

MINUTES - FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
October 25, 2015

The meeting was held on Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. the home of Karen Grossman.

PRESENT: Karen Grossman, President, Lally Stowell, Sally Hempstead, Marshall McCloskey, Elizabeth Karpati, Dick Norcross, and Bev Williams.

We remarked about recent visits and events in the park. The benches have been installed on the grassy area off the Pond Land parking lot and are being used! Fall colors are spectacular. The BIG EVENT - Sally and Marshall were married in the park, with Fred Moses as photographer.

MINUTES of August 2, 2015 were approved as circulated. Thanks to Marshall for taking the minutes.

TREASURER: Balance is \$17,092. Benches cost \$2500 with the DPW providing labor at no additional charge. Other expenses were mainly for the newsletter. **MEMBERS:** 106 dues paying members since January 1, 2015. We recently received two new memberships and one renewal. **MAILING** needs to be done before November 5 on our present bulk mailing permit so we will meet on Monday, November 2 at 1:00 p.m. at Karen's home to complete the mailing.

BEAUTIFICATION: Lally reported that the August, September, and October Work Days went well. Groups: August was Arlington/Belmont Crew Team, September - individual volunteers and October - People Making a Difference and Arlington H.S. Swim Team. Most of the cobblestones have been cleaned and irregular bushes at Linwood Circle will be attended to in the spring. Water level was up; there may be debris that also will be attended to in the spring. Bush that needs to be replaced near Linwood Circle bench is a Serviceberry. Karen will check with the town to inquire when it will be planted. FSPP has offered to pay for it. Will it need to be watered? Karen has alerted the town concerning a possible broken sprinkler near the playground and the walk down steps from the bike path. Lally reported that all of the tools are being sharpened. Marshall has installed the latest newsletters on the bulletin boards. Shed bottom door has mildew - use bleach? The barrier needs to be put in front of the shed before winter so Karen will remind the DPW. Lally has taken the T-shirts home since they need to be stored out of the shed. The PORTABLE TOILET will be removed the end of October and will be re-ordered again in the spring. (Crew team pays 1/3 of the cost through their fees to the town.) **HATE CRIME RESPONSE PROTOCOL** regarding the defaced art in the park this summer: Karen alerted the Diversity Task Force but has not yet had a response concerning a meeting with all the relevant partners.

WEBSITE: Fred Moses will post 2015 pictures on the FSPP gallery at the end of the year. Deepak Bidwai is assisting with other postings to the website.

OUTREACH: Elaine Crowder has been sending notices to listserves and media. Marshall sent out Karen's notices of Work Days to the emails in our database for people who have been involved this year. Since there have been many undelivered emails, however, Marshall will pursue other ways of sending messages to our database email list. Sally reported a good response at TOWN DAY; we sold some t-shirts. The group thanked Sally and Marshall for coordinating and being involved all day at the FSPP Town Day booth. A recommendation from the Spy Pond Committee: all environmental groups should be placed together. Another suggestion is - a map of all the booths at both ends of the street. Elizabeth will take our suggestion to the Committee, who will pursue them with the Town Day Committee. The Arlington Park Association's

MOONLIGHT BEACH PARTY was a success with approximately \$1500 profit. We agreed that giving tickets to volunteers was a good way to thank them for their service. Karen will pass on some suggestions from FSPP attendees: quieter music and better vegetarian options for the food.

COMMUNICATION: Thanks for a great Summer Newsletter! Ask Ruth for pictures. Sally will start after Thanksgiving to solicit articles for the Winter Newsletter.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: We discussed the idea of contributing to other groups that help with Work Days. It was mentioned that we have given to the crew team for the toilet, the recreation scholarship fund (money for the benches), and the Moonlight Beach Party for all the parks in town. Members of the groups get community service by helping in the park. Some of our members might wonder why we ask for money and give it to other groups, so we decided we do enough already.

ANNUAL MEETING: Speaker suggestion was the town Tree Warden who has just retired. Karen will find out if the position has been filled and ask if Peter Hedland would be an appropriate speaker about the health of existing trees in SPP and how to preserve them, as well as shoreline issues relevant to the trees. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Jefferson Cutter House on Sunday evening, December 6th, 2015 with a potluck dinner at 5 p.m. and the annual meeting beginning with the speaker at 6. Even though Karen will be away until that afternoon, we decided to keep the date as announced and will help set up and host the potluck, as necessary. Karen asked that anyone who does not wish to continue on the Board to please contact her as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly E. Williams, Secretary