

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 01/12/16
Mariners House, Boston, MA

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines - 6:30 PM
Recording: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk
Attending: 9 Board Members (Joe Bono absent) - 10 Members
Minutes distributed.

Committee Reports

-- **Horticulture report – Robyn Reed – No Report**

-- **Membership report – Beverly Knight**

Membership Drive in March. Invitations will go out in March.

Social at Tia's – Thursday, April 21st

- **Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani**
- **See Attached copy.**

-- **Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey**

Sponsorship check for Joe's American Bar was delayed. It needed to be sent from corporate headquarters. The local and district managers were very helpful and very supportive of the park and made sure FOCCP received the check. We are fortunate as a group to have such great local support from all of our sponsors.

-Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry

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

- December and January monthly newsletters.
- A follow-up to the December newsletter updating FOCCP's corporate sponsors.
- A reminder about the Annual Trellis Lighting.

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

At the last meeting, I hoped that the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Facebook page would increase from 591 "Likes" to over 600, and it did! We're now at 617 "Likes."

If Twitter is more your social media preference, we have that too! The content mirrors what is on Facebook. Find us @FOCCP. We currently have 235 followers.

■ Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari

Trellis Lights: Repairs need to be done in dry weather. Therefore, repairs will be done in the spring. White lights not affected. All 16 white light arches illuminated now. Blue lights normally on from Nov. to after Patriots Day in April.

- . Discussion regarding led spotlights by Joes' American Bar.
Ford's source for ordering more spotlights, although less costly than ordering locally, would take 3 weeks for delivery from China.

Joe Vossello's local source, even though the lights are from China, are stored locally. Orders can be made through Amazon.

The discussion over cost and delivery time led the members to vote **Unanimously in favor of ordering locally and to approve expenditure of \$4800.00 plus cost of cords.**

Cost \$150.00 per light plus cost of cords.

Joe will place the order. Steve Mirabelli will install them. Takes about 1 ½ hours to install each light.

Dimmers for white lights are already in the budget.

15th Anniversary Planning Committee-Joanne:

- On Monday, January 25, Ann and I are meeting with Ryan Woods of the Parks Dept. to discuss possible ideas for special events in the park. Attending the meeting will be Nicole Ferraro of the Boston Public Health Commission, which was responsible for the Boot Camp and Zumba classes in the Park last year. Jennifer Widener of the Park Dept. will also attend the meeting.
- Our goal is to contract for special events that we will promote and pay for but have minimal work required by FOCCP members.
- 2016 Events planned:
 - Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.
 - Sunday Night Movies ... dates TBD
 - Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10
- Need volunteers for this planning committee

Ideas:- Street Performer, Jason, suggested Street Performer Festival.

He is working with Sal LaMattina, City Councilor, on ordinances for street performers.

-U.S. Air Force Heritage Jazz Band coming in August.

November minutes were accepted as presented. Meeting adjourned: 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

FRIENDS OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS PARK

MEETING 02/09/16

MARINERS HOUSE 6:30 PM

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines, President

Recording: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Audrey Tortolani, Robyn Reed, Patricia Sabbey, Beverly Knight, Susanne Lavoie, Patricia Thiboutot.

Absent: Ann Babbitt, Christina Sperry, Joe Bono, Ford Cavallari

Members Attending – 14

Meeting began at 6:36 PM

Minutes Distributed

Committee Reports

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed: No Report

-- Membership report – Beverly Knight

Invitations to Membership Social April 21st at Tia's going out end of March/early April.

It will be special invitation emphasizing 15th Anniversary.

-- Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani

Deposit on Gala major expense for January.

1 membership for January

2016 Budget discussed at January Board Meeting.

--Fundraising Report: Patricia Sabbey: See Oasis Report Below
- Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry - Absent.

Patricia Thiboutot read Christina's Report.

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

- February monthly newsletter.

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

The number of FOCCP Facebook followers and Twitter followers each increased from the January monthly meeting report. Pretty good for winter when there haven't been any park activities.

Meredith Piscitelli reported: Facebook Likes up to 629 in Feb. from 619 in Jan.

-- Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari - Absent –No Report

-Discussion on Trellis Lights: Joe Vozzela reported resetting the new blue lights on the ground . Look great in the snow. Dimmers have been ordered for the horizontal lights. Joanne explained that the LED lights were a product failure. No recourse with vendor as they are in China. In the past when LEDs were tried and failed there was recourse as former president was working with an American company that made up for loss.

-Urban Oasis Project Update – Patricia Sabbey

Urban Oasis Project. The first was last week with Peggy Reiser and Leslie Will from the Boston Committee of the Garden Clubs of America. Their Blossom Fund gave us Joanne and I have had two meetings regarding the seed money for the project. We met to bring them up to date on our efforts to bring this project to completion. Joanne and I met today with Liza Meyer, Chief Landscape Architect, And Lauren Bryant, Project Manager, from the Boston Parks Department. They gave us an update on the plans to assess the potential sea wall and drainage issues including those at the spray

park. An engineering study will be conducted within the next month. The engineers will work at low tide to open the drainage outlets along the sea wall and video the interior channels to determine what, if any, work needs to be done. An assessment will also be made of the drainage issues at the spray fountain and remedial plans made. Lauren will get back to us when she has the results.

Discussion: Joanne stated time line for construction is for the fall.

Cost: \$225,000. Carmella Laurella of CL Properties has committed to \$25,000. Will fundraise for the rest. Meanwhile money is in the bank to start program. Keep same trees – benches around it between circle and Marriott another circle. Trees will provide shade. Sections will be irrigated. Maybe a water fountain will be added. Blossom Fund will receive recognition with a plaque. Sell benches. Examples of benches are on Broad Street and State Street. Could be teak. Joanne will bring plans to a meeting. The city has offered to oversee the project. This has come about because FOCCP has been working with the city on other projects.

15th Anniversary Planning Committee – Joanne Hayes-Rines

On Monday, January 25, Ann and I met with Ryan Woods of the Parks Dept. to discuss possible ideas for special events in the park. Attending the meeting were Nicole Ferraro of the Boston Public Health Commission, which was responsible for the Boot Camp and Zumba classes in the Park last year. Jennifer Widener of the Park Dept. also attended the meeting. We came away with the following ideas.

- **DANCE PARTIES.** Ryan referred us to Terese Denunzio who is a DJ. She entertains both children and adults. She would be willing to perform in the park and brings all the equipment she needs.
 - For children, she brings hula hoops and limbo sticks and more. She performs at the Children's Museum and elsewhere.
 - She also performs for adults. They would be themed dance parties, e.g., Salsa, 60's, etc.
 - **NEEDED:** 2-3 people to continue the discussion with Terese to set dates for events and to determine if she is the correct person for the adult dance parties. If not, who?

- TAI CHI. Discussed this with the Health Dept. It may be added to the exercise classes they already do in the Park.
- USAF Jazz Ensemble. Some time during last 2 weeks in August. Not confirmed. It can be our 15th birthday celebration.
 - **NEEDED:** 2-3 people to plan the birthday celebration. Joanne will work with the Parks Dept. and USAF and Marriott to help make the performance a reality.

Volunteers for Committees:

Dance Party: MaryGaye Grizwin, Jack Mc Carthy, Michele Brogan and Jason Gardner. Committee will contact Terese Denunizio and other DJs. Terese brings her own equipment and sound system. Concern regarding quality of equipment and how many people it will attract. Space is limited. Terese has experience with kids. Jason knows a DJ for adults. Rita Pagliuca suggested contacting Vinyl Groove of the North End.

15th Anniversary Party: Last 2 weeks of August. Joanne will send an email to committee to set a date. Date of Incorporation 2001. Date of party will depend on availability of Air Force Band. Meredith suggested sheet cakes to be placed under the Trellis. Contact neighborhood bakeries. Joanne will work with the Marriott for changing rooms for the band and refreshments for the band.

Volunteers for Party Committee: Chair: MaryGaye Grizin, Meredith Piscitelli, Jack McCarthy, Laura Benevuto, Rita Pagliuca. Rita will contact Cake Box for a cake.

Jason suggested having a theme for the party. Maybe street performers but they may detract from the event.

Joanne mentioned that NEMPAC and Landmark Orchestra are also celebrating their 15th Anniversary.

Other Discussions:

-Joanne will contact Parks Dept. to have Park's activities listed in their Summer Guide. April 1st is deadline.

-Chowder Fest: J. O'Brien of Joe's American Bar proposing a Chowder Fest. Joanne and Patricia Sabbey will set up a meeting.

They will provide all the necessary equipment.

-Street Performers. Jason suggested a Street Performers Festival. He will submit a proposal to the Board.

2016 Events planned:

Tot Lot Clean Up – Meghan to give a date

Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.

Sunday Night Movies ... July 10 - 17 - 24 - 31
and August 7 - 14

Cruise ... date TBD

USAF Heritage of American Band Jazz Ensemble ...
August TBD

Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10

Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4

Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21st

January Minutes Approved

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

PatriciaThiboutot, Clerk

*Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Meeting Minutes 03/08/16
Mariners House, Boston, MA 6:30 PM*

Meeting initially chaired by Ann Babbitt

Patricia Sabbey filled in for Ann.

Recording the meeting: Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes were distributed.

Meeting began at 6:34.

Board Members Attending: Ann Babbitt, Patricia Sabbey, Robyn Reed, Beverly Knight, Christina Sperry, Patricia Thiboutot.

Absent: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Joe Bono, Susanne Lavoie, Ford Cavallari, Audrey Tortolani.

12 Members Attending.

Committee Reports

-- **Horticulture report** – Robyn Reed

The Horticulture volunteers had a winter meeting a few weeks ago to discuss our plans for the upcoming season. We had a great turnout of 13 people, including 2 new volunteers.

Because of the warm winter, we are able to start working in the garden almost a month earlier than we normally do. The gloves are all washed and ready for use on our first garden meeting on this Sunday, March 13 at 9:30am. After that, we will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and every Wednesday at 6pm. New volunteers are always welcome.

Some of the plans we have for the season are to work with the city to replace and refill the ground cover pebbles, install a spigot in the garden, assess and possibly replace the irrigation and implement new weed control.

Our first meeting will be just cleaning the garden and weeding. We will be cutting back the roses in a few weeks.

Wednesday, April 6th Walk in the Park with Ann Johnson. History of Park from 1973 to redesign to present. Meet at Rose Garden from 5:00 - 6:00 PM. Slide presentation at North End Library after Walk in the Park. Co-sponsoring with Friends of North End Library.

-- **Membership report** – Beverly Knight

\$260.00 from membership renewals and new. 6 renewals and 1 new.

Membership drive beginning in April. Invitations being sent out. Advertising will include 15 Anniversary Celebration. Membership Social at Tia's on April 21st. Allison Seavey will be coordinating the event. Signs will be up for volunteers to sign up for committees.

Shooting for 500 members. Currently over 300.

New database will be able to track members who need to renew and to track those who have now renewed in past years.

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

The \$\$ paid in February in the Trellis Lighting section is the cost for the blue laser lights and cords purchased by Joe.

-- **Fundraising report** – Patricia Sabbey

See report below on Oasis Project.

-- **Internet Communications report** - Christina Sperry

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

- March monthly newsletter.

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

There is no notable news to report about the website. The number of visitors per month in 2016 has been similar to 2015, which itself was up much more over prior years.

Facebook: 629 Likes last month. As of today 642 Likes.

Meredith told members if they are taking photos of the park to be sure to name the location.

Such as: photo taken from Joe's or Marriott etc. There has been another Facebook Page from the Christopher Columbus Plaza which has caused some confusion. Meredith will sort this out.

-- Infrastructure Committee report - Ford Cavallari Absent.

Joe Vozzela reported there was concern that the blue lights were hurting people's eyes.

Had to lower the lights.

Urban Oasis Project Update – Patricia Sabbey

Urban Oasis ... No news but the parks department is working on engineering study

April 6 Walk in the Park and talk at library has been confirmed

Sponsor certificates are on display. Please take one or more and present to sponsors with whom you have a connection.

15th Anniversary Planning Committee Reports

- **15th Birthday Party Planning Committee** report by Chair MaryGaye Grizwin.
Committee members: Ann Babbitt, Laura Benvenuto, Francine Gagnon, Jack McCarthy, Rita Pagliuca, Meredith Piscitelli, Marie Salvati.
USAF Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. Tuesday, August 23. 6:00pm. Confirmed.
Joanne sent a letter to the Mayor inviting him to the event. Chris Cook invited, too.
Other officials will also be invited.
MaryGaye reported that the committee is working on logistics for party. Cake or cupcakes. Anticipating number of people. Band can draw as many as 500 people.
Working on expenses for cake/s, balloons, water, banner, posters, programs.
Motto: Keep it simple.
Discussion followed regarding cakes, cupcakes, logistics of cake etc.

The next meeting of the committee will be Wed. March 23rd at Edward Jones. Meeting open to anyone who would like to join the committee.
Thereafter, meetings will be at the Mariners House.

- **Dance Party.** Committee members: Mary Gaye Grizwin, Jason Gardner, Jack McCarthy, Michele Brogan.
- Jason Gardner reported that his group is working on obtaining a DJ.
- Planning 4 dance events. 3 Thursdays evenings and 1 Sunday afternoon for children.
- Researching lights, instructor for dance lessons. Will also consider changing the format to one event. Will look into cost of DJs and dance instructors.
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- **TAI CHI.** Joanne and Patricia Sabbey discussed this with the Health Dept. and asked for recommendations for instructor. Will be sponsored by One Medical. Patricia will contact Laughing Buddha.
- Patricia Sabbey will check on NEMPAC Events for conflicts on days of events.
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2016 Events

- Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.
- Sunday Night Movies ... July 10 - 17 - 24 - 31 and August 7 - 14
- Cruise ... Tuesday, August 16. Chairs Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker. **Camille and Stephanie will be submitting report.**
- USAF Heritage of American Band Jazz Ensemble ... August 23
- Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10
- Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4
- Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21

New Business: Ann Babbitt

We've had inquiries from a resident on an Easter Egg Hunt in the Park. Becca has planned the hunt in the past with financial support from The Living Room. Members of FOCCP have helped stuff and hide the eggs and helped on the day of the event. Ann contacted Becca and asked if she was planning a hunt this year. She was planning to contact us. Her idea is to have the hunt on Friday, March 25. She's checking with John at The Living Room, once again asking for his support. I haven't had confirmation from her. In the event it will be held, would there be volunteers to help stuff the eggs the week before and some members to help hide, etc. on the day of the event?

February Minutes Approved.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Mariners House

Meeting 04/12/16

Meeting initially chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

Minutes were distributed. Meeting began at 6:33 PM

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Audrey Tortolani, Patricia Sabbey, Robyn Reed, Christina Sperry, Susanne Lavoie, Beverly Knight, Patricia Thiboutot.

Board Members Absent: Ford Cavallari, Joe Bono

10 Members Attending

Committee Reports

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed

Gates to Rose Garden are locked during the week but will be opened on weekends. Spigot for watering the roses will be installed soon.

Volunteers welcome to serve on committee.

Joanne waiting for Park Rangers schedule.

-- Treasurer's Report – Audrey Tortolani

Not much to report.

Expenses: \$142.00,

Revenue: \$320.00 – Online Members

Account Balances: \$306,000.41

-- Fundraising report – Patricia Sabbey- No Report

-- Internet Communications report - Christina Sperry

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

- April monthly newsletter.

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

As for the FOCCP website, the number of visitors per month in 2016 is still similar to 2015. One fun fact about the site in 2016 is that so far we've had more referral visits from Boston Central than anywhere else. Boston Central is a website for family-oriented events, activities, and resources in the Greater Boston and New England area.

We're just 3 likes away on our Facebook page from 650 Likes. Like us and tell your friends. Also, Boston Central has been in touch. It is a family resource center listing activities in Boston.

--Infrastructure Committee Report - Ford Cavallari- Absent-No Report

-- Membership report – Beverly Knight – Social April 21st at Tia's from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. Allison Seavey coordinating the event with Katie at Tia's. Invitations have been sent out. It was a lot of work designing the invitations. Photo lent by Matt Conti. Worked with designer. Jean, Meredith, Joanne and Meghan helped with the process. Invitation lists all that FOCCP does for the park. Misprint on magnet. Date for Anniversary Party Sept. 23 and should be August 23.

