

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
1/13/15
Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

Meeting opened by Vice President, Ann Babbitt at 6:40 and attended by 9 members. The minutes for the November meeting were not available and will be reviewed and voted on at the February 2015 meeting

[1]

Treasurer report -- Audrey Tortolani

Audrey reported the FOCCP account total is \$366,000.
She will soon provide the end of the year Treasurer's report

Infrastructure committee Audrey presented report for Ford Cavalleri

Infrastructure Report 1/13:

1- Going with the "punt" plan as voted by the Board on 10/21 (delay new lights, refresh existing LED strings on trellis), Steve Mirabella and Sanibel electric refreshed the current trellis lights, replacing about 30% of the light strings and reattaching power plugs to about 70% of the strings (they'd been snipped off at the end of last season). This was Sanibel's first time refreshing the trellis lights, and considering the learning curve the refresh went pretty smoothly. The major early problems were some erratic timer issues, but Steve and Dino reset the timer and things seemed to settle down after that. Steve volunteered Sanibel's labor as a donation to FOCCP for this activity (estimated amount: \$7000).

2- Per the "punt" plan, we switched the delivery of our custom-made LED lights to slower ocean cargo shipping. The switch in shipping method necessitated some major changes in how the lights needed to be handled, including some more steps for the Infrastructure team, but in return FOCCP received an additional savings against the project budget. These new steps included selecting a cargo shipper, finding and selecting a cargo inspector, and making an electronic funds transfer (T/T) for our final payment in lieu of escrow (which was no longer available when we switched dates and shipping modes).

3- Steve Mirabella and the Infrastructure Committee will convene to begin crafting the final installation plan sometime in late February/early March, around the time of receipt of the LED lights.

4- Expenditures associated with the trellis LED project are as follows thus far:

- a-first payment to Hehong: \$5,100
- b-second payment to Hehong: \$11,732
- c-Logfret shipping: \$1,089
- d-SGS cargo inspection: \$700
- e-previous site inspection: \$400

In addition, \$2,500 was spent on materials for the November trellis refresh of the old lights, and \$1,200 had been spent on test equipment and supplies prior to the main order. Excluding the refresh expenditure, that makes total spending thus far on the project just over \$20,000. Additional funds are allocated in 2015 to cover the installation (which will require additional electrical equipment to be sourced locally) and add/program some additional, more advanced LED controllers. The total project cost is expected to be well under our original estimate.

5- The timeline of major milestones since our last meeting (and expected going forward) is as follows:

completed:

- 10/21: FOCCP's Board voted for the "punt" option
- 10/29: our custom lights were completed at the Hehong plant
- 11/1-11/10: we solicited quotes for ocean shipping
- 11/11: we received 2 shipping quotes from Hehong's Chinese ocean freight vendor and from American shipper Logfret
- 11/12-12/7: we assessed new options to mitigate risk because the Alibaba escrow option was withdrawn by Hehong
- 11/26: we negotiated a better rate with Logfret and received a revised quote
- 12/8: we received two quotes for cargo inspection, from our previous site inspector and from Swiss-based SGS (recommended by Logfret)
- 12/9: decision made to go with Logfret and SGS
- 12/10-12/16: exchanged paperwork with both vendors and executed engagements letters, POAs, etc.
- 12/17: Infrastructure team finalized specific parameters for inspection and provided to SGS (including item counts, conformity to specs, and systems testing of LEDs/controllers)
- 12/29: Received SGS report which identified no major deficiencies or other issues but identified 13 issues for our consideration
- 12/29-1/04: Infrastructure team reviewed report, evaluated the issues identified by SGS, and concluded that cargo was ready to ship
- 1/05: Bob and Ford documented Infrastructure Committee findings on the cargo report
- 1/08: Joanne signed off on wire transfer and bank/Audrey started preparation to execute (requiring Joanne or Audrey to be present at the branch)
- 1/08: Ford instructed Logfret to contact Hehong on 1/13 or later to arrange for pickup

1/13: Joanne went to branch, initiated wire transfer, and proof of transfer was sent to Hehong

expected:

- by 1/15: pickup of goods at Hehong by Logfret
- by 3/1: goods arrive at Boston port for customs inspection
- by 3/15: goods arrive at Sanibel warehouse in Woburn
- by 3/30: installation plan complete
- by 4/30: installation on new LEDs on trellis started

Ford Cavallari
Chair, Infrastructure and Media
Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Horticulture Committee report - Meredith Piscitelli

A meeting was held last Saturday, January 10 to discuss plans for next year and welcome new members to the committee

A serious issue at the moment is that the big locks on the Rose Garden gate has now broken twice. It was put there to prevent people from walking over snow covered rose beds and injuring them badly. Waiting to hear a response from the City

The Committee is planning to purchase additional rose bushes and possibly initiate an "Adopt a rose bush" program. In addition, planning to conduct training/educational sessions on proper rose cutting/pruning

They will schedule another March/April welcome meeting. If interested, contact Robyn Reed thru Info@FOCCP.org

Michele Brogan suggested also letting people know that it is not necessary to be member to volunteer in garden

Membership report
No report this month

Website and Internet communications report - Christina Sperry

Three emails were sent to our mailing list since the last monthly meeting

- 1) one final reminder about the Gala, our annual fundraiser
- 2) As a fill in for the December monthly newsletter, an email thanking the Gala's many corporate donors and sponsors, and
- 3) January Monthly Newsletter

The January email and the Gala reminder went to the usual number of recipients and was opened at the usual ~ 1/3 rate. The thank you email was opened more than average at about 42%. Overall in 2014, we sent 27 emails to our mailing list. Special thanks to Meghan Denenberg for helping with a number of the year's newsletters, especially the Gala related ones.

The FOCCP website had more visitors this year than years past. We had 17,182 visits in 2014. The vast majority of that was in June- August, with July being the most popular month ever (as previously reported) with 5,276 visits. The most popular page at the website by a good margin was the home page

(unsurprisingly, followed by the page listing Park events, then the FOCCP calendar, and then our weddings in the Park page. Here's to another fun, busy year in the Park

Fundraising Committee report - Patricia Sabbey

Fundraising for the Gala was successful due to the impressive energy and enthusiasm so many individuals put into this effort. Meghan's commitment to holding weekly meetings leading up to the event kept the energy and enthusiasm going. Engaging Faneuil Hall Marketplace as local a supporter was important. As a group we should continue to find ways to publicly express our thanks to our current supporters and also to continue to explore the possibility of increased community support from new business supports

Brief post Gala discussion

270 Gala tickets were sold and 266 attended the event

Just a couple of issues identified:

- 1) may need to re think the procedure for "trying your key" for the Treasure Chest. The line was long as folks had to wait their turn.
- 2) timing of band break right after the winning of the treasure chest needs to be revisited

Thomas Morris, Manager at Hordon Health on North St

Thomas attended meeting to introduce himself and let us know that their organization is planning for their event in the park in June
Also -- he volunteered to handle/donate **emcee** responsibilities for gala next year, if we are interested

New business

NEMPAC is requesting from FOCCP \$2500 in financial support for opera performance in the park scheduled for this summer
The consensus of the attendees was to raise the amount from the figure we provided last year but possibly not \$2500
No vote because of small attendance at FOCCP meeting

Adjourned at 7:20pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, in the absence of the Clerk

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 03/10/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA*

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt

Called to order at 6:40 PM

Minutes for Nov. and Jan. distributed.

Recording Meeting: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Audrey Tortolani

-Not much activity in March

-one membership

-Post Office Box Rental: \$128.00

-Balance Stable: \$344,523

Membership: Beverly Knight

-March slow

-Membership Drive Social April 9th at Tia's. Allison Seavey will be hosting.

-Flip Card invitation will be mailed April 1st.

-Meredith and Gail working on mailing.

-Newsletter will be posting information before April 1st.

Communication: Christina Sperry

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report

Christina Sperry

Three emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting in January:

February monthly newsletter,

March monthly newsletter, and

Notice that the February monthly meeting was canceled due to bad winter weather.

The emails all went to a usual number of recipients and were each opened at the usual rate of about 1/3 opened. Following 2014's most popular email link being a January link to winter storm flooding pictures, the February newsletter links to Park blizzard photos and videos are now 2015's most popular email links.

There is no specific news to report about the FOCCP website, although the site is off to a good start chasing 2014's record number of website visitors. January to March numbers this year are so far higher than they were January to March last year.

The FOCCP Facebook page has gone from 397 "likes" to 433 "likes." That moves us over the hump of the number 400 and is nearly a 10% increase in people. "Like" us if you haven't already!

Horticulture: Robyn Reed

No report

Ann Babbitt announced a meeting on March 28th at Meredith's for Horticulture volunteers. Bring blue jeans to make an apron and bring your own mug. The group is looking for more volunteers

Also, an expert on roses will be giving a talk on roses in the Rose Garden and at The NE Library. Day and time in April to be announced.

Infrastructure: Ford Cavallari

- 1- our custom-made lights (customized to accommodate the limited power availability on the trellis) were completed on 10/29 at Hehong, our Shenzhen factory**
- 2- because we elected the "punt" option where we went with the old lights for another year, we delayed shipping and utilized the less-expensive container ship option, saving about \$3500**
- 3- the lights were shipped on 1/26 a successful inspection, finalization of paperwork with shipper Logfret and our January 13 payment to Hehong**
- 4- the lights are currently in Elizabeth NJ, having arrived at the port on 2/23, come through customs on 2/27, and arrived at our shippers warehouse (after customs release) on 3/6**
- 5- Audrey will make the final payment to the shipper this week and then the lights will be trucked to Steve Mirabella's Woburn warehouse and inspected again by Steve and myself - ETA is expected to be early next week**
- 6- Steve and I will also discuss at that time the installation schedule for the new lights, which we expect to be in the early-to-mid April timeframe**
- 7- Steve and I will also discuss replacement timing for the couple of strings of old lights that are out on the trellis now. Repairs to the trellis were suspended after our first major January storm due to ladder safety issues**
- 8- Based upon our last inspection of the trellis in January, Steve and I determined that the installation surface of the trellis is *not* yet ready for the LED lights. Lahey will need to come in to cut away some additional plant materials from the trellis. We expect that needs to be done in very early April**
- 9- Once the lights are in Steve's warehouse, we will reconvene the Infrastructure Committee and create an installation plan/timeline for the LED lights which can be socialized with the various stakeholders (most notably Dino at Parks and Rick, our ISD inspector)**
- 10- Cash outlays for remaining materials for the project (conduit, wire, DMX controllers, electrical boxes, waterproofing, etc.), already budgeted by the Board, will likely occur in mid-to-late March**

**Fundraising Chair: Patricia Sabbey - Absent
No Report**

Guest Gene Survillo

Gene gave a summary of the Park Rangers:

Park Ranger Chief Gene Survillo has served Boston's Emerald Necklace for nearly 30 years, and has been with the mounted unit since it's inception in 1982. According to an article in the Boston Globe on Oct. 15, 2014:

The rangers were established in 1982 as a seasonal program and expanded into a year-round force in 1988. Initially, rangers were not armed, but they were later equipped with mace and batons, said Park Rangers Chief Gene Survillo said. He said rangers have never carried firearms. They carry handcuffs and have the authority to make arrests.

Their training lasts four weeks and includes instruction in tactical defense techniques with batons and mace. The Boston Police Academy provides training in areas like self- defense, dealing with people who are emotionally disturbed or mentally ill, and learning city ordinances and state laws.

Survillo said rangers treat situations they encounter on a case-by-case basis, and call in additional resources like firefighters, emergency medical services, and police as needed. "We assess the situation and then we make decisions accordingly," Survillo said. "We've

been dealing with the various activities, both good and bad, in the parks system for many years now.”

The board of FOCCP has approved an expenditure of \$20,000 that will enable the Parks Dept. to hire one seasonal ranger and CCP will be patrolled by a ranger who will supplement the efforts of the Boston Police Dept to remove any homeless people who may be sleeping in the rose garden or the playground or elsewhere and to enforce the city’s leash laws and to generally monitor the park, welcoming visitors and residents. An anonymous donation of \$5,000 has been secured for the program, leaving FOCCP responsible for \$15,000.

Vote was taken. Funds approve unanimously.

November and January Minutes approved with changes.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:06 PM

**Respectively submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk**

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 04/14/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA*

Meeting chaired by Ann Babbitt

Called to order at 6:37 PM

Minutes for March were distributed.

Recording Minutes: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Vice President: Ann Babbitt welcomed 4 new members

15 members in attendance

Committee Reports

-Treasurer Report - Audrey Tortolani

See attached Report

March slow month

Biggest expense-Trellis Lights

\$2600 from Membership Social - Cash, Check, Pay Pal

Membership - Meredith reporting for Beverly Knight

60 persons attended Membership Social on April 8th

Liason - Rita Pagliuca will send Thank You notes to new members

Thank you notes to all for IRS purposes with amount of donation

New member Jean will do mailing

Tot Lot Flyer given out

Facebook: Meredith

As of 3/20 443 Likes

As of 04/08 441

Former member who has been away for a few years has kept up to date with FOCCP through Facebook! He has rejoined the group and had high praises for the Facebook page.

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report

Christina Sperry

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

Two emails about the April 3 egg hunt in the Park,

Two emails about the April 9 Membership Social, and

The April monthly newsletter.

The emails all went to a usual number of recipients and were each opened around the usual rate of about 1/3 opened.

The Park gets busier at the start of Spring, and that also means more visits to the website. We've already had more website visitors this month than in all of February, and we will likely pass January and March visitor numbers soon. I also noticed that a link to our website has been added to the Faneuil Hall Hilton Hotel website on their "Area Attractions" page.

Infrastructure: Bob Venuti reporting for Ford

- Wysteria has been trimmed
- Now installing lights
- Began with Pinta
- New wiring
- If lights are too bright, they can be dimmed
- Pedestrian lights being replaced - will be brighter and will provide a safer environment
- Project should be completed by July

Park Ranger

At the March meeting, the membership approved hiring a park ranger for spring to fall. The cost of \$20,000 will be paid by FOCCP (\$15,000) and a donor (\$5,000). The duties of the ranger will be to monitor the homeless situation in early mornings, to monitor and issue tickets for off leash dogs and to welcome visitors to the park.

The ranger will be scheduled in the park at varying hours, totally approximately 35 hours per week. Different ranges will be scheduled in the park depending on the schedule. Joanne is meeting with the head of the park rangers, Gene Survillo, next week to determine an initial schedule, which will be changed according to our needs.

Fundraising: Patricia Sabbey

Roseman Talk:

- Irwin Enrenich – Saturday, April 25, 2015 –
- 12:00 at the North End Public Library
- Susan Voloshin – Director prepared the flyer
- Cost: for Irwin - \$425. Include mileage

FOCCP Sponsorship a way of thanking the members of FOCCP.

Board Election

Members in good standing who wish to run for election as an Officer or a Direct-at-Large shall nominate themselves by submitting a nomination statement in writing no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the May meeting at which the election shall be held. Requests to be nominated shall be no longer than one page and shall include the member's name and address, and may optionally include a statement by the member in support of his or her candidacy. These **nomination statements are due on April 21, 2015** and should be sent to info@foccp.org.

2015 Events

MAY 2 12:00 - 2:00 Tot Lot Clean Up - Meghan

The day has turned into a party! Joe Bono providing pizza. Lahey is doing the clean-up. Joe's American Bar is sponsor. There will be an Information/Membership Table.

Activities: Face Painting by Kindercare, Big Joe Storyteller, Firetruck.
Anyone who is interested in volunteering, please contact Meghan.

JUNE 27 10:00-2:00 Independence Day Celebration - Ann Babbitt

Ann looking for a co-chair to help organize the event.

Volunteers set up at 9:00 AM.

Ann has begun lining up the entertainers.

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES: JOE BONO HAS AGREED TO HOST AGAIN. DATE TBA

SUNSET CRUISE??? Boston Harbor Cruises has agreed to donate a boat. Dates suggested are Wednesday, July 15 or Wednesday, July 29. Does anyone know of a conflict with other events in the area.

Robyn suggested changing the day to a Tuesday as the Horticulture Group meets on Wednesdays.

