleashed dogs was discussed. RUFF is working on a dog park but it needs to be funded privately. Estimated cost is \$1M. Ideally the area would be fenced in for protection of children.
- 12) Additional signs in the CCP are needed. RUFF has laminated signs and will send the pdf to Joanne so signs can be made. Joanne to also reach out to Sgt. Lema and Toni Pollack regarding improved signage.

13) RUFF volunteered to stop by CCP during peak times to assist.

14) FOCCP will post the Animal Control number on our web site and bulletin board and, just as we call re: homeless, we'll call often to report.

The previous months minutes were accepted as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 05-14-13
Pilot House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:43 pm. 52 people were in attendance.

Meeting recorded by Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.

Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

Joanne Hayes-Rines welcomed everyone to the meeting and let the attendees know the agenda would include reports on recent and upcoming events followed by a discussion on the homeless issue in the Christopher Columbus Park.

The Board members in attendance were introduced along with special guests including city councilors Sal LaMattina and Steve Murphy and Felix Arroyo (arrived at approximately 7:15). Representatives from the offices of City Councilor Ayanna Pressley and State Representative Aaron Michlewitz were also there along with Phil Orlandella from the Regional Review. Matt Conti of northendwaterfront.com videotaped the meeting.

I. Annual FOCCP election

The first order of business was to review the ballot for FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large. Audrey Tortolani let the group know a vote was not necessary because it was an uncontested ballot. A motion to accept the nominated Officers and Directors-at-Large was moved and seconded and those listed below are now in the following positions for this current year.

President: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President: Ann Babbitt

Treasurer: Virginia Kimball

Clerk: Audrey Tortolani

Directors-at-Large: Meghan Denenberg & Joe Bono

II. Recent and Upcoming Event Reports

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided a brief overview of the FOCCP group. There are approximately 300 members of which 50 are very active and involved. There are multiple events this group coordinates throughout the year; some generate funds and other events either improve the Park or are focused on benefiting the community and bringing the neighborhood together.

Mayor Coffee Hour

Joanne Hayes-Rines let us know Mayor Menino's Neighborhood Coffee Hour will be held in the Christopher Columbus Park on Wednesday, May 15th from 9:30 - 10:30 am. All are welcome.

Memorial Day Musical Tribute

Joanne Hayes-Rines next introduced Brian Bishop, deputy commissioner the City of Boston's Veterans' Service office. He let us know of a concert in the Christopher Columbus Park to be held on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th at 6:30pm. The concert will be a musical tribute to our heroes and will feature the Metropolitan Wind Symphony and the Boston City Singers.

Tot Lot Clean up

Meghan Denenberg, who chaired this event, provided an overview of this successful cleanup and fun family social in the park. The cleanup took place on Saturday, May 4th and there were about 100 people who participated. Boston Fire brought Engine 8 to the park and allowed the kids to shoot water into the Boston Harbor. There was great entertainment for the kids including Big Joe the Storyteller and face painting and crafts by NEMPAC and the team from Kindercare. Everyone enjoyed free pizza provided by Benevento's - thanks Joe Bono! Meghan also acknowledged the help from Warren at the Parks Department who saved the day by getting new sand at the last minute. Thanks were also given to Exhale who donated raffle prizes; the raffle sales generated \$376.00. The total cost for this cleanup / family social event was \$570. Pictures of the event were passed around at the meeting.

Tree Planting

Joanne Hayes-Rines announced 2 dwarf crab apple trees were purchased and planted on Monday, May 6th. Sunstone Hotel Investors donated \$5000 to cover the costs to replace 2 trees lost during the storm this winter. Joanne handed out pictures of the newly planted trees, now in full bloom, and informed us Schumacher planted them. There were about 25 FOCCP members present including Lori Lilly, owner of Tia's restaurant that abuts the park and Representative Aaron Michlewitz.

Urban Oasis Project

Joanne Hayes-Rines briefly gave a history of the area associated with this project. She informed us there was not enough money to finish the Christopher Columbus project back in early 2000 and so the circle area outside of the Marriott was created but there was no water provided to this area. The Urban Oasis Project's goal is to enhance this space and create a mini park within a park. When completed, the current circle will triple its size to about 1200 square feet and be a place of tranquility and also include pathways to different areas. Plantings and irrigation will be the primary focus. Joanne displayed the large poster of the project and let the group know as a result of perseverance and hard work, 2 grants have already been awarded to FOCCP for this project, one for \$10,000 (Blossom Fund) and a 2nd for \$20,000 (Beautify Boston Grant). The estimated total cost of the project is \$80,000. The FOCCP is planning to raise the balance of the money needed.

Patricia Sabbey and Joanne Hayes-Rines have been working with the Boston Parks Department; specifically Project Manager, Sherri Geldersma to create the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the services of a landscape architect. Patricia and Joanne have also been working with Parks Department Commissioner Toni Pollak. The goal is to have the project ribbon cutting ceremony during the Columbus Day celebration on October 14th and have the Mayor in attendance.

Harbor Sunset Cruise

Virginia Kimball, who is chairing this event, let us know the date for the Harbor Cruise is Wednesday, July 17th. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend this fun event. Ticket price will be \$45.00 and include wonderful food from the same caterer as last year, a great cruise around the harbor and a cash bar. Thank you to Boston Best Cruises for their support of this event. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards covering the costs of the Columbus Day event on October 14th.

4th of July Celebration

Laura Benevenuto and Kathleen Tedesco are co-chairs of this event. Laura informed us this celebration is scheduled for June 29th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm and there will be lots of family activities. The very popular Uncle Sam on stilts, along with a magician, and T-Bone (show for children) will provide entertainment. Michele Brogan volunteered to contact NEMPAC to confirm their involvement as well. Laura is following up with Boston Fire to see if they can provide a fire engine. Similar to previous years, the event will begin with a parade around the park and all will be given small flags to carry. Raffle tickets will be sold

throughout the day. Laura encouraged all to volunteer on the day of the event to assist in organizing. The cost of the event is estimated at \$3500 for vendors, balloons etc.

Membership Update

Beverly Knight, chair of this committee, shared the status of the current membership drive. There is a 40% growth in membership over last year and the goal is to continue to communicate the value of membership so we can involve more people. Beverly announced a members-only welcome reception at the new Palm Restaurant. More details on this event will be provided in the near future.

Movies in the Park

Audrey Tortolani provided an update on the movies in the park to be shown each Sunday evening at dusk beginning on July 14th - August 18th. This year's movies have not been finalized yet but some recommendations from members include Toy Story, Top Gun and Karate Kid. Thank you to Joe Bono of Al Dente, Benevento's and Boston Pushcart for again sponsoring movie night at Christopher Columbus Park. They are very popular; often times with 100 plus people in attendance.

Trellis Lights

Joanne Hayes-Rines informed us the Trellis Lights and 14 trees are lighted from November - mid April each year and the cost to the FOCCP group is about \$35,000 per year and up to \$45,000 per year when the lights need to be replaced. Ford Cavallari and Joanne will be meeting with the electrician to see whether or not all of the blue lights will need to be replaced this year. Ford has sourced different LEDs which seem to be more durable and should last much longer than 3-4 years. The cost will be greater but, amortized over a longer period, should save money.

Joanne ended this reporting section of the meeting by saying the FOCCP group is always adding something new each year. Whether a new event in the park, trees or general improvement, this very active, all-volunteer group will continue to focus on enhancements to the Christopher Columbus Park. Joanne thanked Sal LaMattina for his continued support.

III. Homeless Issue in the Park

Joanne started this discussion by acknowledging we have all seen many changes in the area including the Big Dig and Greenway project. The homeless people are a constant and it was agreed over the years, they have moved around from place to place and are often found in parks around Boston.

Joanne shared a recent experience in the Christopher Columbus Park. A 30 year old homeless man was murdered, presumably by another homeless person, who pushed him off the chain link fence into the water. The father of victim contacted Joanne via email and asked about police presence at the scene. Joanne communicated her experience and assured him there were many officers involved and taking an active role in the investigation of what happened.

Joanne also shared another experience with the homeless in the Tot Lot last April, 2012. A father reported finding a razor blade and blood smeared in the tunnels. When Joanne heard about the incident, she went to the park and was dismayed to find nothing had been done and children were still playing in the Tot Lot. She closed down the Tot Lot and then made many phone calls to ensure the situation was addressed quickly and appropriately. The process included using pine sol to clean the area and during questioning, learned there was no protocol for handling this type of scenario.

Joanne also let the group know the FOCCP Horticulture committee regularly finds drug paraphernalia including used needles in the rose garden. The horticulture group now wears closed toe shoes and gloves when working in the garden.

Jim Greene, director of the emergency shelter commission was recognized at the meeting for attending the May 2012 FOCCP meeting to address this issue. Joanne has also attended some of his meetings. Joanne has spoken with Sgt Lema of A-1 and he has been very helpful; he is on speed dial. Sgt Lema has encouraged all members to call 911 each time they see a homeless person in the Tot Lot or doing something inappropriate in the park. Toni Pollak has also been very involved and had new spotlights put in the playground 5 weeks after the incident of razors and blood on the playground equipment. The spotlights are not always effective; Joanne experienced a scenario late one night where the homeless people had put up cardboard to block the light. Joanne acknowledged both Sgt Lema and Toni Pollack for their responsiveness. Joanne then opened the floor up to the councilors for comment.

Sal LaMattina thanked the FOCCP for their involvement with the park. He explained there is a 16 million per year budget for all the 200 plus parks in the City of Boston. 11million of the 16 million goes toward salaries and 5 million to maintenance. In summary, there are lots of homeless issues in Boston parks and not enough resources and money. He will be going to a hearing soon and will propose additional money to be allocated to the parks. He reminded us - if we see something, say something and call the Mayors hot line, 617 635-4300.

Steve Murphy spoke next and suggested dedicated patrols to go through the park at regular times. He also indicated the park rangers could be a resource and suggested having a park ranger assigned to Christopher Columbus Park. He indicated he appreciates all the FOCCP group does for the park.

Felix Arroyo spoke next and also thanked the FOCCP for their involvement in the park. He said it was one of the best parks in the city. He does think it is reasonable to ask for a police patrol in the area. He believes the issue is bigger than our park. There are both substance abuse and mental health issues affecting the homeless population. The city needs to deal with the root cause of the issue. He suggested a two prong approach; address the long term issue by dealing with the substance abuse and mental health issues and short term, all should employ the "see something, say something" mantra.

Jim Greene explained he has a staff of 3 and they do their best to address all issues including calls from homeless people and their families. Given the 200 plus parks in the city, Jim indicated it's difficult to monitor all parks. He indicated as recently as last year, there were about 80 homeless people staying at South Station and about 60 homeless people at North Station. Although he recognized there are substance abuse issues and needles being found in the rose garden, these may not always be the result of a homeless person doing drugs. Jim let us know the person who died in the park had not been seen by the outreach team.

Jim Greene let us know the Pine Street van has driven by the park the last 14 nights and have found 4 people in the park. The outreach programs are stretched thin but he advised us to keep them informed of any issues. He also let us know the homeless shelters are over capacity. He encouraged the group to let him know what can be done to improve communications. He welcomes the opportunity to work with us especially knowing the warmer weather will likely result in more homeless people in the park.

Joe, an attendee at the meeting who lives on Atlantic Ave, spoke about his concerns, particularly about the Tot Lot. He emphasized there is a need for a resolution "tomorrow" vs. short term. He asked, what can be done to ensure our kids don't find blood in the park and what can be done to keep the homeless people away?

A second person at the meeting spoke up about walking in the park with their grandchildren and hearing homeless people swearing. How can this be deterred? This person asked, what can be done today and how is money currently being spent? Sal LaMattina responded by saying he would speak with Captain Lee and Sgt Lema. He would advise them to check the Tot Lot each morning at 6:00 am.

Jeanine, a member of FOCCP spoke next. As a nurse, she indicated due to multiple syringes being found, she is not bringing her granddaughter to the Tot Lot. She asked, what can be done to protect the children? She suggested a higher fence around the Tot Lot and to

lock it at night. Sal LaMattina appeared open to this idea and indicated he will speak with Toni Pollak.

Joanne mentioned her trip to NYC to participate in a Parks conference. She specifically toured some of the NYC playgrounds and many were surrounded by wrought iron fences and locked at night. She suggested a 6 foot fenced in area could expand the current Tot Lot down to Atlantic Avenue and indicated it should be locked each evening from May through October.

Meghan Denenberg, reached out to the local mothers group and obtained their input on a fence around the Tot Lot. There were 27 mothers who provided their feedback. In general, they liked the idea and particularly if it would make the Tot Lot area larger. She read the feedback she received from one mother.

"I am beyond fed up with homeless people sleeping in the playground. Sorry to sound like an alarmist but by the end of last summer I had called 911 probably 5 times and every time I took the kids I would walk the entire playground looking for blood, feces, urine, needles, bottles (threw away one filled with urine once because I kept picturing any of our kids getting their hands on it, etc. before letting them play. I am a pretty chill person but after coming across many homeless people sleeping there I felt I have to be this extreme. There are pro's and con's to this but the homeless issue is only getting worse. I have not had good response from the police and have been asked to please go get very close to the person sleeping to make sure they are alive while holding my baby. I have had pretty negative experience trying to remove homeless people."

Meghan will forward a summary of the feedback she received from the mother's group to the city councilors. Sal LaMattina indicated he would support, at a city councilor hearing, a fenced in Tot Lot and locking it at night.

Michelle Brogan asked how the Boston Common handles homeless people. It was explained the police move the homeless people around. Also, because there are park rangers assigned to the Boston Common, they assist in addressing the issue.

Below is a summary of additional comments made during the meeting by those in attendance.

- Concern was expressed about homeless people in other areas outside of Christopher Columbus Park including the park across from Emack & Bolio's.
- Focus should be on keeping the Tot Lot safe; concern about the children.
- A police bike patrol in the park vs. just police cars was suggested.
- Surveillance cameras in the park were recommended.
- In response to the camera idea, Joanne said, we want to eliminate the issue vs. watch the issue.
- A representative from the Rose Kennedy Greenway mentioned they were dealing with the same issues and he would like to see more police presence.
- When asked if there was a special homeless unit as part of the police who take people to the shelters the response was yes, however, there are only 2 people. There is a need for more homeless shelters and more people focused on this issue.
- It was recommended to speak with Logan Airport about how their operations staff handles the homeless since they do a very good job.
- We need to focus on the Christopher Columbus Park Tot Lot; we want parents to feel safe and to keep the children safe.

Joanne emphasized we need to take action soon. She goes to the park most mornings now at 6:00 am to monitor the Tot Lot.

The previous months minutes were accepted with one change noted. Two Harbor Cruise tickets will be offered as a raffle prize at the 4th of July celebration in place of Gala tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 06-11-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:37 pm. 18 people were in attendance.

Meeting recorded by Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.

Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

Joanne Hayes-Rines welcomed guests Marchelle Jacques-Yarde from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and Ernest "Duke" Bennett, Constituent Services for Boston City Councilor Charles C. Yancey.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

I. Committee Reports

Horticulture

Robyn Reed reported there was a spectacular bloom of the wisteria this year. Fungus was noticed on the wisteria; Robyn and team are working on addressing this situation. In the crescent area, the day lilies are ready to bloom. In the rose garden, the first rose bloom happened and it was wonderful. Several rose bushes did not bloom as expected and she is looking into why this happened.

There were initially some missteps in the locking and unlocking of the rose garden gate. This has been rectified; as FOCCP now have the keys. There was discussion about locking the gate minimally on Saturday evening. Before the lock up was happening, the Horticulture committee members would find beer bottles, blankets, clothing, drug paraphernalia and human waste in the rose garden area. Maryann provided some background on the history of the park. Before the renovation, the park was not family friendly. It has become a much safer and family friendly park due to changes such as locking the rose garden and fixing lights.

Membership

Meredith Piscitelli reported the following information on behalf of Beverly Knight.

176 current paid members

48 new members

128 renewals

\$8750 revenue generated from membership

253 "Likes" on Facebook

Website & Internet Communications

Meghan Denenberg reported on behalf of Christina Sperry.

June 2013 News Update

Since the last FOCCP monthly meeting, one email newsletter was sent out to our mailing list. The June 2013 newsletter was sent on June 4th to 810 addresses, with 265 opens (36.5%) and 83 un-deliverables (10.2%). This number of opens is average, though the bounce back number is a bit higher than usual. This is probably because our database has been undergoing editing since May and probably had some old email addresses imported from our records.

May 2013 News Update

Three emails were sent to our mailing list in May. First was a reminder on May 1st about the May 4th Tot Lot Clean-up, which was sent to 808 addresses with 253 opens and 83 un-deliverables. Second was the May 2013 newsletter sent on May 7th to 820 addresses with

269 opens and 81 un-deliverables. This newsletter was extra long (as was the June newsletter) as FOCCP kicks off its busy summer season of events in and for the park. Third was a reminder on May 13th about last month's special monthly meeting with city councilor guests. It was sent to 814 addresses (including the councilors' offices) with 280 opens and 85 un-deliverables.

Facebook

There are a lot of events happening all summer in the park. "Like" the FOCCP page on Facebook for the most timely access to photos and videos from these events. Meredith (our Facebook manager) does a great job keeping things up-to-date! We also welcome you to send us any of your photos or videos by email (info@foccp.org) so we can share on Facebook. You can find a link to our Facebook page in any email newsletter and on our website.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari thanked everyone who had contributed pictures of damaged items in the park such as cracked granite and tree issues. He encouraged all to submit any additional issues. Blog at damage.foccp.org or email at damage@foccp.org.

Ford also mentioned the dogs not on leash in the park issue and let us know we could submit these types of issues via blog at dogs.foccp.org or email dogs@foccp.org. Concern was expressed about children being knocked over by dogs not on a leash and police have been unresponsive to 911 calls. Signage in the park regarding dogs is not effective; it was suggested these signs should be redesigned to focus on the leash issue and also be placed in areas where dog owners can see easily. Joanne let the group know new signs have been put up by the city but to no avail. She has sent an email to Animal Control officer Mark Giannangelo to see if it would be possible to hire an off-duty officer. He has not responded.

Marchelle Jacques-Yarde from the Parks Department let us know dogs off leash is a "citywide problem". Ernest "Duke" Bennett, also from the Parks Department suggested calling the mayor's hot line (617 635-4300) and asking for a tracking number. He explained the more people who complain the greater attention the issue will receive. Ford let Marchelle and Duke know the times where you can find the most number of dogs off leash which are: 5:30 - 7:00 pm and 6:30 - 8:30 am.

