



PO Box 130285, Boston, MA 02113 - info@foccp.org - www.foccp.org

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
January 12, 2010
The Mariner House - North Square - Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines, President and attended by 20 members. Two staff representative from Segway on Commercial St. also attended.

Agenda
Past meeting minutes
President's remarks
Treasurer report
Horticulture report
Membership report
Gala follow-up report
Maintenance report

October 13, 2009 minutes
Minutes were read by the Clerk and accepted by the attendees

President's remarks
Joanne summarized the activities of the past year – including the gala, October 12 event, membership drive, trellis lighting and garden care. Thanked members and said that our growing membership allows us to continue to sponsor many activities to support the park. She is seeking input on 2010 goals from committee chairs, as well as the general membership.

She reports that the first bulletin board to arrive for the kiosk had to be returned as it was not meant to be free standing; replacement board should be arriving shortly. She outlined the next tasks:

- O develop rules/guidelines for information allowed
- O develop a standard format
- O ensure that information is handicap accessible for viewing

Anyone interesting in helping Joanne with these tasks, please contact her.

In reviewing the 2010 calendar, she expects a Tot Lot clean-up in May; a mothers/children planting activity in June; an, as yet to be planned summer activity; a Columbus Day event; a gala and trellis lighting in November.

She announced that next week, she and some board members will be attending a signage meeting to be held by Toni Pollak at City Hall along with representatives of the Harbor Alliance and the BRA

Treasurer's report.

Virginia Kimball reported no year end report as yet since she is still awaiting all of the income and expenses related to the 2009 gala. Expects a full report at the February meeting. She remarked that the 2009 auction income was close to the numbers for years past and ticket sales were less due to the smaller venue.

Horticulture report.

Maryann Esparro reported a successful 2009 season. There were 9 volunteers working in the gardens which represents a 50% increase from the prior year. The volunteers work twice a week and she is hoping for a couple more volunteers this season. The work is ongoing for 6 months of the year. She anticipates needing more new plants for the crescent garden and is exploring using organic fertilizer this year. At the suggestion of Meghan Denenberg, she is exploring the possibility of a mothers/children planting day/activity. More to come on this later.

MaryAnn's wish list for 2010:

- plantings for the kiosk,
- replacing sand with blocks in the Rose garden and/or
- more sand for the Rose garden walkway.

She also had a wish list "plus":

○ a partial canopy in the playground as mothers report it is very hot during the midday; and

○ a children's planting workshop (potentially seeking resources from the Children's Museum and advice from FOCCP member, Joan Murphy)

MaryAnn also remarked that she is noticing more push back from park personnel; seeking FOCCP to pick up more costs as the city resources decrease.

She said that work will begin on limited basis in April; Wednesday evenings at 6 and Sunday mornings at 9:30.

Membership report

Meghan Denenberg outlined her goals for 2010:

- increase her committee by 3 to 5 members
- hold the membership drive in April/May
- update the email contact list
- create a Membership "How to" manual
- have a table at Park events
- purchase a tablecloth/banner with FOCCP logo
- teach the team about software programs (website – Homestead; and email – constant contact – newsletters)
- grow the mothers/family membership
- identify other sub-groups

Gala report (Ann Devlin-Tagliaferro unavailable tonight)

Joanne reported in Ann's absence. Return to the Marriott was initially difficult after our successful event at the intercontinental Hotel last year. But, the logistics of using both the Palm Room and the Ballroom worked out much better than expected. The flow of the event worked well; the cellist at registration was appreciated; appetizers/hors d'oeuvres in the Palm could have been more accessible; more bar stations and experienced bar tenders to avoid long lines for cocktails; as in years past, there were complaints that the band was too loud making conversation difficult; need more thinking about the band for the next gala – size, volume and music selection and timing of breaks; although the food was good, it lacked variety; desserts were expensive and inadequate.

Suggestions: welcome attendees and announce the agenda/order (auction closing time and procedures etc.) of the evening when attendees arrive in the ballroom; changing the date of the event of the spring—March/April; integrating the date with the celebration of Earth Day; holding the event outside with a tent.

Maintenance report (Cole Landers unavailable tonight)

As Cole was unable to be here tonight, he sent his goals by email:

- reform the Maintenance committee with 2 to 3 volunteer members
- assess existing and projected Maintenance areas
- with Parks Dept. staff, determine the priority and ownership of remediation
- submit recommendations to the Board for self funded projects beyond Park's capabilities

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk



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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting - February 9, 2010
The Mariner House - North Square - Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 30 members and guests. David Kubiak from NEWRA attended. They have recently formed a Parks Committee and he was interested to learn from FOCCP. Member introductions. January meeting minutes read and accepted.