OCTOBER 12 COLUMBUS PARK CELEBRATION

NOV. 4 GALA. Boston Harbor Hotel. Ann, Joanne and Meghan co-chairs..

NOV. 23 TRELIS LIGHTING

NEW BUSINESS: Meredith

Meredith spoke about the scarves and hats that she placed in the park for anyone to take. All were taken!

Suggested doing it again in January. Anyone who would like to donate scarves and hats that they are no longer using, Meredith will gladly pick them up. She thought a good idea for FOCCP to do as we would be helping people who are cold. Could help anyone going through the park, even tourists who were not prepared for the cold weather.

Park will get publicity. The items could be hung by the trellis.

Some members suggested a knitting group.

Ann asked for March minutes to be approved.

Minutes approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Monthly meeting May 12 2015

The Mariner House

North Sq

Boston, MA

Meeting convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:30 pm with 17 members attending. The April 2015 meeting minutes were distributed for review

Annual **Election**

Election of Candidates:

Ballot reviewed for FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large. Nomination statements available for review by members.

Liz Greene, standing in for Clerk, Patricia Thiboutot, let the group know that a vote was not necessary because it is an uncontested ballot. A motion by the president was requested to accept the nominated Officers and Directors-at-large. A motion was made by ----- and seconded by Laura Benevento and voted unanimously

Those listed below nominated themselves and have been accepted for the 2015-2016 year.

President: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President: Ann Babbitt

Treasurer: Audrey Tortolani

Clerk: Patricia Thiboutot

Susanne Lavoie, Director-at-Large

Open Position, Director-at-Large

Joanne Hayes-Rines explained that our by-laws require that we have 2 directors-at-large and read the relevant sections:

IV.3.3.1 There shall be a minimum of two (2) Director-At-Large positions. The Directors-At-Large shall be elected at the Annual a meeting of the members. Directors-At-Large shall function as direct representatives of the general Membership and, as such, shall have no other specific Board responsibilities or duties.

By April 21, the deadline to submit a nomination, we had only one director-at-large nomination. Our bylaws provide:

IV .3.5.3 Continuity

Continuing Directors may act despite a vacancy or vacancies in the Board and shall for this purpose be deemed to constitute the full Board. Vacancies in any office may be filled temporarily through appointment by discretion of the President or direction of the Board, and shall be effective until the next election.

Therefore, as President, she appointed Joe Bono to serve as director-at-large for the 2015-2016 year and he has accepted the appointment.

Committee Reports

Membership Committee - Beverly Knight

As of today, we report 218 members and renewals are at 183.

Renewals account for \$900, in addition to a business donation

Treasurer Report - Audrey Tortolani

Audrey reports not very much activity during the month of April

The \$2500 deposit was made for the 2015 Annual Gala at the Boston Harbor Hotel. There has been an anonymous donation specifically to support the Park Ranger

Total organization assets are at \$351,500

Horticulture Committee Report. Meredith Piscitelli and Ann Babbitt

They reported that the recent lecture and advice provided by the "Rose Man" specialist, was very informative and helpful for all who work in the Park Gardens. The volunteers are following his advice, learned new techniques and are seeing positive results from their efforts. FOCCP paid \$300 for him to come up from Cape and arranged parking for he and his wife. He conducted an additional lecture for the community at the NE Branch Library, including coffee and donuts. The lecture was well attended and well received. This was all organized by Patricia Sabbey (chair of Fundraising Committee). Furthermore, she is exploring the potential for increased interest and support from Quincy Market merchants and harbor cruise companies. Any ideas or suggestions can be sent to Patricia at info@foccp.org.

Finally, Ann reported that there has been a delay in the City delivered mulch for the Crescent Garden. The beds are all prepared. Robyn Reed, Horticulture chair is working with the city to get this done.

A reminder that all are welcome to work in the Park gardens: Wednesday evenings 6-7pm and Sunday mornings 9:30 - 11 and all equipment is available for gardeners

Website and Internet Communications Report - Christina Sherry

Three emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last meeting

- 1) the April 25 "Rose Man" lecture
- 2) the May 2 Tot Lot Clean-Up
- 3) the May Monthly news letter

The emails went to the usual number of recipients and were opened around the usual 1/3 rate

In April the website had 722 visitors, a big increase from April 2014's 495 visitors

Facebook numbers continue to rise from 441 likes in April to 451.

Infrastructure Committee - Ford Cavalleri

Some of the new trellis lights are now up for security. There is no dimming capability yet but expect to have this in time. There has been some negative feedback about brightness but the project is still in process. Ford building permit to be secured for the electrical work and installation of the dimming function. The goal is to make sure the work is done methodically and to get it right. Anticipate that next month color lights will be added - they may be bright initially as well. And some sections to be done before others.

Members have commented that restaurants and businesses say the lights are great and they like the bright illumination for security. Transients don't like them.

Ann Babbitt suggests thinking about dimmer lights till possibly 11pm and then brighter for late at night.

Beverly Knight suggests including an update/progress report for the news letter or website. Maybe every couple of weeks. Ford agreed he will prepare a bi-weekly update for the website and Facebook page

He reports the wisteria is beginning to grow and will have an effect as well and the trellis light project needs to stay ahead of that. He noted that the lights inside the canopy need to be bright for security but the lights facing

Atlantic Ave can be dimmed.

President's remarks - Joanne Hayes-Rines

Park Ranger Report

FOCCP gave \$20,000 to city to hire a seasonal park ranger for 35 to 40 hours till 9pm and starting 6 am They will be able to lock the rose garden for us. Details to be worked out. Interestingly, the Greenway Conservancy, and the Harbor pavilion are also hiring either security or park rangers as well

Last month the City of Boston's Park Ranger Chief Gene Survillo attended our monthly meeting and answered questions about the rangers.

On April 22, Joanne met with Gene at the Curley House in Jamaica Plain. The Curley House is the headquarters of the rangers and where they train new rangers. Following is my report to the board. It should be incorporated into the minutes for the record.

Report on Joanne Hayes-Rines Meeting with Gene Survillo, Chief of Park Rangers, April 22, 2015

1. Draft of Memorandum of Agreement attached
 - * Gene is editing the MOA for clarity
2. Details of Ranger Program in CCP
 - * Weekly, JH-R and Gene will create schedule for approx. 40 hour coverage in CCP.
 - * We can expect a ranger to be in the Park approx. 40 hours per week. Breaks and lunch time only affect if we want a ranger for 8 hours straight.
 - * Training of 4 Seasonal rangers began April 20. It is a 4 week program that will end May 15. On Monday May 18, we should expect weekly coverage of approx. 40 hours a week to begin in the Park.
 - * Rangers will be in the park between now and May 18 but not at a 40 hour per week coverage because the new seasonal workers are not yet available.
3. Tasks the Ranger can perform
 - * Rangers lock up Cobb's Hill every night at approx. 5:30pm. They can lock up the Rose Garden on Friday, Sat and Sunday nights. We would be responsible for unlocking them. We'll all have keys.
 - * Rangers will direct people to the rules of the Park and it's important that the rules are prominently displayed to back them up. I told him the Parks Dept added very obvious dog signs a couple of years ago. Gene said it would be helpful if we had the rules posted on the BBs.
 - * Gene's staff is pulling together history of CCP ... he would welcome additional info that we can give him. Suggestion: Also give them history of Long Wharf.
 - * Direct visitors to BBs for details of FOCCP and events in the Park.
4. Interesting Observations
 - * Sunday Night Movies. He was surprised we have had no problems. Said he will try to have a ranger swing by on some Sunday nights just for presence.
 - * Our events ... he'll try to have a ranger there for some time.
5. Tasks for FOCCP
 - * Post Park Rules on BB
 - * Work on history of CCP and Long Wharf
 - * Draft suggested one week schedule for coverage (attached)
 - * Send Gene movie schedule
 - * Send Gene schedule of our events in the Park
 - * Payment Schedule: \$5,000 due May 15, June 15, July 15, August 15

2015 Events

May 2 - Tot Lot Clean Up Meghan Denenberg

Small attendance -13 members - very cold temps affected the attendance but a success for those who did!

June 27 Independence Day Celebration -- Ann Babbitt and co-chair, Mary-Gaye Grizwin

Will plan to be careful about not planning too many activities - just the amount that the children can attend and absorb. Jenny The Juggler, Uncle Sam on stilts are already booked. Planning meeting to be scheduled.

Volunteers should contact Ann Babbitt

Summer Sunday Night Movies

Joe Bono has agreed to support this program again this summer. Sunday's - July 12 through August 16

Members Sunset Cruise

Tuesday, August 4. Boston Harbor Cruises is donating the boat. Stephanie Walker and Camille Hogan have volunteered to co-chair.

Oct 12. Columbus Park Celebration

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel. Ann Babbitt, Joanne Hayes-Rines and Meghan Denenberg are Chairs

Nov. 23 Trellis Lighting

Other Business

Joanne noted thanks to new member, Jean Grady for help with data base and mail merging help!

Joan Murphy suggested a PSA (public service announcement) about smoking ban in city parks - she spoke with the Park Ranger who will raise the issue to her supervisor. She also noted the need for more trash barrels in the park

Meredith Piscitelli asked for members to donate "no-longer" needed gloves and mittens and scarves. She will keep them until next January when she will leave them in the Park for whomever needs or wants them.

April 2015 minutes approved unanimously without change

Meeting notes prepared by Liz Greene, (filling in for vacationing Patricia Thiboutot)

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA
June 9, 2015

Meeting called to order by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40 pm with 18 members present

Fundraising Report

Patricia Sabbey was contacted by Ryan Mitchell, Director of Marketing for the Tavistock Restaurant Group. On behalf of Joe's American Bar and Grill he asked to meet about support that they may be able to provide. She thanked them for support for the Spring Tot Lot event.

The Corporate Information folder is in development to provide info, brochures, event posters describing how and where FOCCP spends funds.

Membership committee -- Beverly Knight

Beverly reported membership revenue to date as \$10,280.00
204 renewals, 47 new members for a total of 251
Business renewals at 13 for a total of \$1185.00
Girl Scout Daisy troop donation of \$75 used for purchase of daisy plants

Horticulture committee Meredith Piscitelli

Meredith shared photos of North End Girl Scout Daisy Troop, a group of 5 and 6 year old girls from the North End -- she had received information from Mary Marengi that they were looking for projects in the neighborhood. They helped in the Park and also gave a generous \$75 donation that was used to purchase Montauk daisies for the Park

Meredith reported for Robyn Reed, Horticulture Chair, that the roses are in full bloom - a little late due to snow and the hard winter - some hybrids and bush roses were lost and little rain in May was also a problem.
In addition, the water was not turned on and the mulch was not provided. Robyn has discussed this with the Parks Dept.

Meredith reported that the garden volunteers have changed the care process for the roses, following the recommendations of the Rose Consultant. This is working well. She reminded attendees of the Garden work schedule: Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings

Treasurer report - Audrey Tortolani

Audrey highlighted some recent expenses: \$9700 for Trellis wisteria cutting and recent expenses for the Lighting Project at \$1200, Tot Lot expense in May at \$1700.
Full report available from Audrey.

Internet and Communications Report Christina Sperry

One email was sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting, the June monthly newsletter. The email went to a usual number of recipients and was opened by 37% of recipients, slightly above the usual rate.

Last month, I reported that the website had 722 visitors in April and how that was almost double April 2014's 495 visitors. In May 2015, the website jumped up to 1,401 visitors! Last May we had 944 visitors. Last July we had our all-time highest number of visitors (1,984), and it looks like we may beat that this July if upward trends continue. We don't seem to have any new referring websites to account for the visitor increases, so I think it's just due to an increasing profile of FOCCP and the Park.

FOCCP Facebook page "Likes" are up to 470 as of today. We may yet hit 500 by the end of the summer

Infrastructure committee report. Ford Cavalleri

Ford reports that that full installation of colored lights is now underway. The scaffolding is up and weather permitting will continue the installation - Steve Mirabella, the electrician, is installing the lights with an assistant. The Parks Dept staff have been helpful in storing scaffolding when not in use. The color lights in the arch are fully installed on one section and a quarter way thru on the largest stretch of trellis. Dimmer functionality is still in process pending water proofing being completed. Ford reports the smaller section which is fully done could be viewed at a time certain. Waterproofing needs to be completed and Ford hopes inspection can happen sometime next week. Then, members may be able to view them at a scheduled time Ford brought example of color light for under the trellis - standard blue of past years and pink, aqua red green yellow. Impressive!

Not sure if the lights will be ready for the 4th of July. However, the dimmers may be ready for the July 12 movie in the Park

He thanks Warren and all the Parks Dept staff for all their help during this process

Hoping our annual coast for trellis and lights with new lights will be significantly reduced going forward.

Park Rangers

Joanne Hayes- Rines reported that FOCCP paid \$20,000 to support hiring an additional ranger. The Rangers will lock and unlock rose garden as they do at Copps Hill Burying Ground. Joanne ordered 2 cryptonite locks for the Rose Garden. The Park Rangers will get heavier chains and have keys to the locks. FOCCP officers also will have keys.

As to the issue of dogs off leash, the 20 year veteran ranger related that he can check dog tags and can get name of citizen from dog license if owners refuse to provide information who cited .

Joanne reminded the attendees that Jesse Brackenbury from the Greenway and also the U.S. Parks Dept and from the Park Information Pavillion on the Greenway (all non-profits) also are hiring guards for security, more likely a city responsibility.

Reminded attendees of the reception on the Park for Mayor Walsh on June 16.

FOCCP Independence Day celebration Ann Babbitt and Mary Gaye Grizwin

Scheduled for June 26 from 11 to 3.

Highlights include a Children's parade thru park, opening ceremony, NEMPAC soloists, raffles, activities, flags, kazoos, face painting. A planning committee of 10 met last week at Joanne Hayes Rines to finalize details. Posters are ready to be picked up and posted. A sign up sheet was distributed for additional volunteers. Event clean up at 3pm

Sunday Nite movies in the Park, again subsidized by Joe Bono, are scheduled from 7/12 to 8/15. Check the FOCCP website for details

Other News

Joanne reminded attendees of the NEMPAC opera project. FOCCP Donated \$2000 to support the free performance in the park, scheduled for Sunday, June 28. In appreciation, NEMPAC provided FOCCP two tickets for the opening night reception and performance on June 25. Liz Greene and Mary Gaye Grizwin accepted these complimentary tickets

Julie Wormser from the Friends of the HarborWalk would be speaking at the NEWRA meeting at the Nazzaro Center this month and will talk about harbor issues. The Boston Harbor Alliance, which focuses on the 50 miles of coastline in the harbor is looking for financial support from the North End (all organizations) to support their effort

Summer Cruise

New members, Stephanie Walker and Camille Hogan are chairs for the event scheduled for 8/4/15. They have reviewed some menus, are developing a budget and will be touring the boat. Details forthcoming

Annual Trellis Lighting scheduled for November 23

Jean Brady moved to accept the minutes of May 2015 meeting. Joanne Hayes Rines seconds the motion. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned 7:49

Liz Greene

Standing in for Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Meeting July 14, 2015

Mariners House, North Square

Meeting Chaired by Joanne Rines-Hayes

Recording the meeting Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Meeting began 6:40 PM - Adjourned 7:47 PM

18 Members in attendance

June Minutes were distributed.

Guests: Maria Lanza - replacing Nicole Leo of the Mayor's NE, WE and Waterfront Neighborhood Services

Committee Reports

- Membership Report - Beverly Knight

217 Renewals

47 New

1 Today

TOTAL 265

\$11,126.27 Goal \$15,000

- **Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani**

Independence Day under budget from last year.

Maybe next events we can hire professional help.

Maybe even a big screen for such major events - Soccer etc.

Membership: \$12,000 includes, individuals, businesses. checks and online payments-paypal.

Account Balance: \$334,363.00

Independence Day Expenses & Revenue	Expense	Revenue
Jenny the Juggler Entertainment	\$375.00	
NE Aquarium – Tide Pool	\$455.00	
NEMPAC	\$366.00	
Peter O'Malley Magician	\$700.00	
Mary S. Jayne (Uncle Sam Stilt walker and character)	\$300.00	
Flags (Online Stores)	\$ 65.13	
Boston Balloon (Loose Balloons)	\$250.23	
Rental Depot (tables and chairs)	\$191.34	
Posters and handouts	\$144.71	
Face painting supplies & water	\$ 47.21	
Misc Supplies (Noisemakers, Flower Lei's, Tattoos)	\$103.66	
Donations/ticket sales		\$290.00
Total	\$2,017.42	

Independence Day - Ann Babbitt & MaryGaye Grizwin

Our Independence Day event on June 27th was a rousing success, thanks to our enthusiastic performers and our volunteers who made balloon bouquets, helped with the setup, welcomed guests at our information/membership table and manned the face painting table.

Our performers for the event included Jenny the Juggler, Peter, the Magician (also acting as MC throughout the day and Jim, the Bubble Guy...who continues to be the main attraction. He was truly a find. Thanks to the Parks Dept for recommending him.

A special thanks, again, to our super salespersons, Meghan's niece & nephew and the Marengi brothers for a very successful raffle. Who can say "no" to such enthusiastic salespersons. They raised \$290.

Discussion: Spaced out performances so that children were not overwhelmed by all the activity.

NEMPAC provided instruments to show the children and let them try them instead of handing out individual ones.

Suggestion: Have someone take photos during the event.

Firetruck a big hit as well as Police Officer Boyle. Someone called 911 while the sirens were going off.

Plastic toys were a big hit.

Uncle Sam brought his own Minion.

– Horticulture report – Robyn (Meredith Piscitelli)

The roses have been trimmed as needed, and the center bed roses are starting their second bloom. We have many rose bushes that we need to purchase to replace the ones we have lost, but those will be purchased and planted in the fall.

The crescent flowers are looking spectacular, and we will be trimming the Spirea in the next week.

We continue to monitor the irrigation system, and it still is not 100% effective. It is still only working in spots in the rose garden, and it appears that it is not working at all in the flower beds in the middle of the walkway. Although those beds are planted and maintained by the city exclusively, it certainly affects the overall look and feel of the park, and most visitors assume that is part of the FOCCP's work, so it is critical that it be working properly. Meredith has contacted the city about this and we hope they will respond quickly.

Our volunteers have been great, and show up reliably, and work hard, but we can always use more help. If you'd like to help, please come to the rose garden on Wednesday or Sunday.

Other comments: Irrigation system - Meredith explained that hoses are old and are breaking apart and that is why they are leaking.

July 22 at 6:30 PM a Memorial Service for Mary Ann Esparo in the Rose Garden. Marianne is the former chair of the Horticulture Committee and the Rose Garden was her inspiration

– **Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey** - absent - no report

– **Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry**

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

- Reminder about the June 27 Independence Day Celebration in the Park,
- Remembrance of FOCCP member and former FOCCP Board member Mary Ann Esparo, and
- The July monthly newsletter.

The emails each went to a usual number of recipients. Mary Ann's email was opened by nearly 50% of recipients, which is much more than the usual 1/3 rate.

Last month, I reported that the website had 1,401 visitors in May 2015 and that in July 2014 we had our all-time highest number of visitors: 1,984. That is now the *former* all-time high, since June 2015 had 2,423 website visitors. This month is already at 1,366 visitors and should meet or exceed June's number. Most of the visitors seemed to be direct visitors or visitors via a search engine, but a lot of visitors also came via a link at the City of Boston's Summer Events website.

FOCCP's Facebook page had 470 "Likes" as of the last monthly meeting. I'm happy to report that we are now over 500! Thank you to Meredith, who puts a lot of work into making the Facebook page active and informative.

– **Infrastructure Committee Report - Ford Cavallari (Joanne)**

- The installation of the lights and hardware is closing in on completion
- Crews worked much of June to put up the lights, and electricians are still working on the circuits
- The bottom color lights and white arch lights now fully in place on the trellis
- The upper color lights will be installed at the end of the wisteria season
- The installation of waterproof electrical boxes and conduit is about 80% complete
- Full hookup of the small Nina section (color and dimmable white) is about 70% complete, and remaining hookups down trellis will proceed after Nina testing is completed
- Final electrical work, testing, inspection and other important activities take place in late July and through August/September
- During July and early August, some of the current white sections need to be taken offline for extended periods during rewiring, and these lights will be changed over to dimmable circuits via controllers in the electrical boxes
- Although most of the lights are in now place, the colored lights will not be turned on until November
- The Nina section will be test-illuminated several nights in early August, exact timing TBD

Sunset Cruise – Tuesday, August 4. Camille Hogan & Stephanie Walker

Different Boat from last year. Boat being donated. Will try to pick up at Park.

Cost \$45. person. Do not have to be a member of FOCCP.

Food has been ordered: shrimp, pizza, sliders, cheese and crackers.

Joanne bringing desserts from BJs.

There will be some seated table with table cloths. Some high rise tables.

Outside deck is covered.

Music and dancing a possibility.

Posters being distributed by Meredith Piscitelli.

Funds go to Christopher Columbus Day Event.

Sunday Night Movies, July 12 – August 16

July 12 (Sunset 8:21)	Driving Miss Daisy – PG (99 min)
July 19 (Sunset 8:17)	Toy Story (81 min)
July 26 (Sunset 8:10)	Shrek 2 (2004) (93 min)
August 2 (Sunset 8:03)	Indiana Jones & the Temple of Doom -(118 min)
August 9 (Sunset 7:54)	Money Ball (PG-13) (133 min)
August 16 (Sunset 7:44)	Sabrina (Harrison Ford) PG (127 min)

Discussion: Ann Babbitt will cover July 26 and August 9.
About 100 persons (local as well as those from other states and countries)
attend movie night sponsored by Joe Bono.

Park Ranger Report - Comments from members:

We pay \$20,000 for 40 hours a week to the City of Boston.
Postive response on Park Ranger. Serve as Ambassadors to the city.
Oversee homeless, off lease dogs, drugs. Improvement with dogs off leash which is safer
for children playing on the grass. Good about bike rules.
Rose Garden gate being checked. The rangers are interacting with
the public. Have given out a few tickets.
Spoke to Jump & Jive to tone down their noise.
Overall there has been a tremendous improvement in safety in the park. The white trellis
lights are also proving to be a safety measure.

Guests.

Maria Lanza: North End, West End Waterfront Neighbor Services replacing
Nicole Leo. Maria will advertise FOCCP events in her newsletter. Submit any comments
to her. Promotes city services and is on call for emergencies.

Jack McCarthy: Works locally at Edward Jones Financial Services. Attended the Independence
Day event and was very impressed. Likes to garden so he decided to come to the meeting
and to join FOCCP. Suggested planting Lavender that would complement the roses. Also,
enlist high school students for events as they need community service credits.
Meredeth in touch with Girl Scouts.

2015 Events

Oct 12. Columbus Park Celebration

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel. Ann, Joanne and Meghan

Nov. 23 Trellis lighting

Non FOCCP Event

Fireworks on Labor Day, Sept. 5. Boston Harbor Association
Other: NEMPAC concerts on Thursday evenings.

Minutes accepted with 3 typo changes.

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly minutes
August 11, 2015
The Mariner House
North Sq.
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:30pm and attended by 20 members new members introduced themselves

Minutes of the July 2015 meeting were distributed for review by attendees.

Membership committee

Meredith Piscitelli reported there were 227 renewing members and 49 new members, 13 businesses applied for membership as well as the North End Girl Scout Daisy Troop have joined.

Treasurer report

Audrey Tortolani reported the July expenses were, among other things, insurance, tax preparation and payments for the Park Ranger. July revenues included \$12,546 in membership dues and overall bank balance at \$317,000
The Annual Harbor Cruise had a great turnout with approximately 90 attendees. The 50/50 raffle netted \$500, with an overall event net of \$1750. She commented that many attendees who had not previously attended FOCCP events and that the cruise may have had broad appeal.

Horticulture committee

Robyn Reed reported that the rose bushes are doing very well and the irrigation has been working effectively. Volunteers have been working in the Crescent garden and the perennials are being trimmed regularly.
They have also been trimming the wisteria. She said that there have been new volunteers in response to her request/ appeal. Again she mentioned that all volunteers are welcome and, of course, dress is casual. Closed toe shoes are required.

She and other Horticulture volunteers are planning an August 19 trip to a rose vendor in Acushnet to purchase new rose plants, including one that will be planted in memory of Mary Ann Esparo. She said that extra help for planting that evening would be appreciated.

Fund raising report

Patricia Sabbey reports that the revenues from the Annual Harbor Cruise will be used for the expenses for the Columbus Day event on 10/12/2015. That event will run from noon to 4pm.

Ann Babbitt is chairing that event and looking for volunteers to staff the event. A sign up sheet was distributed for volunteers.

Joanne Hayes-Rines encouraged attendees volunteers to sign up for the event which is always a great celebration for families, children and the membership.

Patricia further reported that FOCCP is hoping to resurrect the Urban Oasis Project (improvements to the circular garden and trees on the Marriott side of park promenade). She is planning a Fall meetings with the Parks Dept. She will mention the sink holes on promenade as well as the children's fountain which is not working at present.

Internet Communication report

Christina Sperry reports 3 July emails to membership - 2 for the Annual Harbor Cruise and the FOCCP monthly news letter. Emails were opened at the normal rate. The FOCCP website had the highest visits at 2,908 July 2015. She reports continuing increases over the months.

Most website visits are original visits and some from City of Boston link.

Infrastructure committee

Ford Cavallari reports that a Committee meeting will be held in September. Stay tuned for notice.

The Committee continues to work persistently on the Trellis Light Project. They are also working diligently to engage the appropriate folks at City Hall on other outstanding park maintenance projects.

Wisteria trimming on the top of the trellis is being done in preparation for the next phase of the Light Project in October. One of the goals of the Trellis Light Project is to get one trellis section, with white lights and colored lights with dimmers, controllers etc., completed. Work is slow moving due to electrician vacations and other demands. There are some questions about the dimmers. They may need more adjustment, or possibly be replaced. Fortunately, Ford reports they are not too expensive. Another goal is to have standard illumination totally ready for our annual Trellis Lighting Event in November

As a future consideration, he also commented that FOCCP will likely need to develop a new wisteria pruning strategy to coordinate with the permanent trellis lights.

Finally, he reported that Chris Cook, Parks Commissioner, may want discuss the possibility of security cameras on the trellis, at some point in the future.

President's report

Joanne Hayes-Rines mentioned that the Annual "Ahts in the Park " will not be held in Christopher Columbus Park. It will be held in City Hall instead.

Annual Harbor Cruise --- Joanne congratulated the Event chairs - Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker for their efforts in planning a very successful event! The 50/50 raffle earned \$500 and the winner gave back his winnings as another donation to FOCCP!! Many attendees commented on the event, the boat itself, the camaraderie and a good time despite the stormy skies

Meredith Piscitelli suggested that next year, additional funds be allocated for the food service.

Audrey Tortolani suggested that more stationary locations vs passed hors d'oeuvres could be considered because two decks were challenging for passed hors d'oeuvres.

Joanne reminded attendees that the last Sunday Movie in the Park will be on August 16, unless Joe Bono decides on an additional date to show "Toy Story" which had been earlier rained out.

The FOCCP payment for the Park Ranger totaled \$20,000 and continues thru September 2015. Problems in the Rose Garden have diminished since the Ranger has been daily locking the Garden.

The Park Ranger is now directing dog owners to the new dog park in the "gassy flights", where a Ranger is also locking that park at night. That effort is already reducing vandalism. RUFF is also hoping to get improved lighting and water

Chris Cook, Park Commissioner has accepted an invitation to next month's/ September meeting.

2015 FOCCP events reminder

Columbus Day Event on 10/12.

Annual FOCCP Gala 11/6 at the Boston Harbor Hotel

Annual Trellis Lighting 11/23

Other Park Events

NEWRA Annual Summer Party 8/19

Boston Harbor Labor Day Fireworks - the "dueling barges" 9/5

NEMPAC -- Swing Dancing in the Park 8/25

Other

Meredith Piscitelli suggests FOCCP may want to explore a portable, simple sound system for FOCCP events in the Park. Joanne will explore possibilities.

Joanne Hayes-Rines made a motion to accept the July 2015 meeting minutes with correction of "typos". Susanne Lavoie Lagace seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Adjourned at 7:30

Liz Greene, Clerk, Pro Tem

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 09/09/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA*

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:35 P.M.

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

August Minutes were distributed.

Attending: 16 members including Board Members, Chris Cook and 3 guests.

Guests from the Charlestown Naval Ship Yard Park were introduced:

Edward Cardinale, Dodie Boyle, Debbie De Boro.

Committee Reports

– Membership report – Beverly Knight

-\$11,664.70 Raised

-229 Renewals

-49 New

Hopes more memberships will be coming in at the next events.

Meredith Piscitelli reported Facebook Likes:

August - 545

Sept. - 5

Since March 423 - up to 550 - some with comments.

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report-Christina Sperry Absent

Report given by Joanne.

One email was sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last monthly meeting:

- The September monthly newsletter.

The email went to a usual number of recipients and was opened at the usual open rate of about 1/3.

Regarding the website, it is interesting to see from which states the website has been visited so far in 2015. We've had visitors from 49 states (Montana is the one missing). Massachusetts is number one, with about 4,500 visitors, but that is surprisingly only 47% of the total number of visitors. Rounding out the top five are New Jersey, California, Georgia, and New York. Also so far in 2015, we've had visitors from 6 continents (Antarctica is the one missing).

Treasurer Report -Audrey Tortolani

Expenses for August - Labor costs to install new lights on trellis - \$2700.

Deposits- Harbor Cruise - \$1,000.

Deposits for Gala Band.

\$53,000 for year - under budget.

Major Expense - Park Ranger \$20,000. Final payment of \$5,000 made in August.

Total Balance in all accounts: \$308,000.

Ann Babbitt - Columbus Day Report

Plans are under way for our Columbus Day event on Monday, October 12 in the Park. Our entertainers this year will be Jimmy Vee, the stiltwalker & his son. Christopher Columbus will lead the parade through the Park and Mickey Mouse will accompany him. Big Joe, the Storyteller, & Peter, the Magician, will entertain as well as Jim, the Bubble Guy. The Aquarium will provide their Tidepool exhibit and NEMPAC will have a craft table & the musical petting zoo. Our FOCCP volunteers will provide Face Painting. A volunteer sign-up sheet is being circulated.

Ann Babbitt - Gala Report

Patricia Thiboutot & Allison Seavey have graciously agreed to keep the list of restaurant gift certificates, as they're received this year and Patricia will mail out the thank you notes when she receives the GC's. Please try to get email addresses and owner or manager's names for each certificate. I have the Restaurant Donation Forms and the list of restaurants and solicitors from 2014 and will distribute them at the end of the evening. Lynn Daniels has moved from the area. I've circled the restaurants Lynn solicited last year. Let me know which restaurants, if any, you can solicit from Lynn's list.

Horticulture - Robyn Reed

-Joanne leave Rose Garden open during the week during the summer.

-Rangers inconsistent with locking the garden.

-Lahey has been contacted to replace 2 trees.

Fundraising - Patricia Sabbey

Urban Oasis Summary and Questions

FOCCP has plans filed with the Parks Department to develop the area of the park near the edge of the wharf. We have been working with Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect and Lauren Bryant, Project Manager.

Currently there is a 24 foot unirrigated circle with three resilient trees circled by some tired looking benches. FOCCP has plans designed by Bellata 3 Design to create a vibrant and welcoming space.

Although the plans have been in process for over two years, the holdup has been substructure issues including possible problems with the seawall, a sinkhole and drainage issues near the spray play area. I understand from Lauren Bryant that \$260,000 has been allocated to assess and potentially repair the drainage issues at the water feature area.

My questions for Chris Cook are:

Have the issues with the seawall and sinkhole been addressed?

If not, will additional money be allocated soon to assess and repair any damage?

We are excited about the Urban Oasis Project and would like to see it come to fruition. The underlying issues need to be addressed before that can happen.

Infrastructure - Ford Cavallari

-Lights - not much done in August

-September 3rd element.

1st Element - 100% attached to trellis

2nd Element - All lights are on. Test runs were done in August.

75% complete putting electrical infrastructure. Putting conduit on west facing side to connect to

controllers.

1975 wiring still there. Good idea to put alternate wiring which is 85% completed.

Southern 2 sections will be completed later.

3rd Element - Just starting to connect wiring over all the lights.

Nina-illuminated in August.

September - rest of lights will be hooked up. One area - white lights could be less bright.

Some people like the bright lights as they provide more security and feel safe. Some people do not like the bright lights. Will try to focus on dimming lights.

Completion date - Trellis Lighting Monday before Thanksgiving.

Special Guest: Chris Cook, Commissioner, Park and Recreation Dept

Chris was director of the City's Office of Arts and Tourism for 4 years and, as such, was very familiar with Columbus Park. He became interim Parks Commissioner in January 2014 and was sworn in as Commissioner just a year ago. The Parks Dept. has a \$35 million annual budget and more than 200 employees. Chris and his staff are responsible for 2,600 acres, including 225 parks and playgrounds, three cemeteries and two golf courses. They also maintain the historic landmarks like the Common, the Public Garden and the Emerald Necklace.

Chris recognized the Christopher Columbus as a model for all parks to follow. Appreciates the volunteer effort to keep the park beautiful. Spoke about other park projects in the North End, for example the Prado, the Rachel Revere renovation, Langone Park. Playgrounds need to be updated every 10-15 years. Would like to see some improvement in the Park for tots and older children. Meredith strongly objected saying it is a Tot Lot.

Langone Park will undergo a major renovation which will cost 2 1/2 million dollars. It will have state-of-the-art lighting.

Copps Hill playground not working for him. Homeless issue needs to be addressed. Separate big from little kids. Add water play.

Discussion followed regarding water and sandbox .

Possible expansion of grassy area on Commercial side of Christopher Columbus Park.

No Boston Arts Festival in Columbus Park. Festival was held at Gov. Center.

Questions for Chris:

-- Robyn - irrigation of the rose garden ..We desperately need a spigot so there are no more bucket brigades.

-Patricia S-- sea wall ... we can't move forward with the Oasis project until it's assessed and fixed, as needed

On an unrelated topic, I was wondering if you know anything about the proposed Fisherman's Memorial to be located on the wharf adjacent to the park?

--Joanne - park rangers were great this year. Can the city cover the cost for next year?

--Ann B. Can he attend our Gala on Nov. 6?

-Ford asked if it would be possible to obtain more advanced controllers.

Chris will look into the spigot and the possible cost of the Park Rangers.

Joanne reported that the Park Rangers were a success. Park felt safer. They interacted with the public. They fluctuated their time.

Chris will look into the matters mentioned above..

Chris asked we would want horses at the Christopher Columbus Day Event. Everyone said YES. He will be donating the face painters and supplies for the event. These events will provide him with examples to demonstrate to the budget people the need to support the park with funds. Good public relations. He will also speak to the mayor about other possible donations.

Ann Babbitt gave Chris a Save the Date card for the Gala. He said he would be attending.

2015 Events

Oct 12. Columbus Park Celebration

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel. Chairs: Ann, Joanne and Meghan

Nov. 23 Trellis lighting

August Minutes were approved with typos.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 10/13/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:35 P.M.

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

August Minutes were distributed.

Attending: 21 members including 8 Board Members

Committee Reports:

-Horticulture: Robyn Reed

While the roses are still blooming, we are ramping down the care of the roses and the plants in the crescent to ready them for winter. We have stopped trimming the roses and now we are allowing them to form rose hips to nourish them for the winter. We will NOT be trimming them back in the fall as we used to, shifting that activity to the spring. We plan on meeting at least this coming Sunday, and perhaps one or two more weeks, but the absolute last day will be Sunday October 25.

The wisteria was trimmed a second time this year for the lights, but I am sure it will only help the blooms for the spring.

The gates will remain unlocked during the week until the city comes and puts mulch down after the first frost. Then we will lock the gates for the winter.

Meredith will give a discussion on the Daisy Troop that donated money and time to plant new daisy in the crescent.

We had a spectacular year in the garden this year – the wisteria bloomed abundantly after the spring trimming, and continue to thrive all summer, the thinning of the lillies last fall , and the feeding of the plants in the crescent made for multiple blooms and wonderful healthy plants all summer. In the rose garden, we trimmed aggressively in the spring, and fed the plants monthly, and we were bug and disease free until just a few weeks ago when black spot and powdery mildew showed up, but considering how dry it was and that fact that we introduced 14 new plants in August , I'd say it was an incredibly successful year in the garden.

I want to thank everyone who came out to help in the garden – we had a number of new volunteers who were invaluable (Mary, Jack, John, Sean) some former members that came out again (Jeannine and Joseph) and the die-hards – Meredith, Mimi, Therese and Ann, are amazing people who gave their all this summer. It truly is group effort and I am honored to work with such caring, hard workers. I look forward to working with all of them next spring.

-Membership Report: Beverly Knight

TOTAL - (without Businesses) = \$11,681.70

TOTAL - (with Businesses) = \$12,866.70

Renewals = 229

New members = 50

-Treasurer Report-Audrey Tortolani - See Attached Report

-Fundraising Report: Joanne reported for Patricia Sabbey

2 new sponsors:

- One Medical Group located on State Street \$5,000 - Gold Level. Member of group attended Movies in the Park. He was impressed and went back to his group and told them they needed to support FOCCP.
- Boston Harbor Cruises. Meghan and Audrey attended a function where they met Matt Murphy. He will be donating \$5,000 - Gold Level.
- Carmella of CL Waterfront Properties will be donating \$5,000 - Gold Level.
- Joanne gave the new GM, Ed Rocco, of the Marriott a fundraising packet. He is originally from Boston and would like to support FOCCP. Another \$5,000 - Gold Level. He would like to be on the mailing list.
- Joanne also will be contacting Sun Stone and Tia's.
- Tia's After the Trellis Lighting Party will be paid by FOCCP.
- Joanne meeting with Matt Conti of NEwaterfrontnews also with manager of Joe's American Bar.
- Joanne asked Sanibel for invoice for the work they are donating so she will know the value of their work.
Could be Gold Level.
- Century Bank donated \$1,000. Bronze Level.

Website & Internet Communications Committee Report - Christina Sperry

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

The October monthly newsletter.

Bulletin about Columbus Day weekend events, including our annual Fall Festival, Sunday's Columbus Day parade, and Friday's North End Columbus Day Committee Reception where FOCCP received the Michael A. Nazzaro Jr. Community Leadership Award.

Reminder about the Annual Fundraiser Gala.

The emails went to a usual number of recipients and were opened at the usual open rate of about 1/3, although the Gala email was sent today and has surely been opened more since I checked the numbers earlier today.

The website is starting its regular winter trend of receiving fewer visitors. Of interest this month, it's interesting to note that people visiting the site through a search on Google or other search site have found it most commonly (over 30% of the time) by directing searching for "foccp" in some form. Many people know the group!

Facebook: Christina for Meredith

10/13/15 565 Likes

09/05/15 550 Likes

Infrastructure Committee Report: Ford Cavallari

-End stretch of lights

-3 Phases;

1. Attaching lights to timber done in June and July.
2. Rewiring of Trellis Lights that have been there since 1975. Use more circuits. Steve donating electrical work could amount to \$10,000.
3. Taking attached lights - high voltage and hooking them together

Nina is 100% completed

Santa Maria 100% completed

Pinta - last to have wisteria trimmed.

Should be cleared this week. Men will return to put more lights because wisteria grew after it had been trimmed. 50% cover top, 100% bottom.

Deadline: Nov. 16th. White lights will be dimmed.

Michael A. Nazzaro Award - Joanne

FOCCP was the second recipient of this award. The first recipient was Mayor Thomas Menino.

The award is given by the Christopher Columbus Parade Committee. Phil Orlandello of the Regional Review said "it was about time"! The Committee was so impressed by the Park's beauty and the dedication of its volunteers.

Columbus Day Fall Festival - Ann Babbitt, Chair.

A beautiful day for a festival. Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Festival such a successful event. It was a long day but worth it!

Aaron Michlewitz and Sal La Mattina were in attendance.

Sal from NEMPAC gave a beautiful rendition of Ole Solo Mio.

Triple the number of people from last year attended the event.

Festivities included a visit from the Boston Police Canine Unit, Mounted Ranger, Firetruck, Mickey Mouse, Christopher Columbus on stilts, Mickey Mouse, Elsa from Frozen, Face Painting by the Parks and Recreation Dept., tatoos, Aquarium, Big Joe. Jack McCarthy kept the youngsters busy doing tatoos while they waited in the line for face painting. Bubble by Boston Harbor Cruise Boat and the Bubble Man.

Bake Sale was a success. Raised \$505.

Raffle raised: \$350.

A Day to Remember.

Gala Meeting:

Meghan: Ticket Sales slow. 39 tickets sold at 26 days out. 158 tickets sold last year 28 days out.

Started ticket sales earlier last year.

Meredith: Posters going up.

Laurie: Silent Auction looking good. Franklin Park Tour, Behind the scene tour at the Aquarium, Celebrity Chef, Makeover Fashion Designer, The Point, Designer on Prince Street, Holiday Gift Wrapping by Laurie.

Flowers: Therese will be doing the flowers. Suggestion by Allison to try buying the flowers at Trader Joe's or Boston Public Market.

Joanne: Menu: 6:30 Bar, 7:00-7:30 Appetizers.

7:30 - Food will be served buffet style with 4 stations. Slider Station Beef and Crabcake, Stuffed Chicken, Vegetable Pasta Dish, Mixed Salad.

Dessert; Adriana from Caffe Paradiso will be providing cannoli.

Band: Boston Bean Town Swing Band

2015 Events

Nov. 6 Gala. Boston Harbor Hotel, Ann, Joanne and Meghan

Meetings every Tuesday

Nov. 23 Trellis Lighting

Joanne asked if minutes were approved.

Minutes approved as presented.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

* History of FOCCP Galas

DATE	VENUE	ATTENDANCE	TICKET PRICE
October 2001	Marriott	300	\$65
October 15, 2004	Marriott	400	\$65
March 24, 2006	State Room		\$100
Nov. 9, 2007	Marriott	375	\$100
Nov. 21, 2008	Intercontinental	468	\$100
Nov. 13, 2009	Marriott		\$150 (by 11/1 \$135)
Nov. 19, 2010	Marriott	330	\$125
Fri., Nov. 18, 2011	Marriott	293	\$125
Fri., Nov. 16, 2012	Marriott	180	\$100
Sat., Nov. 16, 2013	Fairmont Battery Wharf	200	\$135
Fri., Nov. 14, 2014	Boston Harbor Hotel	247	\$150
Fri., Nov. 6, 2015	Boston Harbor Hotel		\$150

Ticket Sales by Week

2012 Casino Night Ticket Sales. Friday, Nov. 16, 2012

10/17/12	60 (30 days before event)
10/23/12	90
11/5/12	142
11/7/12	153
TOTAL	180

2013 Monte Carlo Night Ticket Sales, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013

10/29/13	107 (19 days before event)
11/5/13	141
11/12/13	189
TOTAL	200

2014 Gala Ticket Sales, Friday, Nov. 14

10/7/14	88 (38 days before event)
10/14	107 (31 days)
10/21/14	158 (24 days)
10.27.14	170 (18 days)
11.3.14	194 (11 days)
TOTAL	247

2015 Gala Ticket Sales, Friday, Nov. 6

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 11/10/15
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Agenda 11/10/15

Meeting initially chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines, who had to leave at 7:00 to catch a flight. Ann Babbitt chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Recording the meeting: Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes were distributed.

President's Report

Joanne thanked everyone for the great work that was done to create one of the most successful Galas ever. It was successful because:

- the number of gift certificates that were brought in and the number of volunteers who hit the pavement to get them;
- thank you notes were sent to donors before the Gala for the first time;
- the number of attendees (more than 200) was our goal;
- the generosity of donors allowed us to invite some people in the community who otherwise would not have attended (NEMPAC, Eliot School principal and administrators);
- attendees supported our efforts by buying treasure chests and bidding on the silent auction items;
- most of all our team worked brilliantly and happily together!

2016: Our 15th Anniversary ... we'll be bringing together committees to plan and implement special activities in the Park so put your thinking caps on about what we can do to kick off our plans for 2016!

Welcome our guest, Jesse Brackenbury, CEO of the Greenway Conservancy.

The Boston Chamber of Commerce recently named Jesse one of the City's 2015 Top Ten Outstanding Young Leaders.

Conservancy is a non-profit group. They do all the work on the Greenway. 300 programs. Example Dance Party - 5 days of instruction by a NYC group. Celebrity Series Hosted the event. Spent over \$100,000. A great diverse event. Greenway open to hosting events.

Public Art - temporary bronze exhibits. Murals at South Station. Hired art director from Chicago. Sheep at China Town as it is the year of the sheep. Related to Fort Point Channel, the wool district.

-February - Year of the Monkey

-Massachusetts Artists welcome to exhibit

-Potential site for exhibits will be the front lawn of the No. Bennett School.

-Major expense - \$400,000 for boxwoods in NE Parks across from Public Mkt.

-Replaced benches with porch swings

-Model for Wharf District - need repair to granite over tunnel \$12 Million dollar project

-Trash cans rusting - not galvanized

-Committed to public art

-Major Project - Ring Stone - install set of sculptures

-Series of ambassadors - 20 people applied - to help explain the art

-2 Park Rangers started last year - working closely with ambassadors - act in an enforcement capacity. Work on issues of law breaking. Should not push homeless away. Partner with city hall and the Pine St. Inn. Offering services.

-Carousel open Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Dec. 20.

Holiday week open everyday.

Committee Reports

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed

The volunteers for the garden have stopped meeting for the season, although the roses are still blooming. The Parks Department will put down mulch on the center bed rose garden as soon as we have a first frost. After they do that, we will lock up the garden gates for the winter.

The Horticulture group will start meeting again to discuss what we will be doing for the next season in February, and we will meet in the garden in April.

-- Membership report – Beverly Knight as presented by Meredith Piscitelli

This is the up-to-this-date report for membership total, not including businesses: (actual membership only):

Total - \$11,841.00

Renewals: 232

New this year: 51

Grand total: 283

-- Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani

Expenses: \$31,000

Budgeted: \$35,000

\$36,500 Sponsorships

Gala Money: \$17,000

Bank Account Balance \$349,000

--Gala Report: Ann Babbitt

-200 Tickets sold

-Treasure Chest a success.

-Raffle Sales even broke through the roof.

-Doubled the amount of Gift Certificates received.

-Looking into how to enhance do's and don'ts

-No FOCCP Meeting in December

-Next Meeting second week of January

-- Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey

Patricia and Joanne met with sponsors. One Medical gave \$5,000. Using FOCCP as a platform to branch out. Boston Harbor Cruise is a sponsor. It took a year to develop a relationship.

--Website & Internet Communications Committee Report - Christina Sperry

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

The November monthly newsletter.

Two reminders about the Annual Fundraiser Gala.

The emails went to a usual number of recipients and were opened at about 30% or less, which

is a little less than the usual open rate of about 1/3. As a follow up to last month's meeting, the main Gala invite email was emailed the day of the meeting. I can now report that, consistent with prior years, this email was opened by more recipients than any other email sent all year, with 58% of recipients opening the email.

The Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Facebook page has increased since last month to 593 "Likes!" I hope that at the next meeting I can report that we're over 600.

-- **Infrastructure Committee Report** - Ford Cavallari

Trellis is great shape. Top lights on. Everything been tested. Some strips with orange tag designated for replacement. Thursday, latest test. Everything lighting. Nina by Joe's will be dimmer. They will all be at the same level. 58% in survey want lights dimmed. 42% ok with the bright lights. Street lights are on DPW timer. Trellis timer needs to be reset to new time.

Nov. 23 Trellis lighting

Begins at 5:00

NEMPAC will perform beginning at 5:30. Starbucks bringing coffee and hot chocolate. Joe's American Bar bringing clam chowder. Marriott delivering cookies.

Other Business: Rita Pagliuca

In January I am going to ask the members of FOCCP to bring handbags, scarfs and costume jewelry to the next meeting. I am working with Dress For Success Boston to which I want to make the donation. This organization suits women for their interview, mentors them and then when they get a job provide two more outfits.

Minutes accepted with 2 spelling corrections.

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk