

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

December 3, 2006

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Liz Blumenthal, Frances Cameron, Sarah Conn, Bill Eykamp, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Gail Neff, Agnes O'Donnell, Ellen Robertson.

- The **minutes** of the October meeting were accepted with one correction: meeting at 32 Hamilton Road #402, not #410.

Financial Report:

- Our bank balance is \$7970.96 (up-to-date); the CD is over \$1000. The next expense will be the mailing of the postcard reminder for the annual meeting.
- The next report for the state is due in February. Karen offered to use her accountant, who charges a fee, again, but Eric offered to try to do it using this year's report as an example.
- Filing for another grant was discussed. The Grassroots fund's deadline is January 15, 2007. Some suggestions were made at the October meeting; another idea would be to hire someone to water the plantings if necessary. Sarah and Elizabeth to work on this.

Park Maintenance and Beautification::

- Joe Connelly says DPW is investigating a better replacement for the "aggregate" on the path which tends to erode and is expensive to maintain. The erosion at the handicapped ramp has been repaired, but that is just sand and will erode again.
- The two big dead trees with benches around them at the playground have been removed and replaced with young trees.
- DPW has removed the fallen leaves from the grass. We need to watch out for more leaves falling or blowing in, and get them removed before they smother the grass.
- The signs made by the Hardy School students have now been put up on the fence. They tend to be pretty negative but say nothing about not feeding the geese.
- Ellen will check with DPW about replacing the vandalized bulletin board and with Park & Rec about a promised "Don't feed the geese" sign at Linwood Beach.
- Andrew Fischer has another bulletin board almost ready to be put up. It could go near Carberry's, or in the playground if OK'd by Joe Connelly.

Other:

- The **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday, January 7, at 3 p.m. (not in the evening!) at the Jefferson Cutter House. The speaker will be Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation. Committees should be ready to list accomplishments and goals. Members are asked to bring "finger food."
- **Officers:** Eric is willing to serve as treasurer. We still need a new president or a co-president/president-in-training.
- **Website:** No news. Eric will follow up about linking it to the Town website.
- **Membership:** Betsy has updated the database; Karen is adding new names to the Yahoo list.
- We still need people willing to make **phone calls** for events like bulb planting and before meetings. Agnes, Gail, and Liz expressed willingness to help. We could try to set up a telephone tree at the annual meeting.
- **Newsletter:** Next issue after annual meeting, to include a report on the meeting. John Gearin needs help (with layout, not writing), or we need a new editor.
- The Spy Pond Committee wants to have a **celebration** – "Spy Pond Splash" – in connection with Arlington's 200th anniversary, possibly around Town Day, and wants to cooperate with FSPP. Elizabeth to call Anne Ellinger to see if she wants to help organize it and perhaps get the True Story Theater involved. Another suggestion was to celebrate the anniversary of the park's reopening with a picnic in the spring and dedication of the coyote.
- **Elizabeth Island** is up for sale. Agnes will ask the realtor whether there are any offers.
- The **Friends groups summit** on November 6 was attended by many groups and they identified many common problems. Clarissa Rowe proposed twice-a-year meetings.