Agenda

Treasurer's report
Horticulture report
Fundraising report
President's remarks
Other announcements

Treasurer's report

Virginia Kimball reported the 2009 year end December checking account balance in the amount of \$61,731.61. She distributed expense and income reports for September, October, November and December 2009. The organization also holds two Certificates of Deposit totaling a little more than \$140,000.

Joanne asked that Virginia prepare a year to date report format for the monthly meetings. She also highlighted the significant funds that are needed for tree care, trimming and pruning as well as garden plantings and the holiday lights

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparro report that there are not formal meetings of the committee at present. They will resume in April

Fundraising report

Ann Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the committee will review possible date change for the Gala and well as a possible harbor cruise fundraiser (courtesy of Boston's Best Cruises)

President's remarks

Joanne received an email regarding the mud which accumulates around the children's fountain. There is also a manhole cover which seems to be sinking. She has raised both of these issues with Tom Sullivan of the Maintenance Department

She said that NorthEndWaterfront.com written by Matt Conti recently had a nice write up about the park. FOCCP meeting schedule will also be announced there as well as in the Regional review.

The work on the park kiosk is proceeding. Warren Mustachio will install. The board itself will be cork. Sign posts are pressure treated and will be painted black in the spring. She announced there will be a Tot Lot clean up effort this spring. Mary Marengi will coordinate. Plan to schedule the clean up prior to Mayor's annual coffee in the Park on May 12. Stay tuned for date – likely May 1 or May 2. The FOCCP Board voted to spend \$200 on the effort.

Joanne will convene the By-Law committee to review Board and membership input on revisions and updates. New member, Mary Jo Savino has agreed to word process the current set of By-Laws so they can be further revised and edited.

Joanne reported that she has requested from the City, one case of ParkArts 2010 brochures. ParkArts is the umbrella organization for all citywide park arts efforts. The kick-off event is June 26 and ushers in the annual Harbor Fest and Naval Week. The membership voted to spend \$1000 to support this event. FOCCP will be acknowledged in the promotional material as one of the sponsors

Other announcements

Meghan Denenberg highlighted the need for new and additional volunteers for the fundraising, membership and horticulture committees.

Victor Brogna, President of NEWRA also attended the meeting along with other members of NEWRA leadership. A general discussion was held soliciting ideas and suggestions as that organization proceeds with newly formed Parks committee. They are currently developing an inventory of all open spaces used as parks (malls, plazas, squares, etc.). David Kubiak extended an invitation to the FOCCP to attend a NEWRA meeting to inform and provide feedback on the inventory as it develops.

Mary Jo Savino presented an overview of the 2010 U.S. Census and the need for more staff. She distributed brochures with more detailed info

The meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk



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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
March 9, 2010
The Mariner House - North Square - Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes-Rines. Prior to regular business, representatives from the Boston Harbor Alliance and the National Park Service presented an update of the harbor pavilion/ticket kiosk project. They received funding to proceed on the project in March 2009 and the construction schedule calls for an April 2010 start date and work to continue thru December 2010. The Greenway area to be affected is directly across from the Park on Atlantic Ave. Every effort will be made to minimize disruptions to the flow of pedestrian traffic to and from the Greenway to the Park.

Agenda

February meeting
Treasurer report
Horticulture report
Fundraising report
Membership report
Maintenance report
Remarks from Joanne

February meeting
Liz Greene read the minutes. They were accepted with one correction

Treasurer Report

Virginia Kimball presented her report in a new format. Jim Salini assisted with the development of the new format. Checking account balance as of 12/31/09 was \$61,044. Total funds with \$138,319 in Certificates of Deposit are \$199,363.

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparo reports she now has 13 to 14 volunteers. Work begins in April

Fundraising report

Ann Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the committee has decide to continue to plan for a Fall 2010 Gala. Possibly November 12 or 19. Committee work continues. More to follow.

Ann has put in a call to Missy Walker of Boston's Best Cruises to further explore the idea of an additional smaller scale fundraising cruise in the harbor. Is still waiting for a return call.

Membership report

Meghan Denenberg reminds us that the April meeting will focus on the annual membership drive and all should be prepared to assist with envelope stuffing effort.

Maintenance report

Cole Landers reminds us that the maintenance committee does not actually have to conduct maintenance in the park but rather is responsible for a regular walk through in the park to identify areas that need attention by the Parks Dept or other professionals. He has one volunteer and is still looking for additional members.

Remarks from Joanne

Joanne received an email from Toni Pollak advising her of scheduled hearing regarding Segway. City Councilor Sal LaMattina is holding the session on Tuesday, March 23 at 1pm at City Hall – Iannella Chambers. Invites all who can to attend

Joanne reported that Frim Field has volunteered to work with her to develop a standard format for the use of the bulletin board.

The Marriott has agreed to support the ParkArts Kick off concert on 6/26 and will provide changing rooms and refreshments for the band.

Mary Jo Savino completed word processing the draft FOCCP By-Laws. They will be presented at the April meeting for a vote.

The Tot Lot clean up date has been scheduled for May 1 (Rain date May2)

The trellis lights are showing their wear and a number of them are out. They will all be shut off in conjunction with day light savings. Cole Landers suggests an Ad Hoc committee to assess the status of the lights for the next holiday season. Mary Ann Esparo agreed to talk with Danny Nuzzo about the lights as he has been the primary person involved with this project over the last few years.

Mary Ann also reports that the holiday lights garland that has been used in the Rose Garden has deteriorated and will need to be replaced for next season.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk



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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting - June 8, 2010
The Mariner House - 5 North Square - Boston, MA

The Meeting was attended by 27 members and convened at 6:30 pm by Joanne Hayes Rines. Senator Petrucelli was a guest at the meeting. FOCCP member, Donna Freni made introductions. The Senator made a short presentation and answered members questions before the official FOCCP business issues was addressed. He told members that he would look into the issue of new or different lawnmowers for the park.

Minutes were read and accepted.

Treasurer, Virginia Kimball, reported that little activity transpired this month. Total income from membership dues year to date is \$9060.00. The deposit was paid to the Marriott Hotel for the Fall 2010 Gala.

Mary Ann Esparo reports that Susanne Lavoie and Ken Lagace have again donated two bags of fertilizer for the rose garden. She also reports that Jeanine Maglione prepared a first aid kit which is now available in the Maintenance Shed. Some of the volunteers have occasionally encountered dangerous materials while working in the garden (syringes, glass sharp objects). All are reminded to always wear gloves when working in the garden.

She reports that a company called Converted Organics has donated a bag of organic fertilizer made completely of recycled food waste. It will be tried in the Crescent Garden. She noted that it is not harmful to kids or pets. Black bark mulch has been placed in the rose beds but additional coreopsis has not yet been planted in the Crescent. GTA, the company handling this has not been too responsive to inquiries.

Joanne Hayes-Rines reports that the sephora trees planted two years ago are not doing well, two have been replaced and one fell over in a wind storm. Schumacher and Halvorsen are looking into this and hope to have some resolution by June 15. Schumacher will consult with the Greenway for advice as well.

Anne Devlin-Tagliaferro asked for members to sign up for committees for the Fall Gala.

Beverly Knight reports current membership at 169. She plans to have the membership table at all summer events in the Park. A tablecloth with FOCCP logo if being ordered.

Audrey Tortolani requests members to get info for the Monthly Newsletter to her during the last week of the month which will allow her to get the email newsletter sent out to the membership before the monthly meeting

Cole Landers reports that he will shortly be sending an email to convene a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee sometime after July 4. He plans a committee walk thru of the park to identify issue to be addressed. He added that the issue of “doggy bags” is already on the committee list of issues.

Jay Thompson, chair of the Lighting Committee, reports that the current holiday lights are now four to five years old, many lights and the wiring are failing. They will be removed over the summer. He is consulting with colleagues about newly available alternatives and hopes to report progress at the next meeting.

Joanne also reports that she did a walk thru of the trellis and found that of the 158 permanent lights under the trellis, 49 are out which is not good from a security standpoint. She has discussed this safety issue with City Councilor Sal LaMattina and asked for his support for improvements. The Promenade lights, which FOCCP has raised a number of times in the past, also need to be increased. Danny Nuzzo suggested we explore a collaboration of the FOCCP with the City on these improvements

Joanne reminds us of the need for planning the October 12 celebration in the park. Fran Marrone, who led last year’s effort has agreed to chair the committee. More on this later.

Joanne noted that 2011 is the 10th anniversary of the FOCCP and she asked members to begin to think about how we might mark this event.

The Navy Band, as the kick-off of the City Summer Art Program, is scheduled to perform in the Park at 6pm on Saturday, June 26. Encouraged all to attend.

The August meeting will be held on Monday, August 9 instead of Tuesday. There is a scheduled concert in the Park on Tuesday, August 10.

Joan Murphy raised two issues: she feels there are not enough trash cans in the Park and asks if the large “big belly” receptacles would be possible; she suggests that someone should look into the problem of mud accumulating around the children’s fountain.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm
Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk



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Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting - July 13, 2010
The Mariner House - North Square - Boston, MA

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

The June meeting minutes were read and accepted.

The Treasurer sent a report of the receipt of \$1070.00 from new member dues.

The Horticulture committee report that the roses are suffering greatly from the hot weather and lack of rain. The volunteer work continues on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. With the increase in volunteers, much more work is being done and they have been able to attend to the wisteria vine as well.

Cole Landers reported that the Infrastructure committee will meet at 6:30 on Monday, July 19 at the Bulletin Board in the Park. They will make their first walk thru of the Park to identify areas which need to be addressed. He added on the issue of the "doggy bags" for the Park, we need to go thru the formal process with the designated city personnel on this issue. Joanne will find out who that is.

Anne Devlin-Tagliaferro reported that the Marriott is OK with our purchasing desserts for the Gala at Mike's Pastry. We were not satisfied with the selection or cost of the desserts at last year's event. Committee chairs have been selected: Meredith Piscitelli - Greeters; Michele Brogan - Tickets; Beverly Knight and Carol Romano - Auction. Beverly asks members to begin to think about auction items. Event is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 19.

Audrey Tortolani reports for the Internet/Communications committee that the newsletter went out to 560 contacts; 90 bounced back. She's made some adjustments to the Website: added an "About us" section and enhanced the "What's Happening?" section. Ideas for newsletter are welcome.

Jay Thompson reports for the Lighting committee that he has gotten two new possible technologies from a designer and will next contact the manufacturers for more specific details. He hopes to be able to share more info soon.

Joanne reports that all the pretty stuff on the bulletin board is being done by Meredith Piscitelli. Thx, Merry!! She also reported the Navy Band -- Park Arts Kick-off concert was a great success. There were approximately 500 in attendance. The Navy personnel were very pleased with the facilities and food provided by the Marriott which Joanne had asked the Marriott to donate. She hopes that the FOCCP banner will be ready to be used for the next event in the Park.

The Sephora trees are being evaluated by Dominic Schumacher. He told Joanne that when he was trimming some trees and pulling out the dead tree, he thought he noticed the odor of salt water and that may be part of the problem. Perhaps no trees will survive along that walk. Joanne also said she has received a number of calls regarding the mud which accumulates around the children's fountain. She will discuss with the Maintenance supervisor, Steve Forcello at the Parks Dept.

Joanne received an email from the Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. who is exploring several parks in the city as possible locations for the presentation of a 1 hour performance on the theme of love in Shakespeare's plays and sonnets. The Commonwealth Shakespeare Co. is the group that has presented Shakespeare on the Common for a number of years and are quite well respected. If they selected our Park, they are petitioning for \$500 for the amplification system. There was general agreement that this would be a good idea. There was a suggestion that seeing a video of their work might be helpful in deciding and suggest they should promote the event on their website.

Joanne reports that Fran Marrone won't be able to chair the Columbus Day event in the Park. Joanne has agreed to lead the effort with a committee. Volunteers for the committee: Kathy Ray, Trish Bauer, Matt Conte, Michele Brogan, Ann Devlin Tagliaferro, Jess Williams and Liz Greene

Joanne reminds us that the FOCCP Tenth Anniversary celebration in 2011 will require a very strong and dedicated committee. All need to really think about what they will be able to do.

Kathy Ray raised the issue of how wet the lawn in the Park is. Cole reminded us that the Parks Dept is well aware of the drainage problem. Joanne will raise the issue with them

Meredith reminds all that FOCCP has a FaceBook page and that there are lots of pictures to view.

The meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
August 9, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, Mass

The meeting was attended by 17 members and convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines.

The minutes from the July meeting were read and accepted.

Horticulture committee:

Mary Ann Esparo asked the horticulture volunteers to attend the meeting so they could be introduced to the rest of the membership. Many of the volunteers were not able to come. The membership acknowledged their very important contribution to the beauty of the park.

Mary Ann reported that there had been yet another wedding on Sunday afternoon. It continues to be a very popular wedding venue.

Although Greg promised the coreopsis would be planted this week in the Crescent Garden, it still has not been planted. Mary Ann will tell him to cancel the planting as it is now too late. She reports again that Greg is unreliable and she will convey this to the Parks Dept.

She reports there are insufficient trash barrels in the park. Cole Landers reports that trash barrels are on his committee's list and will be looking into getting more and/or different placement of the barrels. One suggestion was for the temporary cardboard barrels to be used on busy weekends as well as for events. Matt Conte mentioned that there seem to be more barrels in the North End generally and that we might direct our requests to whoever has arranged for those.

Lighting committee

Jay Thompson reports he is getting new technology ideas from companies that work with outdoor and seaside locations. He has two proposals. He hopes to present his research to date at the next meeting. He reports that Ken Crasco got the original trellis design to him very quickly after his request. He reports that the current lights will come down in Sept. The wisteria will be pruned in October. Hopes for the new lights for the holiday season.

Infrastructure

Cole Landers held a committee meeting last week with 4 attendees. Overall the park is in better shape than expected. They reviewed all infrastructures -- granite, stairs, stanchions, fences, lights, poles, etc. The committee will summarize the review and outline the actions items for consideration. For example, they find that all the metal is painted black and needs attention; some benches have naming plaques as the Park's Dept has a naming program (is this a FOCCP funding opportunity?). Mary Ann Esparo

asks is it's possible that a resin or some such material has been developed that would discourage skate boarders?

Joanne suggests that the final summary report of the Infrastructure committee be forwarded to the parks commissioner.

Membership

Meghan Denenberg gave the committee report in Beverly Knight's absence.

She reports we now have 200 paid members, a new tablecloth with our logo. The walking tour of the park and waterfront was a success. She solicited volunteers to help staff the membership table for August performances. She posed the question whether or not we should routinely have a donation basket on the table?? Often we speak with folks from out of town for whom it doesn't make sense to join as a member but who are interested in supporting our efforts.

Internet committee

Audrey Tortolani reports that of the 513 email news letters sent out last month, only 13 bounced back! Reminds all that there is a Facebook link on the website. New updates will be added each month. She reports that the FOCCP purpose, mission and PDF of the By-Laws is now complete and available on the website.

Fundraising committee

Ann Devlin Tagliaferro was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

There will be a committee meeting at the end of the month. The invitation design is underway; plan to mail them in September.

Remarks from Joanne

New business: Joanne reports that a FOCCP member Mr. Gerald Monahan, called Beverly Knight to ask about any FOCCP interest in the creation of a sand pit for dogs in the park. The rules for sand pits are set forth in city ordinance. There was no interest among attendees in pursuing this issue. She will let him know and also advise him that there is a dog owners group forming in the North End and they may be interested in pursuing.

Shakespeare in the Park. Plans proceeding for the performance later this month. The monies for the amplification system have been approved. She reports that Francine Gannon is still pursuing possible reimbursement for the FOCCP support.

Solutions still being pursued regarding the sophora trees

Mary Ann Esparo will draft a letter for Toni Pollak regarding the problems with the current landscaper.

Problems continue with the mud that accumulates around the fountain. Joanne will discuss with Ken Cracso. She asks whether this might be a project the FOCCP could take on?

Columbus Day planning meeting to be set. Will report at the Sept meeting

Adjourned at 8pm

Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk

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

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

August meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer report

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

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

Horticulture report

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

Infrastructure report

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

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

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

Membership report

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

Internet/communication report

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

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

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

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

President's report

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

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

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

Fundraising Gala

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

Auction committee

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
October 12, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:40pm by Joanne Hayes Rines with 21 members in attendance.

Joanne acknowledged the success of the Christopher Columbus day celebration in the Park. Noted that approximately 500 people attended. The costs were just short of \$3000.

She hopes that the organization will show similar energy in the planning for the 10th anniversary of FOCCP in 2011.

September meeting minutes were read and accepted by the membership.

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball apologized that her computer was not working and she was unable to print up her report.

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparo reports that the committee work in the gardens will end around mid-November. She raised the issue of a 2009 bill received for ground cover and requested advice regarding timely billing procedures. Sandra Harcourt and Cole Landers will advise.

MaryAnn also requested the board to endorse a letter of reference she wrote for Warren Watson. Unanimously endorsed.

Joanne Hayes-Rines met with Dominic from Schumacher. They did a walk thru in the Park. He gave her the proposal and schedule for pruning, fertilization and maintenance for the trees. Membership approved unanimously the expenditure of \$3795.00

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers reported on last week's meeting at City Hall with Toni Pollack and Ken Crasco. The July report, done in the summer by the committee, was made into briefing points for the meeting. The City has agreed to review the whole report and get back to FOCCP formally as a part of the overall city review of parks. Primary areas emphasized were the painting needs and the small round garden near the Marriott and the Promenade lighting. Also highlighted that the 55 gallon trash barrels are not the best option; maybe FOCCP could finance some and put FOCCP name on them? They also discussed, in general, where the City and FOCCP may be able to share expenses.

Joanne Hayes-Rines noted that she recently had the chance to do an evening walk thru the park with Councilor LaMattina and was able to illustrate the lighting problems.

Lighting report

Jay Thompson reports that after much investigation, the replacement lights for the Holiday Trellis lighting will be the same type as are currently used. John Lentine will get the final figures to Jay next week. Lahey will do the final pruning and fertilizing. All will be ready by 11/22.

Membership

Meghan Denenberg reported in Beverly Knight's absence. Conveyed appreciation for all of the members who helped with the Membership table for the Christopher Columbus event. A few new members signed up. Facebook hits are increasing

Internet and communications report

Audrey Tortolani reported that the September newsletter went to 519 addresses and only 9 bounced back. Updates for committee pages are ongoing and there were 440 visits to website just the last week.

Fundraising report

Ann Devlin Tagilaferro reported that all committees efforts are well underway. Auction items are coming in. Ten to twelve volunteers will be needed for the Auction Table. Weekly meetings will begin next week and will also meet at the regular monthly FOCCP meeting on November 9. Michele Brogan reported that 57 tickets have been sold. Reminded all that tickets will not be mailed out. There will be a check-in at the event. Ann reported that there will be a new band, complimentary specialty drink bar and a strolling violinist.

The meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
November 9, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston. MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40pm.

A brief report from the Auction Committee member, Cathy McCarthy was the first agenda item in order to allow her to attend the simultaneously held Auction Committee meeting. She reported that the committee was following up with prior donors and requested assistance from the membership with specific donations where contact names were lacking. She reported that many auction items have been received and work of the committee proceeding according to schedule.

Joanne Hayes-Rines added that the auction close out process was being reviewed to ensure less confusion and a smoother process for winning bidders.

Minutes of the October 2010 meeting were read and accepted by the attendees.

Horticulture committee

Mary Ann Esparo reports that all fall activities have been completed by the volunteers. The Parks Dept will mulch and cut the sea grass when the temperatures have gotten colder. Volunteers have placed holiday garlands and bows around the Rose Garden. The outstanding bill to GTA has been paid. Mary Ann added that the pruning of the wisteria this year should result in a very lush blooming in 2011

Lighting sub-committee

Jay Thompson reports that all the old holiday lights have been taken down. Because the new lights have been delayed in shipping (due to weather related problems), an alternate lighting vendor was identified. May result in not being able to light the entire length of the trellis at this time, but within a short period after the official lighting. Many thanks to Jay for all his efforts on this.

Internet and communications

Audrey Tortolani reports that 521 newsletters were sent; 197 opened and 9 bounced back. No major changes have been made since the previous month. A letter was sent from Joanne to web subscribers as an additional reminder of the Gala.

Fundraising Gala

Ann Devlin Tagilaferro reports the Mike's Pastry will donate 500 pastries and desserts to the Gala. Approximately 300 tickets have been sold to date, although more may be already in the post office box which Joanne will check tomorrow.. Joanne described the anticipated flow of event with check in in lobby of ballroom, drinks in the palm court on second floor, cash bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, complimentary specialty drinks from

Patron Liquors, power point presentation with pictures of park events throughout the year and dinner in the ballroom. The menu will include roast beef, turkey carving station and much more. A new band has been engaged. A photographer will be available. The auction will close at 9pm.

Trellis lighting

Scheduled for Monday, November 22 at 5:30 - also dependent on weather. Marriott is donating 300 cookies, hopefully Starbuck's will provide coffee and hot chocolate. NEMPAC will provide music.

Other business

Jim Salini reminds members of a concert at the North End Branch Library and urges all to attend

Adjourned at 7:35

Minutes done by Liz Greene, Clerk