



Friends of Christopher Columbus Park

May 14, 2019

Mariners House

Chairing Meeting: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Recording Minutes: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk

Meeting began at: 6:40 PM

Board Members Attending: Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Patricia Thiboutot, Susanne Lavoie, Rita Pagliuca

Board Members Absent: Robyn Reed, Ford Cavallari, MaryGaye Grizwin, Patricia Sabbey, Ann DeLuca

Members Attending: 8

April Minutes Distributed

Election

Election of Candidates:

Meredith Pisicitelli, member standing in for Clerk Patricia Thiboutot, reviewed the ballot for FOCCP Officers and Directors-at-Large and said nomination statements were available for review by members.

Those listed below nominated themselves and have been accepted for the 2017-2019 year.

President: Joanne Hayes-Rines

Vice President: Ann Babbitt

Treasurer: Ann DeLuca

Clerk: Patricia Thiboutot

Susanne Lavoie: Director-at-Large

Rita Pagliuca: Director-at-Large

Meredith let the group know that a vote is not necessary because it is an uncontested ballot. Candidates were asked if they wanted to make a statement.

Joanne Hayes-Rines, Ann Babbitt, Susanne Lavoie, Rita Pagliuca, Patricia Thiboutot each made a statement regarding their nomination.

A motion by the president was requested to accept the nominated Officers and Directors-at-large. Motion accepted.

The following have agreed to serve as Committee Chair and Board Member:

- Membership – MaryGaye Grizwin
- Horticulture – Robyn Reed
- Fundraising – Patricia Sabbey
- Infrastructure – Ford Cavallari
- Internet Communications – Joanne Hayes-Rines

Committee Reports

- **Treasurer:**– Ann DeLuca- Absent - Emailed report

Revenue through April 30, 2019 for the Park was \$14,357, which is 17% of the 2019 Budget of \$84,000. Prior year 2018 revenue was \$29,307. The decrease is due to 2017 Sponsorship Revenue of \$16,000 that was received in 2018.

Fireworks revenue collected year to date is \$1,000. (Prior year was \$13,500. The decrease was due to 2017 Fireworks revenue received in 2018.)

General Membership revenue through April 30, 2019 is \$12,357 which is 62% of the 2019 budget of \$20,000. Prior year membership revenue was \$10,531.

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

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

March Newsletter: Open rate 43%

Web site: On Events page added link to Parks Dept. events permit page.

-- **Infrastructure Committee** - Ford Cavallari - Absent -

No Report

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

Meredith reported weather not helping the plants. Had to take out 20 and replaced 16. The Julia Childs, JFK, Peace ones. Trellis vines dying but will come back next spring. Robyn has a plan suggested by Joanne. Crescent Garden looking beautiful.

Rose Garden: Wednesday 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM; Sunday 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Joanne met with Anthony Hennessey, Horticulturist for the city. He spoke about the roses in the Fenway. Trellis vines old buy more plants. Should grow next year.

-- **Park Art Curator**: – Robyn Reed-Absent - No Report

-- **Membership**: –MaryGaye Grizwin-Absent-Emailed Report

Year to Date Results -Strong demonstration of support for the Park!

-April donations = \$8,495, exceeding the strong March membership donations by \$2,755.

-April 1-8 (Social Week) = \$4,075; April 9-30 = \$4,420

-Significant advancement against Year-Over-Year and 2018 Ending Results

-Donations to date = 64% of total 2018 donation totals

-Memberships = 65% of 2018 totals

-Two new members have renewed at the Park (\$1,000) level

-- **Internet Communications** – May newsletter sent to 905 email addresses. Opened by 407, which is 45%. Industry average is 20%.

FaceBook – Meredith- Facebook is very popu

April 1st - 1,333 Likes; May 1st - 1,357 Likes, as of today 05/14 -1,367

PLEASE CALL 911 – 311 when you see problems in the park. Skateboarders are now moving the granite on steps from the statue to make a ramp so they can soar through the air. Call 911.

Or call 311 or put a report in through 311 app.

Playground Celebration report – Ann Babbitt - Saturday, May 4

3 new members plus \$23 donation = \$193.

Pizza donated by Benevento's

Sand toys donated by Joe's American Bar & Grill

Kindercare donated activities

Playground was full!

Report on Egg Hunt – Ann Babbitt - Report in April Minutes

Harbor Cruise: Molly, Katy, Marcy

Tuesday, August 20. Tickets available online! \$40 per person.

They are ready to begin their planning. Caterer will be Spinellis.

Contacting DJ. Tickets can be purchased online.

Planters at south end of Trellis

The Parks Department will install 4 new planters at the base of the south steps of the trellis. Anthony Hennessey, the city's superintendent of horticulture, brought the 4 empty planters to the park for us to approve placement. The Parks Dept will plant and water the plants this year. They are permanent planters and the large ones, when filled with dirt, will be impossible to move.

The 2 rectangular planters will have a sign between them welcoming visitors to Columbus Park and will incorporate Friends of Christopher Columbus Park in the wording. Ford Cavallari, Infrastructure Chair, is working on the wording and the sign.

Rita suggested placing planters at entrance to Marriott as well.

\$250,000 will be given to the park for resiliency and playground improvements. Joanne suggesting park be moved closer to Joe's. Requests for baby swings. North End Library and Cutillo also receiving funds for improvements.

Photo taken May 9, 2019

Thank you to Gail Hudak

For the past couple of years Gail has been our database administrator. She helped people with reports they needed and solved problems with the database. Gail let us know that she is no longer able to spend the time as administrator. She did a wonderful job overseeing the database and helping Meredith and Rita and others.

We need a new administrator. Will ask Gail to send a job description. Rita has a process document.

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

Need to select the movies for this year. All must be rated G or PG.

Athletic company would like to sponsor movies but still on hold.

BOSTON HARBOR FIREWORKS FUND

This year there will be 2 events:

Thursday, August 29 ... Labor Day Kickoff ... 2 barges

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

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

2019 EVENTS

Easter Egg Hunt – Ann Babbitt – Week of April 15

Membership Social – April 3 – 6pm to 8pm

Playground Celebration – May 4 -- Noon to 2pm

Independence Day – Saturday, June 29 - Ann B. looking for volunteers.

Lawn Games – July 20 to Sept. 14 -

Croquet mid-June 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM-Jack McCarthy

Rita suggested organizing a tournament

Cruise – August 20

Fall Festival – October 5

Trellis Lighting -- November 25 Monday

NO NEW BUSINESS

April Minutes Approved as Presented

Respectfully Submitted: Patricia Thiboutot, Clerk