MaryAnn Esparo asked if there was anything illegal about taking pictures of dogs off leash and their owners. It was agreed these pictures could be sent to the control officer but they cannot be posted to a public website. Bottom line is you can't use pictures to "damage" a person. Robyn Reed let the group know this was also a key issue for the Greenway.

Joan Murphy let us know skateboards were still an issue in the park. They are taking the slates off the granite so they can skateboard on the granite and this is causing damage. Ford also indicated some of the granite damage could have been caused by a snowplow. Joan agreed and suggested they plow a narrower section so as to limit the damage. Ford also let us know the lighting fixture bases have also been damaged; likely by the snowplow. It was also mentioned the oil barrel trash containers need to be replaced. This is a long-standing request.

Ford updated us on the Trellis lighting. He met with John Lentine to discuss the lighting options and have identified options for more efficient lights. They are now in discussions with the electrician. The core lighting fixture may be replaced with LED lights to enable year round lighting in in specific areas of the park. They have discussed doing a prototype to test in certain areas. Joanne explained to Duke it costs FOCCP about \$25,000 per year to light the Trellis and trees however, when the lights need to be replaced, the cost increases to approximately \$40,000 per year.

Ford provided an update on recent press release activities. He is creating a press release for the 3 upcoming events in the park including the NEWHBA Health event (June 22nd), 4th of July celebration (June 29th) and Opera (June 30th). The primary focus will be on the 4th of July event FOCCP is coordinating which will be held on June 29th. There was press activity on the tree-planting event held on May 6th but no TV coverage.

II. Recent and Upcoming Event Reports

Urban Oasis Project

Joanne Hayes-Rines briefly gave a history of the area associated with this project. She informed us there was not enough money to finish the Christopher Columbus project back in early 2000 and so the circle area outside of the Marriott was created but there was no water provided to this area. The Urban Oasis Project's goal is to enhance this space and when completed, the current circle will triple its size to about 1200 square feet and be a place of tranquility and also include pathways to different areas. Plantings and irrigation will be the primary focus. 2 grants have already been awarded to FOCCP for this project, one for \$10,000 (Blossom Fund) and a 2nd for \$20,000 (Beautify Boston Grant). The estimated total cost of the project is between \$80,000 and \$85,000. The FOCCP is planning to raise the balance of the money needed.

Joanne let us know they did an RFQ (request for qualification) in order to select a landscape architect. The RFQ was sent to 3 companies. 1 company declined to respond and 2 sent their proposals. On Tuesday, June 4th, members of the Urban Oasis project committee along with the Boston Parks Department project manager Sherri Geldersma met with 2 design firms; Bellalta 3 Design of Brookline and Crosby Schlessinger and Smallridge of Boston. The committee members were Patricia Sabbey, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Patricia Sabbey, co-chairs, Ann Babbitt, Ford Cavallari, Meghan Denenberg, and Virginia Kimball. Robyn Reed was unable to attend.

Each firm presented their proposals and responded to a series of questions from the committee. Each firm also suggested a few parks to tour. Because of their creativity, enthusiasm and energy for the project, Bellalta 3 Design was chosen. An acceptance letter has been sent and a contract now needs to be drafted. The committee will meet with Antonia Bellalta and Felipe Bellalta tomorrow for the first step toward design. Parks Department project manager Sherri Geldersma has been an invaluable help. Joanne passed around the proposals so everyone could view them.

Patricia Sabbey described the vision of the space as an "oasis" and a place for people to "find peace"; "a mini park within a park". There will be lots of green since it will have a water source. There will be curving pathways to slow people down as they walk through. There may be some benches but there is some concern about the homeless using these benches to sleep. One thought is to make the benches either smaller or have curved benches. Other ideas discussed included having a view of the harbor, spray fountain, fabric or stonework design, sculpture, low maintenance plantings at different heights and colorful all year round. The other creative thought is to have a water bottle filling station.

Joanne informed everyone there would be a separate maintenance fund for the urban oasis area so the Horticulture committee would not be responsible for maintaining this new area. We also learned FOCCP could sell benches since it is an FOCCP project. Funding for the maintenance will come from corporate sponsors, money raised via FOCCP events and membership donations and selling benches. It was also mentioned that in the future, we may be able to sell bricks in the rose garden.

4th of July Celebration

Laura Benevenuto and Kathleen Tedesco are co-chairs of this event. Kathleen informed us the celebration is scheduled for June 29th from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm and there will be lots of family activities. The entertainment for the children will include the very popular Uncle Sam on stilts, along with a magician, T-Bone (show for children), Big Joe the Storyteller, NEMPAC crafts, Tanglewood Marionettes, Aquarium Tide Pool, and lawn games. Posters have been created for this event and were passed around at the meeting. Meredith will be taking the lead to distribute the posters around the North End.

Kathleen let us know everything has been ordered e.g. tables, flags etc. She encouraged all to volunteer on the day of the event to assist before (set-up) and after (cleanup) the event.

Harbor Sunset Cruise

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an update. Virginia Kimball is chairing the Harbor Sunset Cruise event scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, July 17th. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend this fun event. Ticket price will be \$45.00 and include wonderful food (caterer to be determined), a great cruise around the harbor thanks to Boston Best Cruises and a cash bar. Order your tickets by going to www.foccp.org. Invitations have been sent to sponsors to be FOCCP guests as a thank you for their support. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards covering the costs of the Columbus Day event on October 14th.

Movies in the Park

Joanne Hayes-Rines let us know the movies in the park will be shown each Sunday evening at dusk beginning on July 14th - August 18th. This year's movies have not been finalized yet. We will need volunteers for set-up, and to introduce the movie and welcome people. Ford asked if Joe has electricity for the movies and no one was sure if his food cart had power. Marchelle volunteered to look into this for us. Thank you to Joe Bono of Al Dente, Benevento's and Boston Pushcart for again sponsoring movie night at Christopher Columbus Park.

Health and Beauty Expo

Robyn Reed provided an update on this event scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm. Marc Hordon from HordON HEALTH is the organizer of the North End Waterfront Health and Beauty Alliance (NEWHBA) event. There will be live music and exercise classes all day at Christopher Columbus Park. They have promoted the appearance of Boston Bruins player, Andrew Ference who may or may not be present depending on the playoffs. Marc would like to make this an annual event assuming it is well received. FOCCP has "blessed" this event by lending our name. We want to monitor so we can make an informed decision about whether we want to endorse next year. It was agreed we need people to staff the FOCCP table from 11:00 am to 3 or 4:00 pm.

III. Homeless Issue in the Park

Joanne recapped the discussions during the last meeting related to the homeless issue in the park. She shared her recent experience in the Christopher Columbus Park where a 30 year old homeless man was murdered, presumably by another homeless person, who pushed him off the chain link fence into the water. The father of victim contacted Joanne via email and asked about police presence at the scene. Joanne communicated her experience and assured him there were many officers involved and taking an active role in the investigation of what happened.

Joanne also shared another experience with the homeless in the Tot Lot last April, 2012. A father reported finding a razor blade and blood smeared in the tunnels. When Joanne heard about the incident, she went to the park and was dismayed to find nothing had been done and children were still playing in the Tot Lot. She closed down the Tot Lot and then made many phone calls to ensure the situation was addressed quickly and appropriately. The process included using Pine Sol to clean the area and during questioning, learned there was no protocol for handling this type of scenario.

Joanne also shared the story of finding more homeless people in the Tot Lot area 5 weeks after the incident of razors and blood on the playground equipment. Toni Pollak had been very involved and had new spotlights put in the playground. However, she explained the spotlights are not always effective; Joanne experienced a scenario late one night where the homeless people had put up cardboard to block the light.

Joanne reviewed additional information about what was discussed during the previous meeting where the City Councilors attended including stories told by neighbors in attendance about their experience with the homeless. She also let the group know one idea discussed was a higher fence around the tot lot and to extend this fence beyond the existing tot lot area.

Joanne has had ongoing discussions with both Sargent Lema and Toni Pollack and has appreciated their responsiveness. Last Monday she met with Sal LaMattina, Captain Lee and Sargent Lema. She explained that the Captain and Sargent were not invited to the FOCCP meeting in May because we wanted to hear ideas from the City Councilors on their plans for the homeless. Captain Lee told Joanne, Christopher Columbus has a "very safe playground". From his perspective, we are in "pretty good shape". He sees fights and more serious issues in other parks in the city. Sargent Lema said the "shelters are full" and the homeless come to Christopher Columbus Park because "the people are nice".

Meghan Denenberg let the group know she recently received a call from a local mother who reported bedding under the Tot Lot equipment. Joanne went to the Tot Lot and pulled out from under the equipment a white blanket and sheet and threw it away.

Brian Brant asked if he could come to the meeting after he listened to the videotape of the last meeting. He said he appreciates the group and expressed admiration for both the group and Joanne. He had some misconceptions after listening to the video and met with Sargent Lema. He explained vagrancy is not illegal and people can sleep on the streets. Joanne explained she had read the park rules and clarified no one is allowed to sleep in any Boston park between the hours of 11:30 pm and 6:00 am..

Brian indicated "police are friends of all, including homeless". He quoted Sargent Lema as saying "homeless people have rights", "it's a societal problem". Brian also stated "police are frontline" and there are "1500 people living on the streets" of Boston and "7000 homeless". He also stated there are "2000 children homeless in Boston".

Brian also provided us with the following information:

- o HIV lives outside of the body for 18 minutes
- o Homeless people need sunscreen
- o Veteran shelters are a great place for men. They need clothing, socks, shower flops, suits, ties, and shoes (odd sizes).
- o To learn more about the homeless, access the following websites: bphc.org (Boston Public Health Commission) and fobh.org (Friends of Boston Homeless)

Brian was initially concerned about FOCCP being "insensitive" to the homeless. He said he came in with "a chip on shoulder" and he is "glad he came." Ann Babbitt stated our primary concern is the children. Our focus is to put the safety of the children before homeless people.

IV. New Business and Announcements

Joanne let us know there is a community meeting on Climate Change and Rising Tide on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at 6:30 pm at the Fairmount Battery Wharf Hotel (Great Admiral Building - #4) and Captain William Sturgis Room (Enter across from main hotel entrance). Julie Wormser, Executive Director of the Boston Harbor Association will lead the discussion and examine the climate change impacts in New England and coastal flooding vulnerability. Also discussed will be State policies on climate change and mitigation measure underway along with adaptation options. All residents and property owners are invited to attend.

Marchelle Jacques-Yarde of the Boston Parks and Recreation Department discussed the open space community meeting notice and survey. The meeting will take place in multiple libraries throughout June. The Boston Public Library meeting will be held on June 22, 2013 at 10:30 am. The purpose of the meeting is to hear about the Open Space Plan 2015-2021 Survey and how each of us can help the Boston Parks Department make parks and open space better. According to an email from Marchelle, she states "...The Open Space Plan will look at all public open space, regardless of ownership, including parks, playgrounds, squares, malls, urban wilds, community gardens, cemeteries, greenways, trails, thoroughfares, and harbor islands. The Plan will also look at city residents to understand demographic and socio-economic trends which impact the use of open space."

To fill out the online questionnaire, visit www.cityofboston.gov/parks/about/questionnaire.asp.
The survey will run until the end of September.

A paper questionnaire can be obtained by emailing openspaceplan2015@cityofboston.gov (Subject line: Open Space Plan Questionnaire REQUEST) or by writing to Boston Parks and Recreation Department, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02118 Attention: Open Space Plan Questionnaire REQUEST

Marchelle also informed us the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will be holding its popular summer series of ParkARTS Watercolor Painting Workshops during the month of June at four Boston locations. The series of eight workshops is for budding artists ages nine and up and these hands-on watercolor painting workshops enable participants to create their own greenspace-inspired masterpieces. The free workshops include instruction and material provide by Blick Art Material. All classes are held from noon to 2:00 pm weather permitting. The workshops will be held in Christopher Columbus Park on Sunday June 16th and June 23rd.

The final update Marchelle provided us was the Mayor's Garden contest. Below is information about this contest from the City of Boston website.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino reminds Boston's green thumbs that they have until Friday, July 12, to register for Mayor Menino's 2013 Garden Contest presented by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department and sponsored by Comcast with a grand prize provided by JetBlue.

Launched 17 years ago as part of Mayor Menino's citywide beautification initiative, the contest recognizes gardeners who have landscaped, planted flowers, trees, and shrubs, and, in the process, helped beautify Boston's neighborhoods.

Gardeners or those nominating their favorite gardeners may find nomination forms at www.cityofboston.gov/parks/gardencontest. First place winners will receive the coveted "Golden Trowel" award from Mayor Menino and prize packages from the Parks Department, Comcast, Mahoney's Garden Centers of Brighton, and other sponsors at an awards ceremony in August in the Public Garden.

All finalists in this year's Garden Contest will also be entered into a drawing for a JetBlue Grand Prize consisting of round-trip flights for four to any nonstop destination from Boston. Terms, conditions, and blackout dates apply.

Last year the Garden Contest announced a Hall of Fame. Gardeners who have won three or more times in the last ten years will be automatically entered into the Hall of Fame and will be recognized at the awards ceremony in late August. These distinguished Hall-of-Famers will be ineligible to enter as contestants but are welcome to return as judges.

To enter the contest, apply online at www.cityofboston.gov/parks/gardencontest or pick up entry forms at Boston City Hall, Boston Community Centers, and Boston Public Library branches. For more information please call (617) 961-3051.

The previous months minutes were accepted with a couple of grammatical changes noted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 07-09-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:34 pm. 28 people were in attendance.

Meeting recorded by Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.

Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

Joanne Hayes-Rines welcomed guests Antonia Bellalta and Felipe Bellalta of 3 Design who will present the design approaches for Urban Oasis.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Audrey Tortolani reviewed the Treasurers Report prepared by Virginia Kimball.

EXPENSES YTD (Through June 2013)

Horticulture	\$ 190.55
Membership	\$ 2,164.51
Constant Contact	\$ 223.14
Park Maintenance	\$ 7,630.00
Casino Night '12	\$ 49.03
Casino Night '13	\$ 500.00
July 4 th	\$ 3,494.05
Gifts	\$ 400.25
Blossom Fund	\$ 98.66
Meeting Fee	\$ 50.00
Tot Lot Cleanup	\$ 569.94
Comm of Mass	\$ 45.00
General	\$ 251.83
Trellis	\$ 5,105.00

Savings Account \$ 300.00

INCOME

Donations	\$ 100.00
Note Cards	\$ 152.00
Tot Lot Raffle	\$ 406.00
Membership	\$ 9,895.00
Online Membership	\$ 2,740.00

Account Balances

Checking	\$ 63,964.96
Savings	\$ 52,572.80
CD	\$ 37,162.96
Money Market	\$102,979.69

Horticulture

Robyn Reed reported the roses looked wonderful this year and overall she is happy with how the season has progressed thus far. The committee is now busy deadheading. There were initially 23 rose bushes in trouble but now only 2 are struggling. Due to lots of love, a majority of the rose bushes are doing very well. In the crescent area, both the day lilies and echinacea are doing well.

Locking the rose garden has resulted in a lot less debris than in the past. The Horticulture committee meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:30. All are welcome. Please plan to wear close-toed shoes.

Membership

Beverly Knight reported the following information.

Revenue from membership donations: \$12,865.00

Expenses for the membership mailing: \$ 2100.00

There are 260 current paid members

68 new members

192 renewals

Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following information.

The monthly newsletter was sent on July 2, 2013 to 839 addresses, with a 34.9% open rate (262 opens) and 10.6% bounces (89) bounces. These are typical numbers.

Two special emails were sent. One was sent on June 14, 2013 about the Independence Day celebration on June 29, and the second on July 6, 2013 about this meeting and how we'll be discussing the Urban Oasis project and welcoming community input. These emails were sent to about the same number of addresses as the monthly newsletter, with the meeting email having a 35.5% open rate (263 opens) and the celebration email being opened a bit more at 41.2% (304 opens). More evidence that emails with unique subjects tend to get opened a bit more than our regular newsletter emails.

Thank you to the members who have been working hard on upgrading our data management systems, particularly Ford Cavallari and Meredith Piscitelli, which will help us keep in better contact with our members and mailing list.

Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook manager) let us know there are many people from different countries who visit the FOCCP Facebook. She thanked those who have "Liked" the Facebook page and encouraged all to visit often as there are many stories and pictures. You can find a link to the FOCCP Facebook page in any email newsletter and on our website.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari informed us the FOCCP database is set to change from Homestead to Google; the switch is happening tomorrow, July 10th. Meredith Piscitelli is doing a majority of the data input into Google. Thank you Meredith!

To report any damage in the park, continue to submit via the blog at damage.foccp.org or email at damage@foccp.org.

The Infrastructure committee will plan to meet next month. The primary topic will be the Trellis lights revamping plan.

II. Recent and Upcoming Event Reports

Independence Day Event

Kathleen Tedesco reported on the success of this recent event held on June 29th. Approximately 200 people attended and there were some great performers; some new and some returning. T-Bone, a new performance at this event, was well liked by all. All performers including Uncle Sam on stilts, the magician, Big Joe the Storyteller, and the Tanglewood Marionettes were terrific! The activities including NEMPAC crafts, Aquarium Tide Pool, and lawn games were also a big hit.

There were about 20 FOCCP volunteers who contributed to this great event including co-chairs Laura Benevenuto and Kathleen Tedesco. Thank you to all who participated in the planning and who volunteered on the actual day of the event. A special thank-you to Meghan's "little friends" who raised \$543.00!

Check out the FOCCP Facebook for a story and pictures of the event. There was also front page coverage on the Post Gazette and Regional Review. Thank you to Matt Conti for the wonderful photos he made available to both newspapers and posted on NorthEndWaterfront.com.

Health and Beauty Expo

The event held on Saturday, June 22nd by Marc Hordon from HordON HEALTH appeared to go well. There was an FOCCP table staffed however, it is not clear if any new members resulted from this event.

Harbor Sunset Cruise

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an update. Virginia Kimball is chairing the Harbor Sunset Cruise event scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, July 17th. Members and their guests are encouraged to attend. Ticket price will be \$45.00 and include wonderful food, a great cruise around the harbor thanks to Boston Best Cruises and a cash bar. The Voyager III boat will leave from the dock next to Christopher Columbus Park near the Boston Marriott Long Wharf Hotel. Boarding begins at 6:15 pm and the boat will set sail at 7:00 pm. Order your tickets by going to www.foccp.org or call Virginia Kimball at 617 742-5232. Posters about the event were made available for distribution at the meeting.

Movies in the Park

Joanne Hayes-Rines let us know the movies in the park will be shown each Sunday evening at dusk beginning on July 14th - August 18th. The first movie is this Sunday and Joanne needs volunteers to introduce the movies, welcome people and thank Joe Bono. Joanne created handouts for movie night; it lists all the summer movies and recognizes FOCCP's involvement, thanks sponsors and Joe Bono and includes dates for upcoming FOCCP events; Columbus Day celebration, Casino Night and Trellis Lighting.

Below is the list of movies scheduled for the summer of 2013:

July 14 th	Edward Scissorhands - Robyn Reed to introduce
July 21 st	Singing in the Rain - Ann Babbitt to introduce
July 28 th	Romancing the Stone - Joanne to introduce
August 4 th	Karate Kid (1984 version) - Joanne to introduce
August 11 th	Seabiscuit - Need someone to introduce
August 18 th	The Great Gatsby (1974 version)- Need someone to introduce

Power may still be an issue. We are waiting to hear back from the city. If this issue is not resolved by Thursday, an electrician will be contacted.

Thank you to Joe Bono of Al Dente, Benevenuto's and Boston Pushcart for again sponsoring movie night at Christopher Columbus Park.

Columbus Day Celebration

Ann Babbitt, who is chairing this event, is looking for volunteers to assist with the planning and also on the day of the event. A sign up sheet was passed around. The celebration will be held on Monday, October 14th. It was mentioned the Italian choir from the Dante Alighieri Center may be available; Ann to follow up.

November Fundraiser

Beverly Knight, who is one of the co-chairs of this event, provided an update. The venue will be new this year; Fairmount Battery Wharf. The date is Saturday, November 16th and the event will include casino games and dancing. More details will be provided during the next meeting.

III. Urban Oasis Project Presentation

Joanne Hayes-Rines showed a picture of the existing area and briefly gave a history of the area associated with this project. She informed us there was not enough money to finish the Christopher Columbus project back in early 2000 and so the circle area outside of the Marriott was created but there was no water provided to this area. The Urban Oasis Project's goal is to enhance this space and when completed, the current circle will be expanded and be a "mini park" which is tranquil and also includes pathways to different areas. It will be a place where you can sit among the plantings and will be a destination in and of its self. The vision is it will be free form with no hard angles. Lighting is important and also not blocking the water is a key consideration. 2 grants have already been awarded to FOCCP for this project, one for \$10,000 (Blossom Fund) and a 2nd for \$20,000 (Beautify Boston Grant). The estimated total cost of the project is between \$80,000 and \$85,000. The FOCCP is planning to raise the balance of the money needed.

Joanne next introduced Antonia Bellalta and Felipe Bellalta of Bellalta 3 Design who were selected to come up with the design for the area. They were only given 1 month to complete their designs and were asked to come up with 3 but instead, came up with 4.

The presentation from Antonia and Felipe consisted of 5 sections.

1. Review of existing site. Boundaries and it's uses
2. Site Analysis
3. Site precedents and materials
4. Design approaches and materiality
5. Q&A

Below is a summary of what was presented:

1. Review of existing site. Boundaries and its uses
 - Aerial pictures of the park and greenway were displayed which showed the many connections to the area including the Marriott, Faneuil Hall, and local restaurants (Joe's, Tia's).
 - A review of how the park is currently used. E.g. picnic's, walkway, playing in fountain
 - A review of what is already in place e.g. water lines, pipes, electrical lines, influence of sun, pedestrian patterns, winds, vehicular access and circulation
2. Site Analysis
 - A review of existing site materials in area such as benches, lighting, food kiosk's,
 - A review of surrounding site materials e.g. Greenway, Faneuil Hall, park by aquarium
3. Site precedents and materials
 - Site precedents:
 - Walkway: concrete pavers, patterned paving, boardwalk
 - Seating: granite slab, wood - with and without backs. Will consider using curved wood benches, sculpture, cube of seats
 - Lighting: In ground lighting to be considered

- Planting: Many different options- planters, tall grass, flowers, seasonal plantings, trees - Hawthorne's.

4. Design approaches and materiality

- Boardwalk Extension
 - Integrate existing paving
 - Continuation of Oak trees
- Perennial Oasis
 - Curved planters & benches
 - Perennial plants
 - Trees provide scale and shade
 - Sculpture in water
- Circle Expansion Oasis
 - Circle stays
 - Insert paving bands
 - Circular pattern
- Serpentine Oasis
 - Sculpture in nature

5. Q&A

Below is a summary of some of the questions/concerns/comments communicated in the meeting:

- Where will trees be located? Need to make sure a band can set up.
- Concern about benches in front of Tia's. Some exist now and it's too noisy.
- Like idea of extending the boardwalk.
- Concern about salt and the affect on the trees and soil. May need to bring in more/new soil. Trees with a high tolerance for salt will be considered.
- Who will maintain the plants? This will be funded by FOCCP and is already part of the plan.
- Suggestion was made to look at the planters on the Northern Ave Bridge.
- Hawthorne trees have done well in the CCP.
- Need to consider homeless and skateboarders when making the decision on furniture.
- Suggestion was made to look at Fidelity Park; it had to be redesigned. They changed the trees due to the soil, reconfigured benches and have new lighting.

Joanne let everyone know the goal is to have a ground breaking ceremony at the Columbus Day event on October 14th. If you have any additional feedback, please send to info@foccp.org.

The previous months minutes were accepted with a couple of grammatical changes noted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 08-13-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt called to order at 6:43 pm. 23 people were in attendance.

Meeting videotaped by Matt Conti

Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Virginia Kimball provided a summary of the balances as of the end of July.

Checking Account	\$ 60,808
Savings Account	\$ 52,682
CD Account	\$ 37,178
Money Market Account	\$102,984
Total:	\$253,652

Horticulture

Ford Cavallari reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The rose garden center bed roses are smaller this year due to some weather damage and diseases which are now under control. In the crescent area, the Echinacea is doing very well its first year. The committee will now begin trimming the grasses in this area. The wisteria will also be getting trimmed. There is some question as to how much should be trimmed given the lights on the Trellis. The Horticulture group has been great this year and all efforts are appreciated

The Horticulture committee meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 - 10:30 and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 - 7:00. All are welcome. Gloves and clippers are provided. Please plan to wear close-toed shoes.

Membership

Ann reported on behalf of Beverly Knight. There has been little activity however, there will be a full report at the next meeting.

Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following information.

There were 7 emails sent out in the last month. 5 were related to the summer movies, 1 for the Summer Cruise and 1 monthly newsletter. Each email was sent to approximately 764 people. Christina reported the monthly newsletter received more than the usual number of clicks on links. Many linked out to the FOCCP Facebook site where there is much information about events along with pictures. Don't forget to Like Us on Facebook. Recognition was given to Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook manager) who does a great job updating the site with many stories and pictures.

You can find a link to the FOCCP Facebook page in any email newsletter and on our website.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari informed us there was some PR related to the movies and there will be more in the fall related to the upcoming FOCCP events included the Columbus Day celebration and annual fundraising event.

The switch from Homestead to Google is almost complete. There is still some internal training which needs to take place.

The Infrastructure committee is meeting on August 28th at 6:00 at the Pilot house to discuss Park damage, the trash barrel issue and other items related to the maintenance of the

Park. A primary focus will be discussing the Trellis lights. An evaluation of the technology is in process.

II. Recent and Upcoming Event Reports

Harbor Sunset Cruise

Virginia Kimball provided an update. There were 89 guests at this event. The weather was great, the food was nice and a relaxing evening was had by all. The gift bags were great!

Expenses: \$2220

Revenue: \$3730

Profit: \$1510

This money generated from this event will be used to help fund the Christopher Columbus Day event.

Urban Oasis Project

Patricia Sabbey provided an update. A list of considerations is being reviewed along with the Site Survey. The next step is to create a schedule and to share with the Urban Oasis project committee. Bellalta 3 Design has been very responsive. They are moving along and are "on track" according to Patricia Sabbey.

Movies in the Park

Ann Babbitt let us know the last movie in the Park will be held on Sunday, August 18th and it will be The Great Gatsby (1974 version). She needs someone to introduce and Laura Benevenuto volunteered.

Columbus Day Celebration

Ann Babbitt, who is chairing this event, is looking for volunteers to assist with the planning and also on the day of the event. A sign up sheet was passed around. The celebration will be held on Monday, October 14th. The committee has met once.

November Fundraiser

Kim Caverly provided an update. The name of this event is still being finalized but it will likely be called Monte Carlo. Kim, Beverly Knight, and Pam Girouard are co-chairs of this event and Laurie Cadigan is heading up the auction committee. The venue will be new this year; Fairmount Battery Wharf and the date is Saturday, November 16th. The complete downstairs area will be available. There will be a quintet playing music all evening, Patron will donate the bar and pastries. There will also be a café with an espresso cart. The price of the event per person has not been determined yet. The committee is working with the chef at Aragosta to finalize the food options which will likely include passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, desserts and coffee. There will also be signature drinks available; the names will be associated with the Park.

III. Tia's on the Waterfront Update

Ann introduced Lori Lilly from Tia's on the Waterfront. Lori let the FOCCP group know she is planning to sell Tia's in October of 2013 after owning the restaurant for 32 years. She "handpicked" the new owner which is expected to be the Cronin Restaurant Group. Ann thanked Lori for her many years of support of FOCCP.

Lori introduced Bobby Ciampa, Cronin Group CFO. He let the group know Cronin is the owner of Jerry Remy's at the Seaport as well as other regional eateries and development. He mentioned the only change they are contemplating is staying open through December with the same hours to accommodate Holiday parties. The intention is to keep everything status quo; staff, menu and hours. These may change in the future if it makes sense. Lori let us

know the current manager is staying with Tia's. Lori asked the FOCCP for a letter of support. They would like to present this at an upcoming liquor license hearing.

Ford asked about getting neighborhood input and Lori indicated she has already reached out to Suzanne Lavoie, Wharf District Council President. She also let the group know she had contact the Mayor's office and has been following the guidelines they have provided to her.

IV. Additional Information

Letter from Park User

Ann read the following letter from a person who contacted FOCCP via info@foccp.org.
Hello -

In the past, my attempts to reach out to the 'powers that be' have pretty much been about issues or problems concerning the park. Usually this meant dogs, the homeless, etc.. However, this time my family and I want to thank you for how great the park has been this summer. I'm sure it takes quite a bit of lobbying, work and effort to help with the issues mentioned above, so we just wanted to let you know we appreciate all that you've done. The park is clean, people are respecting the leash laws, and it's been a place where we take our boys almost daily, all summer long.

Thanks again for your efforts.

Best Regards

Joe Madden CPC/CTS
CEO / Headhunter

Picnic Tables

Ann let the group know the Board had voted to pursue looking into picnic tables for the tot-lot area. Meghan Denenberg did the research and the proposal is to purchase 2 bright blue metal picnic tables with attached benches. These would be placed in the tot-lot area in the shade. There would be an inscription saying these are "Provided by the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park". The cost of both picnic tables plus shipping is \$1400. Because this amount is over \$1000, a vote needed to take place to approve this expenditure. A vote was taken in the meeting and approval was given to purchase the picnic tables.

After the vote there was some discussion about how hot the seats could get given they are made of metal. Because it is a mesh design (holes in the metal) and because the tables will be in the shade it was agreed it should be fine. Lori Lilly let us know she has similar type metal chairs which are in the sun at her restaurant and they do not get too hot.

The previous months minutes were accepted without change.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 09-10-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:35 pm. 21 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani
Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Joanne reported on behalf of Virginia Kimball. The Insurance has been paid and the taxes are complete. End of August numbers were not reported at this meeting.

Horticulture

Robyn Reed reported the recent rose bloom was wonderful and unexpected. The roses are looking quite vibrant. In the beginning of October, the Horticulture committee will begin to cut back the rose bushes.

There was an extreme amount of trash in the garden this past weekend; needles and other dangerous trash was found. Pictures were taken to document the incident and they will be forwarded to the Mayors hotline. Ann Babbitt reported she disposed of the needles/trash. Joanne will ask her contacts at the Boston Parks group to find out the protocol for disposing of this type of dangerous trash since there was concern expressed about handling it. All involved in the rose garden do wear gloves. Robyn will speak with the rangers about the issues as well and remind them about locking both gates to the rose garden. It was reported one gate is still locked which is an issue. Meredith Piscitelli also let the group know the trash barrel near the rose garden was recently moved but is now back in place.

The Horticulture committee meets on Sunday mornings from 9:30 am - 10:30 am and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. All are welcome. Gloves and clippers are provided. Please plan to wear close-toed shoes.

Membership

Beverly Knight reported since the July Report, FOCCP has received \$1736. This represents 10 new members and 15 renewals. The current total of FOCCP members is 285.

Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook administrator) let the group know the FOCCP page on Facebook has 286 "likes". She also let everyone know a business on Commercial Street named Sound Shapes ran a program on their Facebook page in which they said they would donate \$1.00 to FOCCP for every "like" they got on their Facebook page during the month of July. FOCCP received a check for \$129.00 from Sound Shapes as a result of this program.

Red Tricycle, an online, nationwide website geared towards mothers and families, ran a contest in 12 large cities across the US, including Boston. As a result of this content, the Christopher Columbus Park was recognized as a finalist in the 2013 Most Awesome Parks & Playgrounds in the Greater Boston Area. The award is posted on the FOCCP Facebook page along with a link to their site.

We have been receiving great feedback from people who have utilized the Park. Verbiage has included "...continue to hold amazing events ..." and "... Park looks lovely ... just moved from Mansfield and am looking for ways to help...". Another comment stated they wanted "...more advanced notice of events...". Joanne would like us to become better informed about non-FOCCP events held in the Park so we can be knowledgeable about all events held in the Park throughout the year. No one was sure who would be the correct person to contact about events planned by the City in the Park.

Beverly would like additional assistance with the Membership Committee. She is able to compartmentalize specific responsibilities so no one person would have too much to do.

Some examples of these specific responsibilities were writing thank you notes of appreciation to donors and sending a welcome email to new members. Estimated time would be 1 hour per week. If multiple people can take on a various responsibilities it would really help Beverly a lot! Please speak with Beverly directly if you are able to assist in any way.

Website & Internet Communications

Audrey Tortolani reported on behalf of Christina Sperry. Two new emails were sent since the last monthly meeting:

1. A final email about FOCCP's summer movies in the park, concluding a series of six dedicated movie emails.
2. The September 2013 FOCCP newsletter.

They each went to roughly the same number of recipients, about 764. Open rates were about the same, 32% which is normal for our e-mailings. The most clicks on links in either of the emails were external links for city events, the Boston Ahts Festival and the Harbor Fireworks on August 31. Just goes to show that FOCCP can positively and effectively promote the city's and other groups' events in the park.

No other developments to report, other than our Facebook page and website did get more visits during the summer than in other seasons, which is not surprising.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari reported later in the evening about the Trellis Lights and his proposal for 2014.

II. Updates

Picnic Tables

Meghan Denenberg let the group know 2 picnic tables will be ordered next spring and placed in the tot-lot. They will arrive in time for the tot-lot clean up. There will be a sign indicating the tables are provided by FOCCP. Each table weighs 600 pounds, seating is attached and the tables are blue. They are made out of commercially made material.

Urban Oasis Project

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an update on the Oasis project. There was a meeting held on September 9th with Antonia and Felipe of Bellalta 3 Design. The Committee attendees were: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Patricia Sabbey, co-chair Ann Babbitt, Ford Cavallari, Meghan Denenberg, Virginia Kimball and Danny Nuzzo. Also in attendance was Sherry Geldersma, the project manager from the Parks Department. It was a two hour meeting which included a presentation of an updated proposal combining two of the previously presented designs. The cost presented was very high and Bellalta 3 Design has been asked to go back to the drawing board. Given the Oasis project will likely cost more than previously planned, potentially up to \$300,000, FOCCP will be pursuing grant opportunities to raise additional money. The two possible grants are from the Henderson Foundation and the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust. The deadline to submit the preliminary letter is September 30th for the Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust grant. If they accept the project, they will ask for a full proposal due early November. Potential grant money from this source is \$25,000 to \$50,000. The deadline for the Henderson Foundation grant is October 15th. Potential grant money is up to \$100,000. Kathy Ray will be helping with the grant writing.

Joanne indicated we may be able to use flowers and plants from the crescent area and the City may have extra trees available for the Oasis space. This would help defer some of the costs.

III. Upcoming Events

Columbus Day

Ann Babbitt let us know the event will be held on Monday, October 14th. She has 3 new members on the Committee. The FOCCP Information table is covered however, Ann does need help with set up, games and face painting on the day of the event. Much of the entertainment has been secured including Jenny the Juggler, Magician Peter O'Malley, T-Bone, and Boris the stilt walker. The Italian Consul and hopefully Mayor Menino will attend. Patricia is working on getting music; potentially the St. Leonard's choir. Patricia also let the group know Barbara Wallraff is recruiting singers from Coro Dante. It was confirmed the Fire Truck is coming. The celebration will begin at 11:00 am with the parade, followed by the opening ceremonies. There will be lots of time for lawn games, face painting, and arts and crafts. The event will end at 3:00 pm.

IV. Trellis Lighting

Ford Cavallari let us know there was an Infrastructure meeting on August 28th and the focus was on 3 main areas.

1. Prioritization of issues for a report to the Park. Matt is helping to prioritize.
2. Review of walk through of Park
3. Trellis Lighting

Ford presented a PowerPoint slideshow on the research he has done on the Trellis lighting. The current lights on the Trellis are approaching their end of life and FOCCP will need to do something after this season. Here is the information Ford presented in the meeting.

- To replace the current lights, the minimum cost is \$45,000 - \$50,000.
- It costs \$10,000 just to turn the lights on and off each year.
- At one point this season, 75% of the "summer" lights were out.
- The suggestion is to reuse the existing electrical boxes.
- The LED light strips Ford is proposing are waterproof and would allow for multiple light colors to be displayed.
- The LED lights along with the controller would cost about \$100,000.
- The lifespan of the LED lights is approximately 10 years.
- Ford suggested looking at different ways to put the lights on the Trellis - instead of wrapping, potentially putting strips of the lights along the sides of the Trellis.
- There was also discussion about how to attach the lights if not wrapped; staples, and adhesive were mentioned.
- Ford would like to negotiate with the Parks department to see if they could assist with the funding.

The next proposed step is to purchase some of these LED lights and test on a specific section of the Trellis. Ford requested funding of \$10,000 to test 1 grid on the Trellis. The money would pay for materials and labor.

A vote was taken at the meeting and \$10,000 was approved for this test.

November Fundraiser

Beverly Knight provided an update on the status of the FOCCP annual Fundraiser. Kim Caverly, Beverly Knight, and Pam Girouard are co-chairs of this event. The venue will be new this year; Fairmount Battery Wharf and the date is Saturday, November 16th. 7:00 - 8:00 pm Cocktail Hour, 8:00 - 11:00 Gaming, Dancing and Dining. The complete downstairs area will be available which includes 2 ballrooms. The Luke Marantz Quintet will be playing music all evening and Patron Spirits Co. will provide complimentary signature drinks and pastries. There will also be a café with an espresso cart. The price of the event per person has not been determined yet. The committee is working with Chef Arwi, from Aragosta to finalize the food options which will likely include passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, desserts and coffee.

Laurie Cadigan is heading up the auction committee again. She is looking for gift certificates for the auction. Lee Ann Collins from Exhale will be making a donation for the auction.

Invitations will be sent out soon. The goal is to have 200 attendees.

IV. Additional Information

On behalf of Donna Freni, Joanne communicated information about the North End Clean up event to be held on Saturday, September 21st from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. All volunteers should plan to meet at the Prado on Hanover Street. The City of Boston is leading brooms, shovels, bags and gloves.

Jim Salini let the group know the election for NEWRA officers will be held on October 10th in the Nazzaro Center.

The previous months minutes were accepted without change.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 10-08-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:37 pm. 18 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani
Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Virginia Kimball reviewed the highlights and overall balances. See details below. She also indicated membership is growing and the Oasis Fund is being kept separate with a current balance of \$22,000.

EXPENSES YTD (Through September 2013)

Casino Night 2013	\$ 1000.00
CC Day 2013	\$ 235.96
Horticulture	\$ 232.67
Membership	\$ 2,164.51
Constant Contact	\$ 334.71
Park Maintenance	\$ 7,630.00
Casino Night '12	\$ 49.03
July 4 th	\$ 3,698.05
Gifts	\$ 400.25
Blossom Fund	\$ 98.66
Meeting Fee	\$ 50.00
Tot Lot Cleanup	\$ 569.94
Comm of Mass	\$ 45.00
General	\$ 405.38
Trellis	\$ 5,105.00
Cruise	\$ 2,219.18
Insurance	\$ 687.00
Web site	\$ 239.99
Savings Account	\$ 450.00

INCOME

Casino Night 2013	\$ 1,755.00
Cruise	\$ 3,730.00
Donations	\$ 356.00
Note Cards	\$ 328.00
Raffles	\$ 746.00
Membership	\$ 10,530.00
Online Membership	\$ 4,030.00

Account Balances

Checking	\$ 60,808.97
Savings	\$ 52,681.74
CD	\$ 37,178.74
Money Market	\$102,984.06

Horticulture

Ford Cavallari reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The horticulture group has stopped working in the gardens on Wednesday evenings because it is getting too dark to work outside safely, but they will continue to work on Sunday mornings until the end of October.

Mulch for the center rose bed has been ordered from the Parks department and will be spread but only after the first frost happens. There has also been a request that the sea grass in the crescent be trimmed back for the season.

A few weeks ago one of the locks for the gates was completely off the gate - it was removed from the gate and it has been decided to not lock the gate on weekends because of the difficulty the group has been having in opening the locks and having the park rangers open the gates with any consistency. The heavy use of the park is over for the season and we don't expect there to be any major issues leaving the gates open until later in the year when we lock up the gates for the winter.

The garden will be extra clean for the Columbus Day event next week; everyone is invited to stop by the garden during the festivities. For the upcoming event, Meredith Piscitelli let the group know daisies have been planted under the bulletin board.

Trash barrels have been an ongoing issue in the park. Meredith let us know she recently placed a trash barrel in a key "party" location near the rose garden and it made a difference in reducing the amount of trash found in the area. She also let us know her request for a new trash barrel near the rose garden, has been responded to by Sean Lawler from the City of Boston. He has indicated in an email to FOCCP; "the work order for one large metal trash barrel is currently being processed and should be completed within a week or two." Thanks to Meredith's connection to Boston City Council President Stephen Murphy, we may finally be getting at least one new trash barrel! Thanks Meredith!

Mary Ann Esparo let the group know both gates of the rose garden were locked this morning until at least noon. The locks were changed and the keys didn't work. Joanne indicated the gates were open by 2:00 pm and she will tell Toni Pollak to remove the locks for the season.

Joan Murphy expressed her preference for the oil can type trash cans as they are less likely to have trash caught underneath them compared to the newer barrels.

Ann Babbitt informed us 2 rose bushes were donated to FOCCP by a woman who lived in the area but moved back to Cleveland. Ann and Teresa planted the "gold metal" rose bushes in the rose garden. Ann will see if she can find the name and address of the woman so we can thank her.

Meredith indicated the wood structure in the middle of the rose garden has rotted and she proposed it should be replaced with something made with wrought iron.

Membership

Beverly Knight thanked everyone who had responded to her request for additional help on the membership committee. She will get back to everyone after the Gala.

Meredith Piscitelli (FOCCP Facebook administrator) indicated she is working on updating the membership database and there are approximately 289 members. Virginia let her know she will provide Meredith with information on 4 new members. Facebook "likes" have increased from 288 to 294.

Website & Internet Communications

Christina Sperry reported the following:

Two emails were sent since the last monthly meeting:

1. The first of a series of emails about our upcoming Annual Fundraiser, Monte Carlo Night.
2. The October 2013 FOCCP newsletter.

They each went to roughly the same number of recipients, about 749. Like last year, the annual fundraiser email was opened by more people than is usual for our emails, though it

didn't break the 50% barrier that last year's email did. Appears when we add the Mayor's name, email gets more people's attention (not surprisingly).

As a follow to what Meredith said earlier, FOCCP has 294 Likes on Facebook. We would love to break 300, so if you haven't "Liked" our page yet, please do!

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

Ford Cavallari reported Matt Conti is working on the Infrastructure Report with Ford and it should be ready very soon.

Trellis Lighting update:

- The first order for the test lighting has been placed and he is on track to test these lights.
 - The lights will be put on a small section of the Trellis after the lighting ceremony in November.
 - These test lights will be monitored over the winter to ensure they work well before moving forward with replacing the rest of the old lights with the new lights.
 - In order to do the test, the old lights will need to be removed before the new lights are added.
 - The control box and lights are 2 potential points of failure.
 - Concern was expressed about the responsiveness of the electrician.
- Joanne indicated to all we will be taking a cautious approach to this major change.

II. Upcoming Events

Columbus Day

Ann Babbitt announced she is all set for the Columbus Day event to be held on Monday, October 14th. 9:15 is the scheduled set-up time and she asked everyone to pray for good weather. Meredith gave the last promotional poster for the event to Mary Ann Esparo.

During a recent committee meeting hosted by Joanne, Barbara Wallraff came up with the idea to raise additional money through an "adopt a light" program on the day of the event. Matt Conti has provided a metal picture of the Trellis which will be used to help promote this program at both the Columbus Day event and also at the Monte Carlo event. At the membership table at the Columbus Day event, there will be a person representing the "adopt a light" program and asking for a \$1.00 per light donation. Those who donate will be asked to write their name on a poster. At the Trellis lighting, those who have adopted a light will be acknowledged. An ad hoc committee has been put into place to come up with additional ideas to raise money. Co-chairs for this committee are Michele Brogan and Arlene Freed.

Ford suggested we consider have corporate sponsors for the Trellis lights and other items in the park. He had attended a recent meeting where Marty Walsh indicated it was acceptable to name things in a park if a corporation had donated money. As an example, Ford said if Liberty Mutual donated money for a bench, we could put a plaque on the bench to indicate it was donated by Liberty Mutual. There was some concern raised about whether we wanted to do this given it could make the park look too commercial.

November Fundraiser

Beverly Knight provided an update on the status of the FOCCP annual fundraiser. Kim Caverly, Beverly Knight, and Pam Girouard are co-chairs of this event. She passed out a press release about the fundraiser created by Ford Cavallari. It will be released today.

The event is on Saturday, November 16th at the Fairmont Battery Wharf. From 7:00 - 8:00 pm there will be a cocktail hour and from 8:00 - 11:00 pm, gaming, dancing and dining. The Luke Marantz Quintet will be playing music all evening and Patron Spirits Co. will provide complimentary signature drinks and pastries. The committee is working with Chef Arwi, from Aragosta to finalize the food options which will include passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, desserts and coffee. The price of the event per person is \$135.

Beverly also passed around the current floor plans for the event and reviewed the layout. The complete downstairs area will be available which includes 2 ballrooms. Ford Cavallari expressed concern about having food in the gambling area. She advised us these are the preliminary plans and they may change.

The invitations have been sent in the mail and newsletters will be sent regularly to help promote the event. A suggestion was made to obtain pictures of last year's event from Matt Conti to assist with the promotion. Posters promoting the event will also be distributed and displayed in local businesses and condominiums.

On October 16th, the committee will begin to have weekly meetings each Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the Mariner's House. Beverly encouraged all to push for ticket sales now. The capacity at the Fairmount Battery Wharf for this event is approximately 200.

Laurie Cadigan is heading up the auction committee again. She is looking for "priceless" items such as a unique experience or party. She is trying a "wine wall" this year and would like to find stores to donate a case of wine. 10 of the bottles should be worth \$20 and 2 worth around \$50. You would buy a "chance" for \$20.00 and hope to get the bottle worth \$50. If you know someone at a local store who would donate case of wine, let Laurie know. She also indicated they are looking for hotel gift certificates and a chef who would provide a cooking lesson at their restaurant. The auction committee is meeting tomorrow evening at Laurie's home.

Trellis Lighting

The Trellis Lighting will be held on Monday, November 25th. The city runs this event and FOCCP has agreed to donate \$500 to the city's non-profit fund for the Trellis Lighting event. Joanne is looking into where a FOCCP after-party can take place this year. She will be checking with both Tia's and the Living Room.

III. Updates

Urban Oasis Project

Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an update on the Oasis project. Joanne, Patricia Sabbey, Lisa Meyer, City Chief Landscape Architect and Sherry Geldersma, the project manager from the Parks Department, attended a recent meeting where they discussed the project and ways to reduce some of the costs of the project. One idea discussed was obtaining money from donated benches.

Joanne also let us know we need to file for an extension of the Beautify Boston \$20,000 grant awarded to FOCCP as this project was supposed to be completed by the end of 2013. Joanne will write to Marchelle Jacques-Yarde from the Parks department to request a deferment of the final payment until 2014.

Patricia Sabbey and Virginia Kimball met with Cliff Hakim to obtain more information about stone benches being considered in the Oasis area.

IV. New Business

Mayor Menino is scheduled to attend our Monte Carlo Night and Trellis lighting. At Monte Carlo night, Joanne suggested FOCCP should give him an award of some sort. We need volunteers to work on this award idea. The following people volunteered to be on this committee: Virginia Kimball, Patricia Sabbey and Rita Pagliuca. One idea mentioned was giving him a picture of the Trellis.

On Friday, October 11th, there is an event at Battery Wharf to support the Columbus Day parade. The cost is \$65.00.

The previous month's minutes were accepted assuming changes communicated at the end of the meeting were incorporated.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes 11-12-13
Mariner House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines called to order at 6:37 pm. 14 people were in attendance.

Recording the meeting is Clerk, Audrey Tortolani.
Meeting notes from the previous meeting were distributed.
Each person at the meeting introduced themselves.

Adriana DeStefano from Caffé Paradiso was thanked by Joanne for donating the cannoli's at Monte Carlo night.

I. Committee Reports

Treasurer

Virginia Kimball was not present at the meeting. Joanne referred the group to the previous notes for revenue, expense and account balances.

Horticulture

Meghan Denenberg reported on behalf of Robyn Reed. The season has ended for the horticulture group. They have trimmed the roses to get ready for the mulching for the winter. The wisteria was also trimmed back, and the request was made for the sea grass in the crescent to get trimmed back as well. Confirmation has not been received from the parks department that this will be done.

A huge thank you was given to all the volunteers who worked tirelessly in the garden this season. The extra help and attention enabled the group to pull those roses, which were suffering, back to life. Robyn looks forward to working with everyone again next year and will be keeping in touch over the winter.

Membership

No new information was reported.

Website & Internet Communications

Audrey Tortolani reported on behalf of Christina Sperry.

Five emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

1. The last four were a series of emails about our upcoming annual fundraiser, Monte Carlo Night. Extra thanks to Beverly Knight and Meghan Denenberg for their help with these special event emails.
2. The November 2013 FOCCP newsletter.

Each email went to roughly the same number of recipients (about 740), and each had about the same open rate (about 33%). These are typical numbers.

As of earlier today, FOCCP has 296 Likes on Facebook. This is up from last month, but we're so close to 300 and would love to break this number. If you haven't Liked our page yet, please do! There will be a lot of great information there even as the weather turns cold, especially from Monte Carlo Night and the trellis lighting.

Infrastructure and Marketing/PR

No new information was reported.

II. Urban Oasis Report

Before co-chair Patricia Sabbey gave an update on this project, Joanne Hayes-Rines provided an overview to the group on the history associated with the Oasis Project. The highlights of the summary were:

- The circle outside of the Marriott Long Wharf had no irrigation incorporated at the time the park was renovated.
- About 1 year ago, the FOCCP started to explore enhancing this area.
- 2 grants totaling \$30,000 have been awarded to the FOCCP group for this project.
- A design firm has been hired to propose plans to this area.

Patricia Sabbey reported she and Joanne met at the Parks and Recreation Department with Liza Meyer, City Chief Landscape Architect and Sherry Geldersma, Project Manager for Design and Construction. Given the adjacency of the Christopher Columbus Park land and BRA land, Liza and Sherri had met previously with BRA representatives to share information about the Oasis Project.

The four of them talked about the design process to date and the need for additional consideration for the proposed designs. As a result, the Parks Department is providing FOCCP with a grant to fund a perspective study. This involves Bellalta 3 Design developing a CAD (computer aided design) virtual walkthrough. This will provide a view of the project within the larger context and will help us as we move toward with design decisions.

Joanne let the group know the total cost of the Oasis Project will likely be around \$250,000. She will be announcing a Corporate sponsor at the Monte Carlo event.

III. RUFF (Responsible Urbanites for Fido) Presentation

Leslie Horn, President of RUFF discussed a proposal at the meeting and below is a summary of her presentation.

Leslie indicated RUFF continues to be active and to think outside the box to help solve dog-related issues. Their largest goal has always been to bring a dog park to the North End/Waterfront area. To provide some background, Leslie indicated the RUFF group had a membership of 7 people a year ago and now has 220 members. As of late they have been monitoring and attending meetings in regards to space along the Greenway - Parcel 12. When they met with the Greenway in the spring, they were very positive about the RUFF cause and Leslie discussed pitching them a pilot program at some point. When Leslie heard Parcel 12 had lost its museum and that it is somewhat in limbo she thought, why not act now and propose a dog park on this land. Leslie would like feedback from the FOCCP members as they think putting a dog park on this parcel will greatly help the off leash dog problem currently ongoing at Columbus Park. With Parcel 12 being located so close to the park, Leslie thinks they could attract and be the alternative for dog owners who frequent Christopher Columbus Park today.

Amy Hand, Chairperson from RUFF, let the group know the small Richmond Street dog run has been successful and it has really pushed them to continue the hard work to bring a safe, clean and enjoyable off leash dog park to our area. This space is now maxed out and the belief is Parcel 12 would be ideal given the space is unusual/awkward and there are no abutters. Amy talked about the many benefits of a larger dog park including the social aspect and multi-generational interest; older people enjoy petting the dogs. Leslie and Amy are suggesting a pilot but indicated the details behind the pilot still need to be defined further.

Leslie passed around some proposed plans for the dog park in Parcel 12. She indicated local resources were used to create the plans and they are being very conscientious about keeping the goals of the Greenway in mind; recycle, green focus. The space would be 3 to 4 times larger than the Richmond Street space and they plan to have a running area for the

dogs. They are looking for support from the Friends groups in the neighborhood and would like support from the FOCCP.

Joanne asked how RUFF keeps the Richmond Street dog area clean. Leslie indicated volunteers sweep and also throw away dog feces and RUFF organizes regular "clean up" days. They are now looking into how to keep this area open in the winter and are in the process of buying shovels. One challenge discussed was the City of Boston would not allow a trash barrel in the dog area. Currently the feces bags are put in a barrel across the street. All dog owners are encouraged to put their dog feces in plastic bags. It was indicated that after the pilot, they will look into the option of recycling dog feces.

Leslie indicated the next steps were as follows:

- Get support via meetings with the Friends Groups in the neighborhood.
- Get support via meetings with politicians.
- Do more research creating the proposal. Proposal to potentially indicate what RUFF would do if they were given access to the land. E.g. raise money
- Pitch proposal.

Joanne let Leslie and Amy know they have support from the FOCCP group.

III. North End Musical and Performing Arts Center (NEMPAC) Proposal

Sherri Snow, Executive Director and Rebecca Rapoport-Cole, Communications Director, of NEMPAC presented to the group. Sherri gave a brief overview of NEMPAC.

- NEMPAC is a non-profit organization.
- It serves both children and adults by providing affordable arts and music to the community.
- The NEMPAC children are coming to the Trellis Lighting to sing.
- They offer teen internships in the summer.
- They are very busy and growing.

Rebecca discussed the Opera project. Both Rebecca and Sherri are opera singers. She let us know there are not many opportunities to sing or hear opera in Boston. NEMPAC has provided a free community opera performance in the Park for the last couple of years and they don't have the funding for the opera next year. They would like FOCCP to help fund the free community outreach performance this year. They are planning to perform the opera at Faneuil Hall, The Great Hall on June 27th and 28th. The proposed date for the performance in the Christopher Columbus Park would be on Sunday, June 29th, 2014 in the late afternoon.

Sherri will send a budget to Joanne and Joanne indicated the request for funds would be discussed at the next FOCCP board meeting and if approved by the board, the request would be presented at the January FOCCP meeting to membership for approval.

IV. Monte Carlo Night Fundraiser Update

Beverly Knight provided an update on the status of the FOCCP annual fundraiser to be held on Saturday, November 16th. So far 194 tickets have been sold. Everything is wrapped up for the event and Beverly thanked Joanne and Meghan for all of their help. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 6:30 pm; there are about 20 volunteers. The set up of the event, including casino tables and silent auction, will start at 3:00 pm.

V. Trellis Lighting Event

Joanne indicated the event, scheduled for Monday, November 25th, will start at 5:30 pm. The expectation is Mayor Menino will be at both the Monte Carlo event and the Trellis Lighting event. A picture of the Trellis will be presented to the Mayor as a gift from the FOCCP. Joanne has also invited Marty Walsh. The Marriott will be providing cookies and Starbucks will be providing hot chocolate.

The previous months minutes were accepted without change.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm