

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
January 11, 2010
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:40 pm with 18 members in attendance.

The meeting started with a quick follow up discussion and comment on the recently held Gala. There were no negative comments or complaints among the attendees. All commented that the evening ran very smoothly; appreciated the hard work of all who made the event happen. Attendees expressed hope that event will be held at Marriott next year as well. It's important to settle on a date soon. Dates near Thanksgiving are not preferable. Committee will decide the date and report at next monthly meeting. Preliminary financial data shows that ticket sales were down slightly, corporate donations were up and auction income about the same; and overall expenses down a bit.

Photos of the event are available for purchase thru D&S Video. The password is: columbus.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted.

Infrastructure report

Postponed - Cole Landers unable to attend.

Membership report

Beverly Knight reports that she is planning a membership drive for May 2011. In preparation, committee is clarifying roles and responsibilities of committee members. Ideas include a membership event or reception at a local restaurant. More details later.

Internet and communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that 518 newsletters sent out; 38% were read; 14 bounced back. Also reports that we have 57 active users on Facebook. Committee to meet this month to discuss new enhancements and ideas.

Joanne Hayes- Rines - President's report

Joanne announced that Christopher Columbus Park was the chosen charity of Frankie Boyer for her \$125 winnings at the Sorrento Cheese contest at the North End Fisherman's Feast in August 2010. Many, many thanks, Frankie for your kind donation!!

As a result of an earlier conversation and park walk thru which Joanne had with Councilor LaMattina, some of the lights on the park "promenade" have been improved. She asked attendees to check them out when again walking in the Park at night and

send positive and negative comments to Joanne. Hoping the rest of the lights will be improved soon as well.

Joanne mentioned that in the past we have had guest speakers on issues important to the Park and the neighborhood. She asks for suggestions that the membership may have on individuals or groups whom we might invite in the future

Joanne received an email from an organization called Boston Park Advocates who are hosting a meeting on January 29. Circulated contact information and asked anyone who is interested in attending to RSVP.

Joanne and Virginia Kimball have worked on a draft budget for 2011. They prepared a handout circulated at the meeting. Copies are available from Virginia Kimball. The budget provides more of a framework for the expenses of the organization as a whole and for each of the committees. Attendees reacted positively. There was a motion and a second to approve the 2011 Budget. Approved unanimously by members in attendance.

FOCCP Tenth Anniversary

Joanne reported a conversation she had with Missy Walker from Boston's Best Cruises. There may be possibilities for planning a July anniversary event on one of their cruise boats. Could be an evening members only event with a small musical ensemble, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails etc. Would not be a big event like the gala but we could plan it as a smaller fund raiser. Joanne will have further discussions with Missy and report her progress.

Other ideas included some kind of outing with the Harbor Alliance to celebrate the opening of the Information Center on the Greenway.

An FOCCP 10th Anniversary planning committee was organized: Joanne, Michele Brogan, Meghan Denenberg, Pamela Haring, Beverly Knight, Virginia and Liz Greene

Other business

Virginia Kimball received a letter from a 12 year old boy in California, sent to the Friends of Christopher Columbus, suggesting that Christopher Columbus would be a good candidate for a visit to his school. The letter generated quite a bit of discussion! Virginia will follow up with the school principal to get more info.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
February 8, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, Ma.

In the absence of Joanne Hayes-Rines, the meeting was convened at 6:35 by Trish Baumer, Vice President. There were 20 attendees.

Treasurer report

Virginia reported that we received one donation this month. Reminded us that copies of the 2011 Budget, voted by the membership at the January meeting, is available by contacting her.

Fund raising committee

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro told us that, sadly, the Marriott Event Planner, who was wonderful to work with, is leaving the Marriott. Anne left a message that November 4 2011 is our preferred date for this year's event. The renovations at the hotel should be completed by June 2011

Membership committee

Beverly Knight reported that the committee is exploring the idea of a meet and greet event. More details to follow. The committee welcomed Pamela Keverly as a new member.

Meghan Denenberg, Meredith Piscatelli, and Trish Baumer reported on the citywide parks advocate meeting she attended. Attendees from many parks across the city participated. They reported it was a good forum for sharing ideas. Suggestions included: have each current member work at bring in one new member into the organization; sponsoring "member only" events; seeking grant funding to assist the organization. Meghan suggested various ways to volunteer, increase donations or recognize volunteers: shovel snow in front of the Park Bulletin Board; membership appreciation day ~receive a rose from the Garden; or dedicatory plaques on benches.

She asked members to send ideas to info@foccp.org More meetings are planned on 2/16 and 3/16 and Meghan will keep us posted.

Internet and Communication committee

Audrey Tortolani reported that 504 newsletters were sent out; only 5 returned; and 32.5% were opened.

She reported that committee members: Meredith, Alexa, Beverly Matt and Audrey had a very productive meeting. Developed 2011 Goals and came up with many new ideas to become more up-to-date technologically: interactive or blog type website, improved consistency of communications, possible connections with Twitter, google etc. This may need financial resources. They will advise the membership as they proceed

Horticulture committee.

Mary Ann Esparo reports the committee had a nice social get together last month. The weather will predict the starting date for garden activity. Meredith plans to do regular postings on "What's Blooming?" on the Bulletin Board.

VP report

Trish Baumer reports that there has been discussion about the May 2011 Tot Lot Clean Up. This year include a membership table. Should we also include anything additional because this is our anniversary year? Date is not yet definitive. Those interested should contact Mary Marenghi or email to info@foccp.org

Lighting committee

Attendees recognized and thanked Jay Thompson for the good work on the trellis lighting task. He shared with us that the Lentine Co., who put up the lights, used a photo of the lit trellis for their 2010 holiday cards!

Attendees also saw a clipping from the Daily Sentinel from Rome, New York showing an AP photo of walking under the trellis at night.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
March 8, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes Rines.
The minutes of the April meeting were read and accepted

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reports that in February, we received a \$1000 donation from the Golden Goose, \$100 donation, \$25 in membership fees and paid out \$410 in expenses. She reports that the savings account at \$50,937 is doing better in terms of interest than the CD at \$50,014

Due to the closure of the the Marriott Hotel pool and health club, we are anticipating a reimbursement for the monies received for this auction item sold at the Gala.

Fund raising

Anne Devlin Tagliagferro reports the date now secured for the 2011 Gala is November 18 and the cost for the food/dinner has increased by \$7. She will be speaking with Patron Liquors about any interest they may have in being a sponsor for the Gala

Boston Park Advocates meeting.

Meredith Piscatelli, Joanne Hayes-Rines, Anne Devlin Tagliaferro and Beverly Knight will attend the 3/16/11 meeting.

Apparently the February meeting focused more on using Twitter rather than creating blogs.

Lighting sub committee

Joanne said that she and Jay Thompson were in touch with Lentine Co. about the date to shut off the trellis lights. All agreed that mid April would be appropriate. Joanne mentioned the possibility of some seasonal lights during the Fourth of July week. More on this later

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers report that there have not been any meetings with or responses on the Infrastructure Report from the Parks Dept since the Committee Report was shared with them some months ago. Joanne has a meeting with Parks Commissioner, Toni Pollack soon and will raise the issue with her. She announced that Ken Crasco with whom we have frequently worked is retiring from the City. He may still do some part time consulting with them however. Joanne asked all in attendance to sign a farewell card for Ken.

Membership

Beverly Knight reports 166 paid members. She and her committee are planning a membership drive in May and asks all who can to pitch in and help with the various tasks related to the mailing. We will use part of the April meeting to get the mailing completed. She asked for volunteers for the Membership Table at the annual Tot Lot clean up scheduled for June 11. She is working on a new brochure to be professionally printed and also highlighting the FOCCP tenth anniversary.

Internet and Communication

In Audrey Tortolani's absence, Meghan Denenberg reported 517 newsletters sent out in March and only 6 bounced back, but 2 were incorrect addresses. There were 63 Facebook users, 100 visits and 77 friends.

Horticulture report.

Mary Ann Esparo is ill and unable to attend tonight's meeting. Meredith Piscatelli reports tiny growth of daffodils

Joanne's report

Joanne has received an email from Shakespeare and Co inquiring if we are interested again this year in supporting a performance. Attendees voiced interest which Joanne will convey. No details on content, date or finances yet
She received info from an organization called City Parks Alliance, based in Washington, DC. They lobby Congress on park issues and charge \$50 to join for one year. Trish Baumer will check out their platform prior to our joining

Joanne listed some 10th Anniversary ideas:

Membership drive/member thank you event at a nearby restaurant - bring in new members thru a fun social event - maybe in May. Detail later from Membership Committee.

Tot Lot Clean up - June 11 maybe have a magician come and arrange for balloons
Movie nite in the park - Joe Bono interested in sponsoring 6 to 8 movie nites. Needs permit. Dates and movies to be decided. Possibly start in late June

Members only cruise in the harbor in July

Columbus day event in October -- should event be day of Parade or the next day??

Gala in November

Trellis lighting in November

Member comments

Joan Murphy reports much gravel all over the park walkways. The gravel appears to be coming from the around the trees at Tia's. We need to inform Lori Lilly, owner of Tia's when the restaurant opens shortly

Francine Gannon suggested investigating the possibility of sponsoring an art auction in the park - something that would be arranged by a third party but for which FOCCP could benefit by an admission fee.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
April 12, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened by Joanne Hayes-Rines at 6:35 and was attended by 25 members

The minutes of the March meeting were read and accepted

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reported March 2011 account balances. She detailed YTD figures are available from her

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparo reports that the first committee meeting was held on April 20. They are awaiting dates from the Parks Dept for uncovering the roses and turning on the irrigation. She plans to assess the adequacy of the irrigation and report to the Parks Dept. Volunteers will start meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesday evenings at 6. Mary Ann asks that volunteers commit to at least 1 hour per week.

Fund raising report

Ann Devlin Tagilaferro reports that the orchestra for the 2010 Gala will again perform this year. She plans to contact Patron Liquors to explore their interest in again supporting the 2011 Gala.

Infrastructure report

Joanne Hayes Rines had a meeting with Toni Pollack, with positive results. Public Works Dept will paint the light poles in the Park. Michelle Folts from the Parks Dept had a walk thru in the Park with Joanne to get more specific understanding of FOCCP issues. There are plans for guards on granite to deter skate boarding. Joanne shared her idea for the Fourth of July lights!

Lighting report

Jay Thompson reports that a meeting is scheduled for 4/26 with a lighting designer as well as other personnel at his work to come up with more new ideas for lighting in the park

Membership

Beverly Knight reports the FOCCP social is now scheduled for June 2 at the Living Room with appetizers and a cash bar. All are encouraged to bring a friend. She will place notice of the event in the Regional Review and the Post Gazette.

Internet and Communications

Audrey Tortolani reported for that all dated events are on the website. The March newsletter went out to 529 addresses and opened by 35.2%. 12 notices bounced back. Meredith Piscatelli reports 71 active monthly Facebook users

Joanne's report

The Tot Lot Clean Up is scheduled for June 11. More details later from Mary Marengi
Plans moving forward for Movies in the Park on Sunday evenings during July and August. The members only Harbor Cruise is scheduled for July 20 from 7:30 to 10. Appetizers and cash bar. More details in May.

Annual elections for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Clerk and 2 members at large will be held at the May 10 meeting. Nominations are due at info@foccp.org by April 26.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05

The balance of the meeting was a group effort to assist with the annual membership mailing

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting minutes
May 10, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:45 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 27 members. Voting for the FOCCP Annual election began at 5:30 and continued throughout the meeting.

Joanne read her nomination summary and other candidates spoke to the membership as well.

The minutes of the April 2011 meeting were read and accepted

Membership report

Beverly Knight reported the following membership renewal and new payment figures:

23 members at \$25
18 members at \$35
12 members at \$50
28 members at \$100

Kim Caverly reported on plans for the June Social to be held at the Living Room. It is scheduled for June 2 from 6 to 8 pm. There will be a cash bar and appetizers. Since we hope to bring in new members to the organization, all are encouraged to bring a friend. Those wanting to attend should register at info@foccp.org

Treasure report

Virginia Kimball reports receipt of \$2025 in membership income as of 4/30/11 and additional funds received since that date as well. For those who are interested, detailed information on current balances for the checking, savings money market and CD accounts are available from Virginia

Horticulture report

Mary Ann Esparro reports that the work of the horticulture volunteers began 3 weeks ago. There were so many volunteers that the spring pruning in the center rose bed was done in one week. They will prune the shrubs after the first bloom. Wisteria should be coming in soon. The Crescent garden needs cleaning up. There is a new outside contractor to help with the planting and clean up. She reminds volunteers that work is done in the garden on Wednesdays at 6:30 and Sundays at 9:30. She asks for a commitment of at least one hour per week.

Fundraising report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the deposit for the November annual gala has been made to the Marriott. The Gala is scheduled for November 18

Infrastructure report

Cole Landers reports that the light poles in the park have been repainted. This was one of the items on the comprehensive committee report that was shared with the Parks Dept. He hopes to schedule a meeting for the committee. Joanne Hayes-Rines added that Bernie Lynch was looking into the possibility of new trash cans, but it may be too late for this summer. We've asked whether or not FOCCP might purchase them but no answer as yet. Donna Freni suggested contacting Councilor LaMattina.

Meredith Piscatelli mentioned that on a recent trip to Washington DC, she saw very effective comprehensive and consistent signage in a park she visited. She thought they might be a model for signs we might suggest to the city

Lighting report

Jay Thompson was unable to attend. Joanne Hayes-Rines reports we are still hoping to arrange for red, white and blue lights for the 4th of July.

Internet and communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that the May newsletter went out to 525 addresses and read by 152 users. 7 addresses bounced back and 14 users went to the membership link! Audrey thanked Meghan Denenberg for all the help she gives the committee. She plans a mid month newsletter as a reminder of the June 2 Social at the Living Room. Meredith Piscatelli reports 76 monthly Facebook users and that they seem to be responding to our information and photos

Jim Salini reminded us that the election notice needs to be on the Website

Cole Landers suggested By-Law changes, if necessary, in the fall instead of at the Annual Meeting. He made a motion. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously

President's report

Joanne Hayes-Rines outlined the current list of FOCCP 10th Anniversary events being planned.

June 2 Social at the Living Room

June 11 Tot Lot Clean up -- with a magician 9:30 to noon and maybe face painting and balloons. Sandra Harcourt suggested a poster for the Eliot School. Meghan Denenberg said she would make a poster and send by email

July 20 members only Harbor Cruise on Voyager II and the donated by Boston Best Cruises, Rock Island caterer, Cash bar, tickets \$45, there will be recorded music and the cruise will leave from Park side of Long Wharf/Marriott hotel.

Sculpture presentation and discussion

Joanne reports that the Park and city are the recipients of a donation of a sculpture designed by the world renowned Boston based artist, Kahlil Gibran. The sculptor is the nephew of very well known and loved author, Kahlil Gibran. The donation is being made by Mr. Gibran's widow, Jean Gibran.

The opportunity for the city and Park to receive this donation and for it to be potentially placed in Christopher Columbus Park came to us thru the efforts of FOCCP members, Meghan and Neil Denenberg and Mr. Denenberg's brother, a fine art dealer who represented the artist for many years.

Joanne explained that the FOCCP Board had met earlier in the month, seen the presentation of the sculpture and agreed to authorize the expenditure of \$1000 to engage Rebecca Reynolds, a public art consultant to assist with very preliminary exploration of the possibilities. Board members suggested exploring the potential for assistance from the Brown Fund and the Henderson Fund. Joanne also told the attendees that last week, she, other Board members and Jean Gibran met with the architect of the Armenian Memorial in Christopher Columbus Park to get his advice and expertise because of his experience with the efforts to bring that memorial to reality. He suggested that initially we needed to get the advice of a structural engineer and landscape architect to assess the real potential of placing the sculpture in the park

There was much discussion and suggestions. Cole Landers suggests we form an ad hoc committee to work on this because if we proceed, it will require a lot of effort and may take a number of years. Jim Salini suggests that as we proceed we track and monitor the finances of this effort independently. He also suggests the idea of a project manager approach. Donna Freni suggests we ensure early on that the city would be in favor of proceeding with such a project in a public park

Cole Landers motion: Move that FOCCP move forward with a feasibility survey and authorize the expenditure of \$10,000, subject to the approval of the city for this project in CCP. Motion seconded and passed unanimously

Cole also suggests getting a response from the city before proceeding

In her report, Joanne also reports Seven Sunday nite movies in the Park. These are being sponsored by FOCCP Board member, Joe Bono. Dates will be announced on the FOCCP website. All movies will begin at dusk

FOCCP annual election results were announced. All nominated members were elected as follows

Joanne Hayes-Rines, President
Trish Baumer, Vice President
Virginia Kimball, Treasurer
Sandra Harcourt, Clerk
Joe Bono, Member at Large
Meghan Denenberg, Member at Large

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm
Minutes submitted by Liz Greene, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting minutes
June 14, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

Trisha Baumer convened the meeting @ 6:42 pm., 18 members were in attendance.

Welcome Sandra Harcourt as new clerk and Liz Greene was thanked and applauded for many years of service as Clerk of FOCCP.

Minutes were approved as read

Treasurer's Report - Virginia Kimball

Virginia shared the account balances in the checking, CD, and Money Market. All accounts reflected little change in the balances this month.

Horticulture Report - Mary Ann Esparo

Mary Ann shared that the group is pruning like crazy in the Rose Garden. Mary Ann and Joanne met with Dominic Mannarino of Schumacher Landscape. The Boxwoods under bulletin board are burnt on both sides from animal deposits. Dominic suggested taking out the ones on the end and rotating the others to place burned side in. Mary Ann has added moth balls to the area and said if they yellow again we may want consider planting an alternative plant or abandon the idea of Boxwoods, all together .

Signage has been placed in the bulletin board and Crescent area to deter dogs' usage.

Mulch has been requested for center rose bed, Dominic will come back with a recommended varieties to choose.

Joanne contributed from the Presidents report -They have fertilized the Sophoras and Oaks last fall. All look better except for the Sophora nearest the water. Apparently, there is too much water in the area as this is the second tree in this spot needing replacement. It is still guaranteed so Dominic will removed it and give us quote on trimming some of the big Oaks on the walkway on the Park side near Tia's.

Fundraising Report - Anne Devlin Tagliaferro

No additional Gala details. She will send Joanne a get well basket. Flower Fund is whole as a result recent contributions from the Ladies Group.

Infrastructure Report - Cole Landers

Cole reported the Park has painted the Bollards (connect chain at waterfront), most of the railings and the bulletin board. The Infrastructure Committee is planning to meet this week. The committee is planning to review the initiatives they have shared with Ken Crasco who is a consultant to Parks Dept and is supposedly working on our list.

Lighting Committee - Jay Thompson

It will difficult to light for 4th of July due to the growth on the Trellis. General consensus is not to have lights for summer due to the longs days of sunlight. Jay thought it best to save our money as we prepare for a larger lighting investment when we change these lights in the future years as we hope to replace them with color control programmable system.

Membership Report - Beverly Knight

Beverly gave Meredith a big thank you for all her efforts. Memberships register at 219 after our month one of our membership drive which resulted in 50 new members.

The Living Room Membership Event was well attended, 60 people. 1-800 Flowers donated an arrangement for a raffle, won by a new member. Meghan Denenberg won the referral contest by bringing in 6 six new members. Kim, Pam and Beverly are working on a new event, information to follow.

Beverly will give some thought to having the membership booth up during Movie Night. She asked people to think about volunteering as it is only an hour shift. Also she challenged all of us to bring two new members each.

Internet Communications Report – Audrey Tortolani

Last newsletter was sent to 501 addresses and 151 opened the newsletter. Seven bounced back and were immediately fixed by Meredith, thank you. On Face book we have “98 likes” and 94 active users, up 25% from last month. Meredith asked all of us go on Facebook and vote “like FOCCP” in addition to encouraging friends to do the same. Meredith reminded us that being “social” is a great way to spread the FOCCP word.

President Report submitted by Joanne Hayes-Rines, President (read by Trish Baumer Vice President)

-Thank you to everyone who participated in Tot Lot Clean Up. There were about 40 people there. Warren from the Parks Department was a great help. Mary Marengi bought new sand toys, juice boxes, water and Ice Coffee from Starbucks. Peter O'Malley was our magician again and did a great job. Boston Best Cruises donated a goodie bag that we had a drawing for. Matt Conti filmed part of the day, very nice job. A possible suggestion to get leaf blower to contain the sand.

Group discussion: we agreed the blower may not be the best way. Konnie suggested a vacuum. The group thought if we improved the frequency of the Tot Lot it would be great and that Michelle Brogran had offered to head a committee to clean up Tot Lot monthly; there is an open action item to follow up.

-The 10th Anniversary Harbor Cruise is Wednesday July 20th at 7:15 pm. I have sent letters inviting our major sponsors to be our guests. All members need to encourage neighbors to sign up. As of this afternoon 48 paid guests 20 to VIP list. Capacity is 180, 100 to hundred and 120 would be great. Voyager III. Reminder to please sign up on line

-A couple of weeks ago Joanne sent out press releases about our 10th Anniversary activities. It was sent to the Regional Review and to Matt Conti. Matt also provided a list of news outlets to send the releases to. On June 13th I was interviewed by a Globe reporter about our group. I will let everyone know when it will be printed.

Group Discussion: The CCP was referenced during Bruins Game 5, "The dogs in CC Park were on shorter leashes than these hockey players."

Other Business

Triad Statue Update - Meghan Denenberg reported via Trish Baumer
There is a meeting scheduled in the next couple weeks to gather additional information.

Sunday Night Movie Update sponsored by Joe Bono
Joe is responsible for the technical set up. Please review movie list and make suggestions, list was circulated amongst the membership for additional suggestions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

1 attachment: Suggested Movie list, Membership Committee Report and Internet Communications Report.

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting minutes
July 12, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, Ma

Meeting was called to order at 6:42 pm by Joanne Hayes - Rines 13 Members in attendance with three new guests. All members and guests were self introduced.

Joanne shared the recent press coverage on boston.com June 17th, Post Gazette July 8th and the Regional Review an editorial appeared June 14th and a nice email letter to FOCCP .org from a Texas woman. (see attachment)

Minutes were approved

No Treasures Report

Horticulture report - Mary Ann Esparo. Was unable to attend; Robyn Reed reported on her behalf. The wisteria bloomed minimally this as result of the aggressive fall pruning for the trellis lighting. Next year should be great. Other updates include; the delayed bloom of the rose garden as a result of our cool damp spring. The black mulch has been complete the group is doing a exceptional job, all the volunteers have enabled successful completion of the rose garden and the crescent.

Fundraising Report - Anne Devlin Tagliaferro

The Gala committee volunteer signups will start next month, think about how you plan on contributing. Hold the date November 16th.

Infrastructure Report - Cole Landers

No update since last meeting. Joanne was told Bernie is working on the trash cans, yeah!

Lighting Committee - Jay Thompson, no report

Membership Report - Beverly Knight

We have 222 members 80 new members this year. We are starting a target email campaign for new members. Currently we are no setting up a membership table for movie night, so we will handout membership flyers.

Beverly reported she would like to see two subcommittee formed focusing on organizing the volunteers and the other to organize and execute the thank note process. Beverly designed a thank you she shared with the group, others had similar ideas.

Special thank you to Pam and Kim who helped write the most recent batch thank you notes to all donating members. Awesome work!

Megan Denenberg suggested selling note cards representing a picture collection of the Christopher Columbus Park. She has done research and other organization seem to sell them on their website. We could possibly sell them at the membership table and other functions.

Our next Membership event is being worked on by Kim, Pam and Beverly.

Internet Communications Report - Audrey Tortolani

This month four newsletters were sent and open by 30 % of the list. We have also sent out Sunday movie night and sunset harbor cruise notices. The largest amount opened was 40% for open for the Sunday movie night notices. We have fewer bounce backs and Meredith diligently works to reconcile the addresses of our 540 member list.

Meredith update on FOCCP Facebook reported we now have 116 likes. The movie cards seem to have positively impacted our general contacts. We are up to 538! The placement on Facebook of other north end groups helps to promote our beautiful park.

President Report - Joanne Hayes-Rines

The 10th Anniversary Cruise update - a total of 63 tickets have been sold plus the two recently invited-guests. We should send out one more email, we would like to have 100 to 120 attendees. The caterer is hosting the tasting with the committee members tomorrow to finalize the menu.

Boston Best Cruises details donating a boat

They will have 4 foot table to check guests in

We will board at 7:30 be there by 7:15. Laurie Comer from park rangers will there to help promote the islands. We have to be out of the harbor by 8:00 due to other harbor traffic.

The caterer will ride the ferry in from Quincey and will use the time to set up.

The staff will be wearing Hawaiian shirts and we will include this information in the email update. There will be a wireless mike at the Wheelhouse so I can greet guests, etc...

Question to group; should board be wearing name tags? The group agreed and thought it would be best for everyone to have name tags.

Discussed several options to drive attendance including a calling tree, value add message to email reminders, think about a package pricing, posters for event and a possible last minute rate.

Move under new business

Tot Lot Committee an adhoc committee is being led by Michelle Brogan

There are lots of visitors to the lot and there tends to be sand and toys left spread out. A few recommendations include getting a open containers for the toys, sweep a couple days a week, wash off and store the toys, start with a soft launch now with a few volunteers to asses the work load and timing. Then the group can recommend a way of working, additional volunteers and possible distinct fundraising to enhance the play areas.

Communication efforts will include the website, the north end moms and ladies groups as initial volunteer targets.

Triad Update - I have reached engineer structural engineer Leonard Morse - Fortier of Simpson Gumphertz and Hager, no reply to date. This will be a slow process but we will wait for his availability.

Sunday movie update, the projectionist Steve Virgilio is doing a great job, thank you Joe.

Sunday, June 26 - Miracle - we had dreary weather brought about 60 people

Sunday, July 10 - Mrs. Doubt fire- attended by 100 + people

We received one complaint regarding the volume. In an effort to minimize this concerned will work with Steve Virgilio to review the design

A few suggestions were made

0. To distribute membership applications with the movie schedule

1. See if Steve can ace his charity advertisement at the end of the film so we can start on the film earlier

New Business

Mary Ann Esparo our Horticulture Chair has suggested that Robyn Reed serve as co-chair for this committee. Robyn has accepted The Bylaws will have to be revised to make this a board position. September timeline was suggested.

Cole offered to take will look at Bylaws with a few other members and committee chairs to make a recommendation. Cole made a good suggestion that we need to think about the long term architecture of the Bylaws and how we might structure committees given our growth and ambitious agenda.

Joanne also suggested it might be a good time to review all the committees and the scope of their responsibilities. The key is to maintain focus and consistency without over working various groups. The committee leaders have been asked to provide their comments their responsibilities and if they think their committee should have a co-chair, be divide into two committees or provide an alternative team structure. All inputs are requested to be submitted by August 1st.

New aerial photo of the park. Meredith suggested we get a new aerial photo of our park. Joanne asked the membership how we might do this a few suggestions included gaining access to the Marriott, hiring an photographer possibly an aerial one to take an updated multiple-purpose pictures. We should ask for the work to be donated or discounted. shot or access or a true photographer see if donate.

Joanne pointed out free Summer ParkArtsbrochures

Joanne shared a framed photo of Joan taken in front of roses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

**Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2011
The Mariners House
North Square
Boston, MA**

Meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm by Joanne Hayes-Rines

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Special Report: Matt Conti brought copies of the Haz-Mat flyers to distribute to ours members encouraging all of us to attend. See flyer for details.

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Minutes from last meeting were read by Sandra Harcourt and were approved

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Horticulture report - Mary Ann Esparo

- All the volunteers are working well.
- Cleaning Rose Garden and will continue to prune and trim the Wisteria.
- The city painted the Christopher Columbus lettering on the trellis.

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Treasurers, Infrastructure and Lighting Committees will report next month.

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Membership report - Beverly Knight

- 233 current members
- 85 new members this year

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Internet Communications report - Audrey Tortolani

- 510 emails address for updates with 8 bounce backs, research and resolved
- 130 new Face book readers up 30% from last month
- 181 opened emails
- There were three communications sent with an industry open rate of 28%.

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Harbor Cruise Report by Joanne

- At our July 12 meeting, a week before the cruise, we had 65 initial tickets sold.
- Additional tickets were sold. We had 107 guests in addition to the owners.
- We collected \$4,600 in ticket sales and our cost was \$1,900 for a net \$2,700. These figures are rounded and have not been verified.
- We had planned to use the proceeds of the cruise to fund the Columbus Day event. Last year's event cost \$2,883 so the approximate \$2700 raised on the cruise is just about what we needed.

PUBLICITY: The Boston Courant covered the cruise and photos were in a recent edition. Boston's Best Cruises may offer to do additional cruise(s), possibly in the fall.

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“Triad” statue update -- Our consultant, Rebecca Reynolds, and Joanne met with structural engineer Leonard Morse-Fortier of Simpson Gumphertz and Hager on Monday, July 18. He has sent us a draft of our next steps. Next meeting Tuesday the 23rd to discuss next meeting. Lots of group discussion.

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Columbus Day event -- Sunday, October 9

Joanne has a call into Aaron Michelwitz regarding the parade timing.

- The team that worked on last year’s event has been asked to take on the same responsibilities as last year.
 1. Kathy Ray -- will contact the Tanglewood Marionettes for their availability
 2. Trish -- check in with the magician for availability
 3. Joannewill contact City Stage Company and NEMPAC
 4. Mary Marengi -- contacting fire and police departments could get antique fire truck
 5. Jess Williams will coordinate West Lawn activities
 6. Matt Conti, Judy Whitwell and Michele Brogan will also help day of the event with balloons, etc.
- Last year we started at 10:45 am, but since it’s on a Sunday this year, what does the membership think of starting that early on a Sunday morning? Group agreed to 10:30
- Joanne will have a committee meeting at her home in September but I anticipate an event similar to last year’s.
- A suggestion was made to get the city to fix the bricks along the walkway.
- If you have any additional ideas for kids’ activities please submit them

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Sunday Night Movie Update

- Sunday, August 7 -- cancelled due to rain
- Sunday, August 14 -- Fever Pitch
- Blind Side being moved to the end of the month since it was cancelled by rain
- Following the showing Princess Bride there was a lot of litter.
- A suggestion was made to get cardboard trash cans for these types of events
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New Tot Lot Clean Up Committee Update ... chaired by Michele Brogan

- Audrey publishing the upcoming Tot Lot Cleanup work days in newsletter.
- Aug 20 and Oct 1 from up 7-10 am will be big clean up days. The snow shovels really work well for cleaning the sandy areas.
- A suggestion was made to put up a laminated signs on the fence around the lot announcing the upcoming clean up dates and asking for volunteers
- Joanne offered to get more snows shovels

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Fundraising Report - Ann Devlin Tagliafero

- A Committees meeting is coming up in early September.
- Please think about how you can help
- There are a lot of things to be done, will need help with details.
- Timing of invitation still needs to be discussed
- Donation Forms for the silent auction need to be distributed

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Other business

The caterer for our membership cruise, Ellen Wilson's son was in an accident. Through our resources gifts were given including a signed ball by John Lester. Thank you all for the goodwill

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Meeting was adjourned at 7:50

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
September 13, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was attended by 28 members and was convened at 6:35 by Joanne Hayes-Rines. Introductions were made as several new members attended.

The August meeting minutes were not read aloud. Liz Greene made a motion that they be accepted, seconded by Cathy McCarthy and approved unanimously.

Treasurer report
Contact Virginia Kimball for a copy of her report.

Horticulture report
Mary Ann Esparo thanked the volunteers for all the hard work during the summer. Next year, with some professional help, the committee plans to focus on the Crescent garden.
Joanne Hayes-Rines said that she and MaryAnn had met with the Greenway horticulturist and arborist and got some helpful advice. Suggested working on small projects at a time. Advised that it is very important to do soil testing before taking on a planting project. Joanne says she hopes the meeting will be part of building a positive collaboration with the Greenway.

Infrastructure report
Cole Landers has no report at this time. It has been one year since comprehensive FOCCP memo was sent to the Parks dept.
He plans to review what was accomplished and develop an updated "to do" list.

Lighting report
Jay Thompson reports he will be contacting the Lentine Co. to initiate activities for the annual trellis lighting. The lights on statue and rose garden need to be fixed.

Membership report
Beverly Knight reports no change since last meeting

Internet and Communication report
Audrey Tortolani reported that 3 notices were sent out to membership: the Tot Lot clean up event; the parks contest; and the 2011 Gala (opened by 511 readers)
Newsletter opened by 157
Facebook - 120 monthly active users - 70 in one week!
Website was updated to allow 2011 Gala ticket purchases

President's report

Joanne received a letter from the Friends of the Navy Yard looking for advice on steps for planning fundraisers. She planned a follow up discussion

Sculpture update

Application had been made to The Browne Fund for funds (approximately \$40,000) to engage a structural engineering analysis. Application included description of the project scope, letters from Joanne (on behalf of FOCCP), othabutter and a letter from Toni Pollack, Parks Commissioner.

Drafts of the letters are available for member review

Columbus Day event

The event will be shorter than last year because the city parade is being held in the NorthEnd. Will begin after 10 and run till around 1. Precise timing is pending. Activities to include City Stage, a magician, puppeteer, lawn games, raffle and a three piece band. Members of NEMPAC and the Friends of the North End Branch Library will be in attendance and provide information

Sunday nights at the movies

Joanne reports that the movies this summer were well attended and very successful. There were some issues with trash being left in the Park which will need to be addressed next year. The good news is that our sponsor, Board member Joe Bono has agreed to again sponsor the program for next summer. Many thanks, Joe!

Tot Lot

Michele Brogan has initiated a periodic clean up event for the Tot Lot. The last one before winter is scheduled for Sat 10/1 fro 7am to 10 am. Bring gloves.

Volunteers needed

Photo notecards fundraiser.

Meghan Denenberg has been working on a potential fundraising project: the sale of Christopher Columbus Park photo note cards. She prepared a mock set of Park photo notecards for member review.

Additional analysis needs to be done to sort out the sales projections, cost production and tax issues (as we are a non-profit) and to finalize the photos.

Joanne Hayes-Rines made a motion to authorize expenditure of \$1700 for the production of 400 box sets, provided that the photo edits are done and other issues sorted out. Liz Greene seconded. Then motion was approved unanimously.

2011 Gala Fundraiser report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro reports that the Auction committee is looking for fewer but more valuable items.

Beverly Knight listed the members of the committee: Carol Romano, Cathy McCarthy, Rachel Heulsman, Sandra Harcourt. They have increased the goal for the auction to \$15,000. Any ideas, suggestions for auction, email info@foccp.org

New auction forms have been prepared and will be on website.

Robyn Reed suggests seeking donations for specific items (gravel in rose garden, etc). Joanne suggests creating a save the date magnet to be enclosed in gala invite. Save the date magnets are very minimal cost. She prepared a mock magnet with photo of the lit trellis for member review. Membership was supportive of idea if they could be produced in time.

Other issues

Ford Cavalleri suggested there might be an opportunity for some kind of collaboration between FOCCP and the Greenway/Armenian Heritage Sculpture in conjunction with the Annual Trellis Lighting in the Park.

Jim Salini informed the attendees of a scheduled concert of Sinatra favorites to be held at the North End Branch Library on Wednesday evening, Oct. 5. Contact the Library for more details

Meeting adjourned at 8pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene (for vacationing Clerk, Sandra Harcourt)

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
October 11, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 31 members

Joanne announced that there would be a new approach to the reading of the meeting minutes. The Clerk will read a summary of the meeting agenda items and any action items voted on. The complete minutes will be circulated to the attendees during the meeting. Voting to accept/approve the minutes will be held at the end of the meeting

Horticulture report

Robyn Reed reported on behalf of MaryAnn Esparo who was unable attend. She reported that the rose green blooms in September were magnificent. The volunteers will finish up the rose garden work in mid-November. The park irrigation and drainage problems persist. Mary Ann will be speaking to the Parks Dept personnel to review options.

Lighting report

Joanne Hayes-Rines said she had put in a work order for a spot light for the Christopher Columbus statue. The city did not take care of this so FOCCP paid Lentine and Co. for the work. Joanne let Toni Pollack, Parks Commissioner know that the staff did not do it.

Trellis holiday and tree lighting - Jay Livingston and Lentine and Co. will assess the trellis lights and also select which additional park trees will be lit.

Membership report

Beverly Knight report there are currently 238 members! And, 88 of these are new this year

She's hoping to plan another FOCCP social in March at The Living Room.

Internet & communication report

Audrey Tortolani reports that many new pictures have been loaded on the website as a result of updates to the site

Four news letters have been sent out since September, including one for the 2011 Gala, the tot lot clean up effort and the monthly meeting.

Bounce back rate is low --- plus/ minus 3%.

Meredith Piscitelli reported that she created a page to inform people about the Gala and Silent Auction; users can note attendance at events . She reports many FOCCP members are on Facebook.

Tot lot clean up report

Michele Brogan was unable to attend meeting. Only a few folks were able to attend the clean-up but their efforts were productive. Weather was overcast and rainy which did not help! The group also cleaned the Beirut Veterans Memorial area as well.

Treasurer report

Virginia Kimball reports that the taxes were mailed in last week
She also reported from her research regarding FOCCP sale of photo note cards that non-profits can conduct 2 fund raisers annually without having to pay taxes. Joanne Hayes-Rines consulted with Friends of the Public Garden. They also sell note cards and accept donations for them.

FOCCP photo note cards

Meghan Denenberg reported that to date 16 boxes have been sold
And, she reported that the Columbus Day Raffle yielded \$368 (minus the cost of the Gala tickets which FOCCP donated)

Columbus Day event

Joanne Hayes Rines told attendees that the event was a great success. Parade participants began to convene in the Park mid morning. FOCCP program began at 10 and lots of families and children enjoyed all of the planned activities. (*****remember next year call city to tell them to turn off sprinkler the night before as the lawn was sopping!)

Friends of the North End Branch Library also had an info table at the event.

Joanne and several FOCCP members joined the beginning of the Parade, after the annual wreath laying in the Park. They marched with our banner, a few steps behind politicians and other dignitaries; cheers of support for the FOCCP as they marched thru the North End were appreciated by the marchers

Final cost not yet determined but likely more or less \$2500.

And to top off a perfect day, there was a wonderful after party at Matt Conti's!!!! Thank you, Matt!!!!

Committee will review pluses and minuses of event to ID best practices for future years

Triad

Application for funds to assist with engineering analyses was submitted to the Brown Fund

Ad hoc committee continues to work with Rebecca Reynolds, consultant to prepare another application to the Arts Commission

New business

Meredith Piscatelli described a BPL Book Cart which made library books available in the Post Office Square/ Leventhal Park. Meredith will find out how this works. Group thought it is an interesting idea to pursue.

Liz Greene will mention to her husband to share with the Library friends as well.

Bulletin board - Meredith says all complete - vine sculpture complete etc.

Gala report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro brought an example of flower arrangements to be done by 1-800-FLOWERS. All were in favor.

Patron Liquors will be supporting the FOCCP and the Park thru the complimentary specialty bar again this year

Mike's Pastry will again donate pastries and cookies for dessert

Mayor Menino and his wife will be attending the gala

Anne announced that our Junior Senator, Scott Brown, will be attending.

Ann suggested we highlight on the website that the Frank Zarba band and Sharon Zee, vocalist are the Gala entertainment.

Auction report/update

FOCCP received a donation from Tia's Restaurant - Lori Lilly

Rachaele circulated the auction contact list for all to verify the correct FOCCP contact person.

Joanne Hayes-Rines reports that Bill Belichick's sweat shirt/hoodie, which the NFL placed on the Christopher Columbus statue this past fall, will be signed by Bill Belichick, courtesy of FOCCP member, Jess Williams. It will then be one of the silent auction items

Deadline for auction Nov. 10 to prepare the auction booklet

Highlight certain auction items on website to generate auction excitement before the event

Ticket sales

Virginia Kimball reports slow sales so far, about 45 sold to date

Greeters report

Pamela Harring reports greeters are all confirmed.

Sponsors

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro will again approach Joe's American Bar and Grill to seek their support for the park and this year's Gala.

Meghan Denenberg suggested that we all emphasize our 10th anniversary and work hard to seek out new sponsors -new different ideas and auction items.

Motion to accept September 2011 minutes seconded and approved

Adjourned at 7:45pm

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, substituting for Sandra Harcourt, Clerk

Friends of Christopher Columbus Park
Monthly meeting
November 8, 2011
The Mariner House
North Square
Boston, MA.

The meeting was convened at 6:40 by Joanne Hayes-Rines and attended by 24 members.

Joanne introduced new members. She reminded us that there are only 11 days till the Gala and all should have purchased tickets

October meeting minutes

Liz Greene(sitting in for Sandra Harcourt, Clerk) summarized the October agenda items. The full October minutes were circulated to the attendees for review.

Lighting report

Jay Livingston reported that he and Joanne Hayes-Rines did a walk- thru the Park with Lentine and Co. Each tree needs to be individually wrapped. Additional lighting will be placed at the park entrances. The wisteria will be trimmed and the lights will stay on til March.

In addition, Jay has prepared a map with the siting of the lights which can be used as a guide from year to year

MaryAnn Esparo asked why Lentine and Co. could not leave the trees wrapped year round. Jay will pose question to Lentine

Internet and Comminucations report

Audrey Tortolani reports that 4 newsletters went out to mailing list in October, with a 30% open rate

Meredith Piscitelli reports 157 Facebook followers on the FOCCP FaceBook page

Membership report

Beverly Knight reports 248 paid members with 96 of those joining this year.

Triad sculpture report

Joanne Hayes-Rines met with Parks Commissioner, Toni Pollack. There has been a rule change for the Browne Fund and they will not approve funds for feasibility studies. Our application has been temporarily withdrawn. The original \$10,000 voted by the FOCCP membership for feasibility may be efficient to bring the project to the next level. Will likely re-apply to the Browne Fund. Request to the Arts Commission has also been made and response is pending. The project has received, both verbal and written, support from Pollack, our state representative and abutters. Donna Freni suggests speaking with State Senator as well.

Annual Trellis Lighting

Scheduled for Monday, November 21 at 5:30. It is an event which the City runs. Plans include Berklee college performers, caroling before event; participation by NEMPAC; the Marriott Long Wharf will provide fresh baked cookies and Starbuck's will provide chocolate; Santa will make an appearance. Jay Livingston will see if he can locate a large fake switch to make the lighting moment more dramatic!

Santa

Gala Fundraiser report

Anne Devlin Tagliaferro encouraged all who have not purchased tickets yet to do so soon

Gala Tickets

Virginia Kimball reminds all to make sure to submit timely receipts for reimbursement for Gala expenses. All receipts must be submitted to her BEFORE December 31. Paying 2011 bills after December 31 complicates our tax submissions

Auction report

Cathy McCarthy reports that merchandise is coming in. Any info or updates on items should be directed to Sandra Harcourt and Rachaele Heulsman. FOCCP volunteers will be available to work the auction throughout the evening. A wireless credit card machine will be available which should simplify the check out. In addition, Sandra and Rachaele have created a auction format for use in the future

Greeter reminders

Make sure that someone knows how to operationalize the FOCCP member "blinky lights" so that everyone will be able to activate properly
Make sure the elevator is functioning and ready for attendees to go down to 1st floor ballroom!!!!

Auction Committee will hold a meeting next Tuesday, Nov 15 - they will send out an alert if they need help

MaryAnn Esparo made motion to approve October minutes, including the clarifying corrections suggested by Meredith Piscitelli; seconded by Audrey Tortolani. October Minutes approved unanimously

Adjourned 7:35

Minutes prepared by Liz Greene, substituting for Sandra Harcourt, Clerk