Social will have different format. Committee members will be at sign up table to explain their committees.

Posters are available for distribution. Meredith will distribute around town. Other members can post them in their buildings.

Rita Pagliuca suggested sending Thank You notes to new members and to those who sign up for a committee.

Membership amount \$920.00 through March. 16 new members.

Urban Oasis Project Update – Patricia Sabbey

Joanne has been in touch with Liza Meyet at the Parks Department. A design to remedy the problems at the spray fountain has been developed and some details still need to be worked out. I have contacted Lauren Bryant who is the project manager for the Oasis Project. We are still waiting for an update on the engineering study that was to be completed in March. There should be more information by next month's meeting.

Park Tour and Library Presentation by Ann Johnson: Report – Terese O'Connell or Patricia Sabbey

Ann Johnson who participated in the redesign of the park gave a tour of the park and a slide show presentation at the North End Library on April 6th. Patricia showed her plans of the Urban Oasis and she was very impressed with the design and with the work of FOCCP. She spoke about the original fountain which was the first in the city.

Joanne mentioned that Patricia brought the Rose Man last year.

Annual Election of FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large on May 10

During our monthly meeting on May 10, 2016 the annual election of FOCCP officers and two Directors-at-Large will take place. Officer positions include President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk. Details on the roles and responsibilities of each of these positions can be found in the FOCCP By-Laws.

Members in good standing who wish to run for election as an Officer or a Director-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 19, 2016**, and should be sent to info@foccp.org.

Nominees are not required to be present at the May FOCCP meeting; however, any nominee present may make a brief (two minute) statement to the members present. For those nominees not present, the Clerk shall read to the membership the written statement submitted, if any, by the candidate for his or her nomination.

15th Anniversary Planning Committee Reports

15th Birthday Party Planning Committee report by Chair MaryGaye Grizwin. Committee members: Ann Babbitt, Laura Benvenuto, Francine Gagnon, Jack McCarthy, Rita Pagliuca, Meredith Piscitelli, Marie Salvati.

Committee working together with Parks Dept. to plan the event.

USAF Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. Tuesday, August 23.
6:00pm. Confirmed.

This band is well known and could draw as many as 500 people.

Cupcakes and cake will be served.

Joanne has invited Mayor Walsh.

Dance Party: Committee members: Michele Brogan, Mary Gaye Grizwin, Jack McCarthy, Laurie Cadigan, Jean Brady. Jason Gardner had to step out of the committee.

Date: August 4, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, Rain Date: August 18

Michele: At the suggestion of Rita Pagliuca, Bob Renick and his partner were contacted as T-Bone was not available. There will be 30 minutes of instruction. Bob's partner is the instructor. Bob can play any kind of music and will welcome suggestions from the crowd. There will be one Dance Party this year. Adults only but children are welcome to attend. No time for a special Dance Party for kids. Dance will be under the trellis as there is lighting. Bob will provide his own equipment.

Michele suggested a Trivia Board which would include the history of the park along with photos. She will be researching the history and is looking for photos.

All suggestions welcomed. Contact Michele. Maybe a dance contest??

Joanne will file for the permit application.

Other business:

Michele Brogan spoke about Dress For Success which is an organization seeking suits, dresses and sleeveless blouses. Items can be given to either Michele or Rita Pagliuca.

Susanne Lavoie spoke about Preservation Month in Boston for the month of May. She showed a booklet with all the activities for the month. Booklet published by Landmark and can be picked up at city hall.

2016 Events

Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.

Ann Babbitt: Our Independence Day celebration will be on June 25. We need volunteers for the day of the event. A sign-up sheet is available. Thanks for participating.

Sunday Night Movies ... July 10 - 17 - 24 - 31 and August 7 – 14
Joanne asked members for PG movie suggestions.

Cruise ... Tuesday, August 16. Chairs Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker. **Camille and Stephanie absent, no report.**

USAF Heritage of American Band Jazz Ensemble ... August 23

Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10

Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4

Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21

March Minutes were approved with slight changes.

Meeting adjourned: 7:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

May 10 2016
Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
The Mariner House
North Sq
Boston, MA

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Joanne Hayes Rines. Twenty members were in attendance

2016 Election

The nomination statements for officers and board members were read aloud by Liz Greene. As all the positions were unopposed, voting was not necessary. Meredith made a motion that was seconded to approve the slate of nominations. The motion was carried unanimously.

Election results as follows:

President - Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President - Ann Babbitt

Treasurer - Ann De Luca

Clerk - Patricia Thiboutot

Directors at Large - Joe Bono and Susanne Lavoie Lagace

Christina Sperry has stepped down as Chair of the Website and Internet Communications Committee. The new chair and board member is Kelsey Griggs who will handle the newsletter. Anthony De Carolis will be responsible for the website.

Membership committee

Beverly Knight reported membership at 135. A draft reminder email is under review to be sent those who did not renew yet. Audrey reported that membership checks still being received. Meredith shared some positive comment cards that have been received

Treasurer report

Audrey Tortolani presented her final treasurer's report! April saw more more activity with the NEMPAC opera payment, payments for the Membership Social, which came in under budget, at \$2456 and \$6255 in membership dues received. Current bank balance is at \$338, 661.00. Two donations from North End businesses, including Antico Forno were received. (Revenue and Expense sheet attached)

Horticulture report -- Robyn Reed (in Robyn's absence, reported by Joanne Hayes-Rines) Despite the cold weather, the roses and plants in the crescent are doing quite well. The volunteers have been cutting back the roses as instructed by the rose expert who visited with us last year. It looks like we lost 2 of the older hybrid tea roses in the center bed, but we will not be replacing them this year. The bonica roses in the small semi-circle outside the east gate were very old bushes and we lost most of those this year. We were expecting to replace those and we did plant 3 bushes last year but we will be buying about 10 new bushes for this area this year. The volunteers have also been feeding the roses and the plants in the crescent. The water spigot is now functioning. We have a few new volunteers who have been coming regularly (Carol, Carol and Pauline) and they have been great enthusiastic additions to the group.

Meredith Piscitelli reports her concern about a regular group of homeless individuals hanging around rose garden who make her nervous. Joanne Hayes-Rines emphasizes the need to call 911 to make sure there is an ongoing record of calls to police

Fundraising report - Patricia Sabbey
No report

Website and Internet Communications Committee report - Christina Sperry
Christina shared her final report as chair. Three emails were sent to the FOCCP mailing list since the last meeting:

1. Invite to the Annual FOCCP Membership Social
2. May monthly newsletter
3. Notice of the Annual FOCCP Tot Lot (Playground) Cleanup

The emails each went to the usual number of recipients, with the newsletter and Social emails being opened a bit above the usual open rate of about 1/3 and the Playground email opened a bit less.

Visits to the FOCCP website in 2016 continue to increase each month, with April visits increasing to 1,033. Also, this is an increase from previous years. Last April we had 722 visits, April 2014 had 475 visits and April 2013 had 380.

Last monthly meeting, I hoped that the FOCCP Facebook page would get over 650 Likes, and it has!! It's now at 652 Likes.

President's report. Joanne Hayes-Rines

Park Ranger- FOCCP paid \$20,000 for coverage last year - Joanne has spoken to the city about success of program and the need to continue. Hoping to hear final answer soon.

Tot Lot

Meghan Denenberg reported a successful event despite the cold weather. There were 30 to 40 attendees with lots of new folks included. The Fire Department sent a fire truck. Staff from KinderCare participated, Joe Bono provided pizza and Aaron Michelwitz provided sand toys.

Yoga in the Park

Patricia Sabbey reports that free weekly yoga sessions will be held in the Park. Details are being finalized for Tuesday's or Thursday's. The start date is to be announced. FOCCP is supporting the cost of the yoga teacher

August 4 Dance Party update - no report
Michele Brogan not present

Sunset cruise August 16

Camille Hogan and Stephanie Walker are chairs for the event. We will sail again on the Rendezvous. There will be a raffle with some gift cards left over from other events. Winners will be limited to one item. Camille and Stephanie are reviewing the menu comments from last

year before finalizing this year's menu. Boston Harbor Cruises may have more caterer options this year. Kelsey Griggs helping with planning as well.

FOCCP August 23 Birthday Celebration - Mary Gaye Grizwin

Mary Gaye reports that she has a great committee! All are in the process of working on the various aspects of the celebration. The Heritage of America Band will be playing and the day's events should be concluded by 8 or 8:30

The celebrations will include a birthday cake - especially designed by Claudio from Modern Pastry, cupcakes from Lulu's and a balloon decorated stage for the festivities. Folding chairs, table with tables cloths will be available for attendees. Posters, programs and banners are being prepared. Joanne reports that the mayor has been invited

Mary Gaye also reports there may be additional volunteers from One Brick Boston

FOCCP Independence Day celebration - Ann Babbitt

Saturday, June 25 12 to 4

Ann asked for volunteers and passed around a sign up sheet. She will contact volunteers about any planning meetings

Ann anticipates participation from the Aquarium, the Fire Dept who will bring a fire truck, Uncle Sam on stilts, the Bubble Guy, a Park Ranger on his horse, a puppeteer, NEMPAC Musical petting zoo, as well as various activities including face painters and tattoos and possible bake sale.

Sunday Night Movies, sponsored by Joe Bono

Joanne reports that the movies will begin on July 14 and run for 6 Sunday nights

Joanne made a motion to approve the April Meeting minutes; motion seconded by Meghan Denenberg. Approved unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene for vacationing Patricia Thiboutot

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting, June 14 2016
The Mariner Building
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was attended by 18 members and was called to order at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes Rines.

Joanne reported that she was contacted by representatives of Capitol One regarding a one time event to be held in the Park on June 13, 14 and 15. As a result of their use of the Park, Capitol One generously made a donation of \$5000 to the FOCCP

May 2016 Election

Joanne thanked both Cristina Sperry and Audrey Tortolani for their past service on the FOCCP Board. In addition, she thanked Ann De Luca and Kelsey Griggs for volunteering to serve as the next FOCCP Treasurer and Internet and Communications committee respectively

Horticulture Committee. Robyn Reed

Robyn reported that the garden is particularly beautiful this week - first blooms are always the best; tea roses are doing great; still waiting for the mulch for the outer beds - and it has been hard to keep up with the weeds

She reported that the Committee received a \$100 gift certificate from Mahoney's Garden Center
The wisteria is growing like crazy and looking beautiful

Meredith Piscitelli is researching the purchase of sun protecting long sleeve shirts with the FOCCP logo for volunteers to wear while working in the garden. More on this next month.

Joanne Hayes Rines was able to make contact with the head of the Boston Park Rangers and told him that last year's experience with Rangers in the park was very successful. They are willing to supply Rangers again this year but they have not had too many applicants. They will be in contact with us and try their best to schedule Rangers and will advise Joanne about payment as the summer proceeds. They agreed to still lock up the fence around the rose garden as they do with the fence at Copps Hill. She remarked that the homeless problem is very significant throughout the city and Park Rangers are in high demand across the city

Meredith Pascitelli informed the membership that FOCCP has been offered 100 pots of daffodil flowers for the 2017 Marathon weekend. Her son owns the green house from where they are delivered to line the race course from Hopkinton to Boston. The plants will be in pots and will be temporarily placed around the Park over Marathon weekend. - The membership was in favor of accepting this donation

Treasurer report. Ann De Luca

Ann reports that Audrey Tortolani left the accounts in "ship shape"

Year to date membership dues are on target with 75 percent already received. Year to date annual revenues only at 10% but generally most FOCCP revenues are received in the latter part of the calendar year

Membership report. Beverly Knight

Beverly reports current paid membership at 135 members with 57 additional received in May - as a result of email reminder sent. She believes the lower activity is a result of the timing of the email. Sent on Memorial Day weekend which may have been missed by many people. She will plan to avoid email distributions on Memorial Day weekend in 2017. She will plan to send another membership dues email reminder.

There was a brief discussion about the merits of creating a new data base to have a better idea of the number of FOCCP families vs individuals. More on this later

No Fundraising committee report this evening

No Infrastructure committee report this evening

Update on the Trellis Lighting. Joanne Hayes Rines

Joanne met recently with Steve Mirabella and others about the trellis plans. They have checked out some US made lights, more similar to the lights that were used previously for the trellis. Steve has a preference for non LED lights and considers the LED lights still a nascent technology with varying reliability. She reported that as a result of the discussions, the board has voted to reinstall the old type lights used previously, at a cost of about \$10,000. Steve will be donating the the cost of the installation labor again this year.

Joanne agreed to look into the issue of the trellis lights that are currently in the storage shed and how they will be disposed of.

Independence Day event. Ann Babbitt

Ann reported that plans for the June 25th event are well underway. As in past years, the day's events will begin with a parade thru the park. NEMPAC volunteers and students will lead the parade with a drum line; the Aquarium has arranged educational activities and will bring a hands-on tide pool; the face painting activity will be improved by the use of hand stickers for those waiting in line so the children can go to other activities while they wait; Mary Marengi and her sons will manage the bake sale and have asked for additional donated baked items to the sale; the WOW Balloon company will be trying out a balloon flag sculpture as a test for the larger balloon sculpture for the August birthday event; and a new puppeteer. She asked that volunteers convene in the park at 10am for the 12pm to 4pm event

Upcoming Park Events

Yoga in the park Thursday. July 7 to August 11 - 6pm. Check with Patricia Sabbey for more details

Sunday Movies in the park. July 10 through August 14

FOCCP 15th Year Celebratory Dance party. Michele Brogan

Michele reports that all plans are on schedule for the Thursday August 4th event. She recognized Jeanne Brady for some great PR. They are expecting a good turnout. Activities will be located at the fountain and water will be shut off. The Band will be playing from 6pm to 9pm. They are able and willing to play all kinds of music - and are very good at getting crowds enthused. Cookies with FOCCP logo are being ordered from the Golden Goose Market. Posters will be available for distribution by the end of June. Meredith Piscitelli is developing a "grid" to help with the distribution of the posters around the neighborhood. There was also a suggestion to raffle some pairs of Sunset Cruise tickets at the Dance Party.

Internet and Communications committee report. Kelsey Griggs

Kelsey reports that Anthony De Carolis is working on website updates and redesign with the goal to appeal to a greater population and making the web page more responsive to current mobile devices that are used more widely. Visits to web page have grown significantly since 2 years ago. There was a lively discussion about ideas and improvements for media as well as planning improvements with the Membership committee

Coffee in the Park with the Mayor. June 29 at 9:30 am
All are urged to attend

Annual Summer Sunset Cruise. Stephanie Walker and Camille Hogan
Plans are moving forward. Posters and flyers are being developed and hopefully available at the Dance Party. There will be a 50/50 raffle (hopefully cash transactions only) and the chairs request volunteers to sign up for 1/2 hour increments to sell the tickets. A sign up sheet was passed around.
Hot appetizers will be passed on both decks as well as stationary cracker, cheese and fruit stations on each deck
Boarding will be at 6:30 at the dock on the Park side of the Marriott; returning to the dock at 10pm

FOCCP Birthday Party Tuesday August 23. Mary Gaye Grizwin

Mary Gaye reports that plans for the birthday party are moving along well. Posters will be available for distribution. 100 chairs have been arranged for. She will need the names and addresses for any special invitations to be sent. Banners will list all of our sponsors and WOW Balloon Co will provide additional festive decorations. Programs for the event will be prepared and include information on the history of the park, as well as contact information for the band, vendors and all of our sponsors. Mary Gaye will review all projected expenses with Ann De Luca.

There will be music from the band, birthday remarks the singing of Happy Birthday and the cutting of the cake. The cake, to serve 100 will be prepared for us especially by Modern Pastry and Lulu's Cupcakes will prepare 500 mini rose cupcakes. Napkins have been ordered. Mary

Gaye has arranged for the Red Brick volunteers to help with the distribution of the cake and cupcakes. Water will also be available. 750 CDs from the Band will be available to distribute. Mary Gaye also suggested it would be good to have the Park Ranger on site that evening

Save the date. Oct 10 - Annual Fall Festival

Joanne made a motion to accept the May 2016 meeting minutes. Meredith Piscitelli seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of The minutes JHR propose accept minutes Merry 2nd approved

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm

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

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Meeting: July 12, 2016

Mariners House, Boston, MA

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Patricia Sabbey, Robyn Reed, Susanne Lavoie, Kelsey Griggs, Beverly Knight, Patricia Thiboutot

Board Members Absent: Ann Babbitt, Ford Cavallari, Ann DeLuca,

Joe Bono

12 Members Attending:

Minutes Distributed

Meeting chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot

Committee Reports

-- **Membership and Social report** - Beverly Knight

Jean Brady able to track active members on her database.

3 years active members

421 Active Members-those who renewed for last 3 years

182 Current for 2016

Have to track members to vote

New Data Base able to get out Thank You notes for checks cleared at end of month.

Beverly and Kelsey will send out reminder notices to renew. Also, make it more visible on web page.

Joanne said Sponsors were not considered members. Now have a way to count them as members.

-- **Treasurer's Report** – Ann DeLuca- Absent: No Report

-- **Horticulture Report** – Robyn Reed

The roses are doing amazingly well - we continue to have blooms on all the plants and little evidence of big problems, although we have seen aphids and there was a time with no rain and they were getting quite dry, but we have been spraying our organic mixture and we have been watering, using our new hose. We just trimmed back all the roses so that we can get the next bloom all ready,

and we are tackling the weeds right now.

The plants in the crescent, including our new daisys are fabulous this year - we are definitely going to have to divide up the day lillies in the fall because they are getting too dense. We have been labeling the lilies according to color so that when we divide them, we will know what color we are moving. We have some bare spots to fill in, but we will be doling that in the fall.

The wisteria has been trimmed, but it is growing so fast that we have to trim it again. John Campbell is doing a spectacular job getting up on the ladder and trimming the vines every Wednesday.

As far as I have heard, the rangers have been great about locking and unlocking the gates and we don't seem to have the same group of people hanging around the park the way we did earlier in the spring. The crescent seems to be attracting all the beer bottles this season, much more so than the rose garden, but trash and damage to the roses have been minimal so far this year.

The biggest and most exciting update however, is all due to Meredith's great work - the horticulture volunteers finally have their sun proof long sleeve shirts with the FOCCP logo on them! She was able to find the best vendor, and negotiated a discount, and then found a place to have our logo printed on the back. Meredith wants everyone to know that the shirts validate the group, and visitors seem much more eager to talk to us. We look like a professional team and we are being treated with respect and admiration. Thank you Meredith for working so hard to get us these amazing shirts!

We've had a few new volunteers in the past few weeks, which is great - but we can always use more help.

Park Rangers:

Joanne gave history of Park Rangers. FOCCP paid the \$20,000 for the Ranger Program for last summer (2015). She spoke to Chris Cooke and to Gene who heads up the program. Not sure of availability of rangers this year as there are not enough rangers.

She was assured that a ranger will pass by from time to time. They will keep track of their hours. She offered to pay at the end of the Season but Gene told her that was not necessary.

Joanne complemented Joan Murphy for all her work in the park to keep it clean. Thank you, Joan.

Fundraising Report: Patricia Sabbey

Capitol One's PR consultant, Aandre Davis, contacted FOCCP about

doing a "Parisian Door" promotion in the park. It was very tastefully done and FOCCP will receive a \$5,000 donation.

One Medical Group made a \$5,000 Gold Level Sponsorship in the fall of 2015 and stated an interest in supporting health events. FOCCP has put together a six week restorative yoga in the park series. Michael Jaremko, the One Medical PR consultant is very pleased with the program. Barbara Dammemuth from Laughing Buddha is giving the six week series through August 11. People do not need prior yoga experience.

-- Internet Communications report – Kelsey Griggs

Facebook Likes: 736 - as of 6:30 pm Monday
Setting up FB events for each event which updates people going at various intervals to remind them.

Newsletter: 356 Opens - 36% Open Rate

Sent a reminder for the 4th Celebration and the Operas - Open rate was 39% which was one of the highest open rates we have. I will be sending out reminders for each even a week before to our CC contacts.

Anything in particular anyone wants to see in August's Newsletter

Website: June Visits: 2,609 averaging 82 visits a day Last year we were at 2,423
-We are UP! July Visits: 1,292 currently

-- Infrastructure Committee report-Ford Cavalarrri Absent–No Report

June 25 Independence Day Celebration Report - Ann Babbitt

This year's Independence Day celebration was well attended and everyone had a blast. A special addition this year was the flag sculpture. We were fortunate WOW balloons wanted to do a test prior to our celebration on August 23. It got everyone's attention. In addition to the N E Aquarium's Tidepool, they focused on climate change education for the families attending. They reported 300 children & parents stopped by their display. NEMPAC's craft table & musical petting zoo was also a big success this year. We had a new entertainer this year, Rosilta Puppets, the kids loved her. Rita came up with the idea to have a polaroid camera available and take the children's pictures with Uncle Sam & Daniel the Tiger. The parents & children stood in line for that, they loved the idea of taking a picture home for the children. As always, the face painting table had a line throughout the day, this year we came up with a system that pleased everyone, we gave the children numbers and while they were waiting our creative volunteers gave them tattoos. Peter, the Magician & Jim the Bubble Guy added to the festivities. Thanks to everyone who volunteered and made it such a special day.

Wednesday, June 29 Mayor's Coffee in the Park

Joanne reported that Mayor Walsh was very complimentary of the Park and its volunteers. Mayor was surprised that some residents brought posters protesting

the closing of the nursing home, the potential hotel at Lewis Wharf and the garage.

Yoga in the Park Report – Patricia Sabbey See Above Report

Sunday Night Movies ... Ann Babbitt

July 10 8:22 pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding, - 1 hr 34 min

July 17 8:17 pm Ghostbusters 1 hour 45 min

July 24 8:12 pm NEED ADVENTURE MOVIE

July 31 8:04 pm Remember the Titans 1 hr 53 min

August 7 7:56 pm Monster's Inc. 1 hr 32 min

August 14 7:46 pm Tootsie .. 1 hour 56 min

Thursday, August 4 ... Dance Party Report – Michele Brogan

The Dance Party is moving in a positive direction.

I met with the DJ's and have a list of their needs. Joanne will get the Parking Permit for them. They will set up in the same area as the NEMPAC Concerts. I will contact Lou Chiarca, from the Parks Dept. July 20th to ensure that the water from the fountain is off and the electricity is turned on.

Jean Brady and her team have done a great job distributing the Dance Party Posters and getting the Event posted on Social Media and in the local papers. The Dance Poster looks fantastic, as do the free standing banners designed by Laurie Cadigans talented Art Dept.

Both banners will be used at the Dance Party. One lists all of the FOCCP Events for the rest of the year. The other says, Dance Party.

I have 10 volunteers not including Ann B and myself. The directional volunteers will be positioned at both entrances of the Trellis holding copies of the posters mounted on wooden paint sticks and available to answer questions from 5:45 to 7:45. The Membership table will be staffed from 6 to 8 with a donation box. I will collect any donations at 8:00

Ann Babbitt and I will set up at 5:00, the DJ's will arrive at 5:00 and a delivery of donated Curate Bars that we had on the 25th. This was a contact that came about from the Membership Table, from the 4th Event. They are eager to participate with FOCCP. The bars are chocolate and delicious.

200 cookies were ordered from Whole Foods, they are fantastic and cost \$120. I will put them in bags that Frankie Boyer picked up for me at AC Moore. They're perfect, cost approximately \$20 for 200. Mary Gaye will supply me with 200 stickers that will go on the bags, nice take away. I will pick up the bags from Frankie this week and co-ordinate the sticker availability. I'll start putting the labels on, as soon as, I get them. Cookies will be picked up by me on August

2nd. The sticker is the 15th Anniversary sticker.

Our final Team meeting will be held at my condo on July 20th. We will fine tune the Volunteer schedule and assign Team Responsibility for the night of the Event.

I have had incredible support from the FOCCP Group and an amazing Team. So we are looking for a night of fun and good vibes.

Thank you everyone, Michele

August 16 Cruise: Camilla and Stephanie

Plans are all set. Raffle Table 50/50.

\$1000 in gift certificates and prizes.

Menu is all set from Spinelli's. Server for each floor.

Cheese and crackers trays on each floor.

Pass Hors D'Oeuvres..

Capacity for boat 200. Expect 150.

Stephanie distributing flyers.

Tuesday, Aug 23 ... 15th Anniversary Celebration Report – MaryGaye

Grizwin

Wow Balloons will charge \$500. Did not charge for Flag balloon for 4th celebration. If we want insurance, it will be another \$160.

Posters and Banners in process. Laurie Cadigan donating her Design Team.

Vote was taken on banner size 6'x16" tall. One on each side of the stage. Members approved the size.

Invitations are being sent out by Katie Kelly to invited guests.

Modern Pastry donating the cake LuLu's the cupcakes.

One Brick volunteers and FOCCP volunteers will distribute the programs and CDs.

Water not locked up yet.

MaryGaye and Laura Benevuto meeting person from Wow Balloons to discuss the design of the ballon sculpture.

Cake Cutting Ceremony needs to be orchestrated. Band announces.

2 persons from FOCCP cut the cake. Suggest Joanne and Danny Nuzzo. Mayor will cut the cake if he is present.

Joanne will introduce the band. Speak about the Band members.

Acknowledge sponsors and volunteers.

Need Band Ambassador to greet band members. Take them to Marriott to change and receive some snacks.

Band sent 750 cds but are not the same band. We determined that those are the only cds available. Checking on getting ones that are the band's music.

Request for Park Ranger.

Seating: chairs for guests. Michele asked about seating for persons using wheelchairs or have mobility issues.

Katie Kelly and Jean Brady sending out press releases.

Parks Dept. pays for the stage.

2016 Events

Independence Day Celebration ... Saturday, June 25.

Yoga ... July 7 to August 14

Columbus Day Fall Festival ... Monday, Oct. 10

Gala ... Friday, Nov. 4

Trellis Lighting Monday, November 21

June Minutes approved with a minor correction.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM

Respectfully submitted.

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

Mariners House

August 09, 2016 at 6:42 PM

Meeting Chaired by Ann Babbitt in Joanne Haynes-Rines Absence

Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk, recording minutes

3 Board Members Attending: Ann Babbitt, Kelsey Griggs, Patricia Thiboutot

Board Members Absent: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Patricia Sabbey, Beverly Knight, Robyn Reed, Susanne Lavoie, Joe Bono, Ford Cavallari, Ann DeLuca.

12 Members attending.

July Minutes Distributed.

Committee Reports:

Membership Report: Beverly Knight Absent' – Patricia Thiboutot read her report.

Treasurer's Report: Ann DeLuca Absent – Patricia Thiboutot read her report.

We are now officially on QuickBooks! Phew! A lot of set up time was required. A few glitches but we're there.

Attached are the treasurer reports for July. They are all "print ready". They are not set up exactly as the previous excel file but they contain the same information. They are more aligned with traditional non-profit financial statements. This format also aligns with tax requirement ending July 31, there is not much financial activity or news to report. I expect more to report in September when the dance party, cruise and birthday party events are over.

Horticulture: Robyn Reed Absent – Patricia Thiboutot read her report.

The Horticulture group continues to enjoy the new sun proof shirts - not only do they keep us cool, and protect us from the sun, but they also identify us easily to the public as volunteers and positive representatives of the park.

The roses have been very dry because we haven't had any substantial rain in quite a while, but we have been watering them twice a week. The spiraea in the crescent has been trimmed back, and we have identified by color all of the day lilies so when we divide them in the fall we know which colors we are dividing and replanting. The daisy planted by the Daisy Scout group in the fall did very well this year and are a beautiful addition to our perennial garden.

We will continue to maintain the gardens for the rest of the summer.

Fundraising Report: Patricia Sabbey Absent – No Report

Internet and Communications: Kelsey Griggs

Positive trends and visits. Constant contact – sending newsletter.

Facebook – 746 Likes - 736 last meeting. More traffic. Meredith doing a fantastic job managing Facebook. Have to set up for Anniversary party. Also, cruise over 700 views. Reminders are being sent out.

Infrastructure Report: Ford Cavallari – Absent- No Report

Yoga in the Park: Michele Brogan reported morning yoga fantastic. This is run by the Parks Dept. FOCCP Yoga is in the evening. More difficult as there are so many people around.

Sunday Night Movies: Ann Babbitt reported that there was a fantastic turn out for Ghostbusters. Passed out handouts. The week before there were only 3 blankets.

August 14 Raiders of the Lost Ark. 1 hour 56 minutes.

Sunset Cruise: Camilla Hogan, Stephanie Walker and Kelsey Griggs.

Nice boat. 3rd floor has been finished. Caterer is all set. Will have food on two floors. Ticket sales slow only 40 so far. Donor Snap not showing all tickets sold. Don't have exact count. Meredith got 5 or 6 today. Jean Brady will check Donor Snap to see how it is set up. Need more sales. Jean Brady suggested inviting sponsors as guests. Will probably sell more tickets night of the event. 76 tickets were sold at this time last year. Ann will go to post office to check mail on Friday. Jack McCarthy suggested to say space is limited in the next reminder. Boarding at gate 3 or 4. Will send out reminder. Looking for volunteers for Raffle Table.

Anniversary Event: MaryGaye Grizwin – See Detailed Attached Report

Meredith has posters for both events.

The Goose will donate and deliver small bottles of water. Need volunteers in 2 hour shifts.

Ann will get napkins. RSVPs from Katie Kelly. Need volunteers for balloon setup. 12:30 to 4:30. Two hour shifts. Need 5 people from 2:30 to 4:30.

July Minutes accepted with changes by MaryGaye.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 PM

Respectfully submitted. Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Meeting

Mariners House

September 13, 2016 Meeting began at 6:30 PM

Meeting chaired by Patricia Sabbey

Recording the meeting is Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

August Minutes were distributed.

Board Members Attending: Patricia Sabbey, Ann DeLuca, Beverly Knight, Patricia Thiboutot

Board Members Absent: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Robyn Reed,

Kelsey Griggs, Ford Cavallari, Joe Bono, Susanne Lavoie

8 Members Attending

Committee Reports

-- Membership and Social report - Beverly Knight

Jean Brady sent Beverly list for Gala invitations

Not much happening with Membership. Did receive check for one membership.

-- Treasurer's Report -- Ann DeLuca

Not much revenue. \$26,000 so far. There will be more coming in for the Gala.

Expenses: Birthday Party \$4,884.78 (Budget: \$5,000),

Cruise: \$3,580.32 (Budget: \$2,500 – spend more on food this year)

Yoga: \$500.

Dance Party: \$900.

-Fundraising Report: Patricia Sabbey

The six evening yoga series provided by Laughing Buddha finished up on August 11.

Barbara Dummermuth who owns Laughing Buddha gave us 3 gift certificates for our Gala last year so it was great to be able to give her some publicity. One Medical Group, one of our Gold Level sponsors, had expressed interest in sponsoring health related events so they received sponsorship credit. Their Local Marketing Specialist was especially pleased that FOCCP provided this series. Good news, the Capitol One Foundation that had a Parisian theme event in the park last June, gave us the expected \$5,000 donation. Let's hope that this type of opportunity works out as a new fundraising avenue.

As we move into our active fundraising leading up to the Gala, I welcome any leads for new funding sources. Contact names are especially useful.

-- Horticulture report – Robyn Reed –

The roses had a late summer bloom that was spectacular! Although the hot dry summer had us watering the plants by hand this year, it also kept away pests and diseases, and only now are we seeing a bit of powdery mildew and black spot that we are dealing with. We have started pulling petals instead of clipping the stems in order for the plants to make rose hips which feed the plants throughout the winter. We had a larger number of bees visiting our roses this year, which we welcomed.

From Theresa: The rose hips do not feed the plant. They just signal to the plant that it needs to shut down production of new flowers for the season and get ready for winter.

The crescent garden has moved into fall already and we have cut back the echinacea and the daises. We continue to have problems with people sleeping and leaving lots of trash in the flower beds, but the Parks Dept. is aware of this and we are working on a possible solution by putting lights in that area.

We are going to have just one more Wednesday night meeting in the garden because it is getting to be too dark in the evenings and there is not much left to do, so September 14 will be our last evening gathering. We will continue to meet on Sunday mornings until the end of October.

Internet Communications Report: Kelsey Griggs Absent emailed report to Patricia T.

Newsletter: 8 messages went out since last meeting:

- August and Sept Newsletter
- Cruise Reminder x 2
- Event Reminders x 3
- Thank You for Cruise

Open rate remains the same – about 30%

Facebook: 773 – 9 new likes this week!

Twitter: 258 Followers

Website: 531 Visitors in past 7 days. Visits are

- August 2016 – 6,734 visits

- August 2015 – 4,202 visits
- September 2016 – 2,097
- September 2015 – 3,349

Tuesday, August 16... Sunset Cruise Report – Stephanie Walker

- Food was liked. 87 Attended - Ordered food for 100.
- Need to deal with music next year. Could not be heard on one of the floors.
- Next year send out Save The Date notice
- Profit from tickets was \$8.00 per ticket
- Left over Auction items helped with the raffle
- Beverly suggested to use Fob for cell phone next year for raffle payments.

Tuesday, Aug 23 ... 15th Anniversary Celebration Report – MaryGaye Grizwin

Post Party Summary: The event was extremely successful on all accounts! The Committee, volunteers, and vendors all did an outstanding job. The band was fabulous! Beautiful weather, minimal wind, lawn in great condition despite seasonal draught conditions. Over 500 guests as estimated by the Boston Parks Department. Attendees expressed many compliments for the special event, suggesting it was a very memorable evening.

Total expense tally: \$4,400.

Committee Members: MaryGaye Grizwin, Meredith Piscitelli, Jack McCarthy, Rita Pagliuca, Laura Benvenuto, Francine Gannon, Marie Salvati, Ann Babbitt, Patricia Sabbey, Jeanne Brady

Birth Party Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Duration/time: Warm-up music 5:30-6pm, Musical Program 6-7:15pm,

Refreshments 7:15-8pm

(Sunset at 7:32pm, darkness around 8:15pm)

Featured entertainment: Heritage of America Band, Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble (RIBJE)

<http://www.heritageofamericaband.af.mil/ensembles/BandEnsembleBio.asp?EnsembleID=157>

Draft Program Outline:

- Festive canned Pandora music prior to start of program
- Introduction and Acknowledgements: FOCCP President, Joanne Hayes-Rines
- Entertainment: USAF Heritage of America Band – Rhythm in Blue Jazz (RIBJ)
- Ensemble
- Remarks/Cake Cutting: Mayor Walsh, Commissioner Cook, FOCCP President,
- Senator Joe Boncore, Rep. Aaron Michelwitz,
- past FOCCP President Danny Nuzzo
- Cutting of Birthday Cake, "Happy Birthday" song performed by RIBJE
- Refreshments served: Cake, Cupcakes, Water

Audience: 500+ neighbors, commuters, tourists

Seating: 100 white folding chairs: Some will be setup on one side of stage for invited guests (reserved); others will be available to public; others will be placed in clusters on lawn

Guests were able to sit on lawn or chairs they bring and on trellis seating

Refreshments:

- Special occasion cake with 3D trellis to serve 100 people will be made by Modern Bakery.
- We intend to display the cake in a prominent but protected location. Location, display and cake cutting details are being developed.
- Six refreshment stations dispersed around the park to serve guests mini cupcakes/water
- AFTER the performance. Lulu's Bakery will be making 38 dozen (456) mini cupcakes.
- Mini water bottles available at separate rectangle tables near the cupcakes. Donated and delivered by Golden Goose.

Advertising: City of Boston Summer Guide, FOCCP Facebook/website, FOCCP event posters, neighborhood papers, etc.

Programs: Aligning with Heritage of America Band specifications, 8.5x11 folded 4 sided information

on Hoax Band, RIBJE Band members, Musical Program, BPRD, FOCCP, donors, etc.

Band Accommodations: 13 Band members: Changing area, refreshments, and comfort station/bathrooms

to be provided by the Long Warf Marriott Hotel (Joanne to request)

Stage/Sound: SL100 stage from MLR Mobile Stage Rentals, <http://mobilestagerentals.com/mobile-stages/sl100/>; System & Setup provided by City of Boston

Decorations:

1. Large balloon sculpture on lawn, smaller balloon sculptures on stage, Balloon bouquets at refreshment tables provided by <http://www.wowballoons.com> ;
2. Banners (Boston Parks Dept & FOCCP) across the top of the stage and sides of stage <http://www.vistaprint.com>

Giveaway for Guests: RIBJE complimentary CDs with FOCCP 15 Anniversary commemorative sticker

Service Support: Approximately 10 external volunteers by One Brick Boston <http://www.boston.onebrick.org>. Volunteers will wear navy black pants/white shirts and will be "trained" by an FOCCP Committee member. Expected duties include hospitality, program and refreshment distribution, seating assistance, light set-up and clean-up.

Comments at Meeting: Lost ladder – contact Park Dept. find out if they took the ladder. If no, FOCCP will purchase a new one. Rita suggested handing out extra cds at Fall Festival. Balloon sculpture took some time. Would not hire him again.

Friday, November 4 ... Gala – Meghan Denenberg Absent
Patricia S. Reported that the Invitations are being printed.
Patricia S. handed out the Auction and Gift Certificate forms.

FALL FESTIVAL UPDATE--October 10 event Ann Babbitt absent Patricia T. read report
Passing around a volunteer sign-up sheet for Columbus Day/Fall Festival event on October 10, 12-4.
Posters available on membership table, take one to put up in your building...Meredith and team will distribute the rest.

GALA--November 4 Harbor Hotel at 6:30 PM to 11:00 PM
Patricia S. distributed 2015's Gift Card list which has the name of restaurants/businesses along with the name of solicitors. If you didn't solicit last year and would like to participate, check the list and feel free to call on any restaurant or business not on the current list. Thanks to all who make our raffle such a success.

A volunteer sign-up sheet for Columbus Day/Fall Festival event on October 10, 12-4.
Posters available on membership table, take one to put up in your building...Meredith and team will distribute the rest.

Tickets are \$150.00 or \$2000 for table.

Band: Clock Works Boston feature a male and female vocalist
Laurie and Meghan would like to have special auction items

Gala planning meeting begin Tuesday, Sept. 20th and will meet every Tuesday until the Gala.
Meetings are at the Mariners House at 6:30 PM.

Monday, November 21 ... Trellis Lighting – Joanne H-R given by Patricia Sabbey
Met with Steve Mirabella on August 29.
He has ordered new blue lights that are the kind we used for years.

The white lights on the underside of the ribs will stay year around and they will provide illumination of the walkway. If we determine they do not provide sufficient light, white lights will be installed on the underside of the horizontal beam.
The blue laser lights will stay on the horizontal beams and we are ordering more for the east beams. Now the laser lights are only on the west beams. They've been up for months and are working well
and none have been vandalized.

Steve is buying new lights for the statue to provide better illumination.

Wisteria trimming to begin Tuesday, October 11, after the Fall Festival.
Trellis light installation to begin Monday, October 14. Will be complete by approx. November 8.

I have asked Lentine Electric for a quote for the white lights on the 14 trees.

New Business No New Business

Minutes Approved

Meeting Adjourned: 7:03 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk;

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park Meeting

Mariners House

October 11th, 2016 meeting began at 6:40pm

Meeting Chaired by Joanne Hayes-Rines

Recording the minutes is Kelsey Griggs

September Minutes are distributed

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Kelsey Griggs, Ann DeLuca, Susanne Lavoie, Beverly Knight

Board Members Absent: Patricia Sabbey, Patricia Thiboutout, Robyn Reed, Joe Bono, Ford Cavallari

Membership and Social Report - Beverly Knight:

No change.

Treasurer's Report - Ann DeLuca:

We are up 34% with a 44% spend. Most of the activity will be in Quarter 4. Expenses are down - ie: no park rangers.

Fundraising Report - Patricia Sabbey:

Handwritten appreciation notes were sent to all Platinum, Gold, and Silver Sponsors along with the Gala invitations.

The Test Kitchen at the Boston Public Market is a new contributor and has donated Family Dinner Gift Certificates for a cooking lesson and dining experience for 10 people.

This is a busy month as new sponsors are sought and past sponsors continue to be contacted for support.

Joanne Hayes Rines reached out to Matt Conti and he has donated another photo for this years Gala.

Horticulture Update - Robyn Reed:

Given by Meredith P. Team will be meeting on Sunday to discuss Rose Garden. They will be waiting to

mulch and lock the rose garden until it is too cold. They will also be having an end of the year meeting to plan for next year.

The day-lily plants we had for sale didn't sell. Jack took 4 home and the rest are under the Spirea bushes in the Crescent Garden. Virginia plans to pick a couple up on Wednesday and Terese will distribute the rest when she gets back from her latest trip, on Sunday.

Gala Report - Meghan Denenberg:

There were no new ticket-buyers via Paypal, for the Gala today.

Meredith will be putting up the posters for the Gala over the next week.

Meghan stated that Gift Cards are being collected but we need more. We need to get more creative with our fundraising efforts. Sales are down but posters are being passed around as stated by Meredith.

Gift Cards:

Pasta Beach has donated 10 \$25 gift certificates to go into the treasure chests.

NE Aquarium and Franklin Park Zoo have donated behind the scene tours

Tickets for next years cruise will be given out as well.

Ideas for GCs: Behind the Scenes at North Bennet School, Lunch with the Mayor or Chris Cook, BTS with Sheriff and their horses.

Columbus Day Celebration Update - Ann Babbitt:

There were 5 people who gave their names and e-addresses at the Fall Festival yesterday. Meredith has put them in Constant Contact.

The daylily plants we had for sale didn't sell. Jack took 4 home and the rest are under the Spirea bushes in the Crescent Garden. Virginia plans to pick a couple up on Wednesday and Terese will distribute the rest when she gets back from her latest trip, on Sunday.

Once again the Sun Gods were kind to us. We had a beautiful day for our Columbus Day/Fall Festival. The children's parade through the Park was great, we had 4 volunteer drummers helping NEMPAC lead the parade. They had the beat.

The day's entertainment began with Christopher on Stilts ramping up the children with fun music and then the Paw Patrol...Marshall & Chase arrived. For those of you who don't have little ones, this is a new TV show....and the characters are dogs. Although those of us who don't have children had no idea who they were, the kids were sooooo excited, We had difficulty getting the characters to the

statue, the kids were hugging them, parents taking pictures, what a joy to see the kids so excited.

The rest of the day was as successful, the face painting table anchored by Frankie & Joanne was busy the entire day, Meghan, complete with microphone commandeered parents and young adults to help with the face painting. Everyone was having so much fun. I had a "magical" camera, taking pictures and then giving the children a blank piece of film and watching their eyes light up as they watched their painted face appear.

We did our own craft table this year, the kids loved it. As always NE Aquarium and NEMPAC's musical petting zoo were favorites. Peter the Magician & Jim the Bubbleguy were magical as usual. A new performer this year was Benjamin the Juggler, He fit right in, made balloon sculptures, juggled and a bit more. Happy faces, a great day had by all. Thanks to all of my volunteers for making it such a special day,

Internet and Communication Report - Kelsey Griggs:

Newsletter:

October Newsletter – 33% Open

Gala Tickets on Sale – 30% Open

Updates for Gala will be going out every Tuesday until event

Facebook: 788 last month we were at 773

Twitter: 260 last month we were at 258

Website:

898 Visitors in the past 7 days

September 2016 – 2,005

September 2015 – 1,324

October 2016 – 1,050

October 2015 – 1,831

New business : No new business.

Minutes Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm

Respectfully submitted: Kelsey Griggs

FOCCP MEETING – NOVEMBER 08, 2016 – MEETING BEGAN AT: 6:30 PM

CHAired BY JOANNE HAYES-RINES

RECORDING MINUTES: PATRICIA THIBOUTOT, CLERK

OCTOBER MINUTES DISTRIBUTED

BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Robyn Reed, Beverly Knight, Ann DeLuca, Patricia Sabbey, Patricia Thiboutot

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelsey Griggs, Ford Cavallari, SusanneLavoie, Joe Bono

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: BEVERLY KNIGHT

No changes from last month that I am aware of.

TREASURER'S REPORT: ANN DELUCA

Gala Revenue: \$3,880 in checks/cash and \$10,350 from PayPal for a total of \$14,230 from the night. The auction accounted for approximately \$8,600 of that, per Laurie C. Will have more information soon. We should be on track to slightly exceed last year.

FUNDRAISING REPORT: PATRICIA SABBAY

This has been a strong fundraising system with regular sponsors offering their continued support and in Carmela Laurella's case increasing her donation to the Platinum Level. Although not delivering immediate financial rewards, we have established contact with two non-profits, the Boston Public Market and the Trustees Test Kitchen. The latter made a donation to our silent auction. Future combined programming is a possibility.

Engineering update: A couple of weeks ago there was some activity at the spray pad fountain in the park as the parks department examined that area. A bid is expected to go out for repair estimates to address the drainage issues. A test pit was also made to assess the sink hole problem. The seawall is in good condition so is not the source of this problem.

HORTICULTURE REPORT: ROBYN REED

The Horticulture group has wrapped up working in the gardens for this season. The volunteers had a small "thank you" brunch last Sunday to celebrate a successful season, and we also had a great discussion on all the things we want to do for next year.

The city has been notified that we will need the compost and mulch for the rose

beds, which they will deliver after the first frost. After that delivery, we will lock the garden gates for the season, and not open them again until spring. Thanks to all the hard work and time and effort the volunteers put into the garden this season, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the garden in the spring

INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS REPORT: KELSEY GRIGGS ABSENT

REPORT READ BY: Joanne Hayes-Rines

NOVEMBER

November Newsletter – 40% (WOOHOOO!)
Gala Tickets (4 sent total) – Avg. Open Rate of 30.25%
- Reminder for Trellis Lighting will go out [on 11/15](#)
Facebook: 797
Twitter: 260 – same as last month
Website:
457 visitors in past 7 days
October 2016 – 2,003
October 2015 – 1,831
November [2016 – 407](#)
November 2015 – 1,389

OCTOBER

October Newsletter – 33% Open
Gala Tickets on Sale – 30% Open rate
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event
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Infrastructure Report: Ford Cavallari – Absent
Ford sent a message saying there was not anything to report.

Gala Report: Meghan Deneberg Warner, Ann Babbitt
Successful Gala. Good band. Wide range of music. Jack McCarthy was the winner of the Treasure Chest. Laurie Lily of Tia's won the 15th Anniversary Present. Lots of raffle tickets sold. 75 small treasure chests sold. Flowers stunning. Sponsors happy. More sponsors than in previous years. Joanne posted the Proclamation from the City of Boston. Joe Boncore will be presenting one from the Senate. He would like to meet in a more informal setting.

Joanne will invite him to a meeting.
Patricia Sabbey sent invitations to sponsors with stamped return envelope.
General Manager from Marriott brought General Manager from Renaissance Hotel. Could be a potential sponsor.
Golden Goose, Century Bank were represented by their managers.
Boston Harbor Cruises a sponsor.
It was a Team Effort. Ann Babbitt said we need more involvement by members.
This year many events were hosted in the park. It is a huge effort.
Parks Dept. organizes a lot of the events.

Monday, November 21 ... Trellis Lights Installation – Joanne H-R

- Blue and white lights installed on the trellis.
- Only white lights on now for security.
- Steve Mirabella will be testing the blue lights once a week until Nov. 21.
- Steve is donating time and energy.
- Before the trellis lights are turned off in April, we will have LED security lighting installed on the underside of the horizontal beams to replace the very old ones we disconnected last year.
- Lentine Electric will put the white lights on 14 trees.
- Lights of after Patriots' Day.
- Security lighting will be put up.
- More blue laser lights comng.

Trellis Lights Ceremony – begins at 5:00pm

- Parks Dept all set with NEMPAC, radio station, Frostie and Rudolph, and sound system
- Marriott delivering cookies and hot chocolate. GM Ed Rocco will serve the hot chocolate.
- Joe's American Bar & Grill bringing clam chowder.
- Mayor scheduled to throw the switch.
- Santa promises to be there.

No New Business

No December Meeting

October Minutes Accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk