



**Friends of Christopher Columbus Park**  
Meeting: September 10, 2019 at 6:39 PM

Meeting Chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines  
Recording Minutes: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk  
Minutes Distributed.

**Board Members Attending:** Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Patricia Thiboutot, MaryGaye Grizwin, Patricia Sabbey

**Board Members Absent:** Robyn Reed, Allison Seavey, Susanne Lavoie, Ford Cavallari, Rita Pagliuca

**Attending: Bookkeeper:** Beverly Knight

**Members Attending: 9**

**Committee Reports:**

--**Fundraising:** Patricia Sabbey

Followed up on sponsors: Joe's American Bar, CI Properties

--**Internet Communications:** Joanne Hayes-Rines

-March Newsletter - Open rate 35%

--**Infrastructure:** Ford Cavallari - Absent - No Report

--**Horticulture:** Robyn Reed - Absent - Report Read by Patricia Thiboutot

- Not much going on in the garden this time of year, right now we are just maintaining and cleaning the gardens. Because of a wedding at the end of September, we will not be cutting back the blooms on the bush roses until October.

- We have purchased a few more hostas for the pachysandra beds – we are slowly replacing the pachysandra (and all the weeds) with shade-loving perennials in those beds outside the rose garden, on the fountain side.

- Everyone is welcome to join us – we will train you and provide all the tools and gloves. Please just wear closed-toe shoes and appropriate clothing, as well as sun protection.

**Park Art:** Report Read by Patricia Thiboutot

1.) I met with Pierre Bélanger - landscape architect & Urban Planner at

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based in Boston, who represents the Curatorial Team for the National Exhibition at the United States Pavilion for the 2020 Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy. He wants to borrow the Christopher Columbus statue to use in the installation in Venice for the 2020 Exhibition. He is happy to come to a FOCCP meeting if he thinks people want to hear about his project.

2.) I will be holding a meeting for anyone interested in discussing the February 2020 Tunnel of Love project.

Issues to be discussed include:

- Budget
- Volunteers/hired staff
- Security/Vandalism
- Event or just decorations/installation
- Timetable

The meeting will be at the end of September.

Please contact Robyn at her email and let her know you are interested.

This is NOT limited to FOCCP members, so if anyone knows someone that wants to come but is not an FOCCP member, that is OK.

**--Membership:** MaryGaye Grizwin

Year to Date Results –

August proved to be a great membership donation month with over \$1,000 in donations from eight (8) members. All but one were renewing members.

Year-to-Date Memberships and Donations have surpassed Year-Over-Year (YOY) results, driven strongly by membership renewals.

167 members have renewed compared to 151 this time last year; We have received \$16,638 in renewal donations compared to \$13,090 last year.

We have only 20 new members this year compared to 33 this time last year; New members has contributed \$1215 compared to \$3,625 this time last year.

Donations are 79% of last year's total membership donation levels; this is an average of 47 members donating \$122 each.

Recommended activity:

Membership booth - October 5 Fall Festival

-- Facebook: Meredith-20 Likes

**--Treasurer:** Allison Seavey Absent.

Report given by Beverly Knight, Bookkeeper

**Revenue** through August 31, 2019 for the Park was \$57,193, which is 68% of the 2019 Budget of \$84,000. Prior year 2018 revenue as of August 31, 2018 was \$68,118 (which included 2017 sponsorship revenue received in 2018).

**Sunset Cruise** netted \$4,100 vs \$3,000 last year!

Bench Program added \$4,000 to our bottom line with the purchase of 2 bench plaques at \$5,000 each. \$3,000 will be given to the Parks Dept. and deposited into a dedicated park maintenance account to buy new benches. FOCCP keeps \$2,000 for each bench sold.

**General Memberships** revenue is at \$16,500; \$2,000 less than this time last year.

**Independence Day** event was canceled due to weather however maintained expenses of \$1,500 to pay entertainers a partial fee and for promotional materials.

**Overall** committee chairs for both membership, fundraising, sponsorship and fall festival expect revenue/expenses to meet 2019 budget by year end.

**Next Meeting** – October 8 – special guests

Liz Weaver Nelson and Jan Engleman of Boston Harborwalk will join us to discuss plans for signage along the harbor in Columbus Park.

**Harbor Cruise** -- Report by Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker

Harbor Cruise –107 tickets sold. Revenue from ticket sales, 50/50, sale of 43 surprise bags (\$25 each) and 7 Silent Auction items brought \$4100 to FOCCP. Last year revenue was \$3,000.

Expenses included Food, DJ, promotional print materials.

Thank You to volunteers gathering gift cards and to Laurie Cadigan for the beautiful gift baskets. Beautiful night - good music. Next year Joe's American Bar will donate the food. Carol Spiros, Manager of Joe's, has committed to providing wait staff. Joe's already donates \$5,000. Appreciates what FOCCP does for the Park. Carol was at the Suffolk meeting today.

**Fall Festival** – Ann Babbitt. Just 3 ½ weeks away

The plans are finalized for our Fall Festival on Saturday October 5. Our parade will be led by a very Tall Clown. Following the parade and opening exercises the children will sing and dance with Baby Shark & Daniel the Tiger. Peter the Magician will be the MC and entertain with a magic show, Big Joe the Storyteller will be weaving his tall tales & last but not least Jim the Bubbleguy will entertain the children with giant bubbles. Join the fun with face painting & pumpkin painting from 12 - 4

**Tree and Bench Program:** Discussion for long term goals. Gained approval form Parks Dept. for financial terms, plaque design, contract for use and sponsors. Created map of bench locations. Interest in 7 benches. Secured 2 contracts. Promotional plan. Hand written notes and personal phone calls.

Working on increasing awareness in October.

**IRREVERENT WARRIORS** – JH-R

Approx. 350 veterans were in the park on Saturday, August 24, at noon the Beirut Memorial. Tia's treated the veterans to a light lunch before. The mother who lost her son Michael in Beirut, Chris Devlin, addressed the veterans with her daughter and son. On October 20 Chris and family of other veterans will be at the Memorial to remember the 9 Marines from MA who died 36 years ago. Chris noted that 2 of the trees had died. I contacted the Parks Dept and 2 new trees will be planted before October 20.

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY MARKETING SURVEY**

The undergraduate marketing department of Suffolk sent out a survey to assess residents and businesses interest in the Park and FOCCP. Today, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Patricia Sabbey, and Meredith Piscitelli along with 2 representatives from Joe's, Carol Spiros and Marketing Manager, Julia Murphy, met with the students for a session they call, "Meet the Client."

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

July 21 Casablanca (PG)

July 28 Some Like it Hot (G)

August 4 Greatest Showman (PG)  
(PG13)

August 11 Back to the Future

August 18 Million Dollar Baby (PG13)  
(PG13)

August 25 Black Panther

Joe's will give away popcorn again

### **BOSTON HARBOR FIREWORKS FUND**

This year 2 events:

Thursday, August 29 ... Labor Day Kickoff ... 2 barges were planned but, unfortunately, the funds weren't raised to cover 2 so there will only be one.

Tuesday, December 31 ... New Year's Eve ... 2 barges

Fundraising efforts for 2018 came up short so there will not be fireworks to celebrate Independence Day.

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

### **2019 EVENTS**

Easter Egg Hunt – Ann Babbitt

Membership Social – April 3 – 6pm to 8pm

Playground Celebration – May 4 – Noon to 2pm

Independence Day – Saturday, June 29

Lawn Games – July 20 to Sept. 14

Croquet on Wednesdays through August

Cruise – August 20

Fall Festival – October 5

Trellis Lighting – November 25 Monday

### **2020 Events**

Preliminary discussions about 2020 events. Decision has been made not to have Lawn Games next year. 10 Saturdays cost \$5,000. Funds can be used elsewhere.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Minutes approved as presented.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk