

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK

Minutes October 5, 2014

INTRODUCTIONS: The meeting was held at the home of Karen Grossman. Present were: Karen Grossman, President, Sally Hempstead, Mithilesh Sharma, Elizabeth Karpati, Lally Stowell, Betty Athanasoulas and Marshall McCloskey.

MINUTES of August 5 were accepted as presented.

TREASURER: The Moonlight Beach Party fundraiser organized by the Park and Rec. Department was successful: almost \$3,000 for Arlington Parks. There are 99 dues paying FSPP members so far in 2014. Total debits since June, \$2,406.72 Total deposits, \$1,099.75. The FSPP supports the Community Preservation Act (CPA) and are listed on their website for doing so. We also support the bill to recycle plastic water bottles. Karen will investigate sources for a grant to design measures to halt erosion around the entire Spy Pond. Marshall confirmed that the FSPP has been approved for a bulk mail permit at a cost of \$220 per year and a savings of approximately \$300 per mailing. Motion made and PASSED to pay for the bulk mail permit. Marshall and Karen will find out the least expensive way to print envelopes to include Address Return Requested as required. A motion was made and approved for Marshall to invest \$10,000 in Boston Community Capital or a similar fund before the FSPP Annual Meeting on December 7.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: The result of the swan-naming contest at Family Day on September 6th was "Penny". The DPW, with Joe Connelly's approval, helped sculptor Kevin Duffy, relocate the swan sculpture to Linwood Circle where it is more visible and secure. The FSPP will pay \$57 for the new foundation for the sculpture. Kevin Duffy says he will remove the swan if the Town does not properly care for it. Heimlich repaired the severe path erosion twice, at a cost of \$7,500 for the Town. Carol Johnson did more pro bono work to update the park design. Michael Nonni, Conservation Commissioner, purchased 46 plants for bed #6 and FSPP reimbursed him. People Making a Difference® came to the September Work Day, dug the holes and planted the new swamp roses, Christmas ferns, and Solomon's seal. Arlington/Belmont Crew Team also assisted that day. Volunteers from St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church and from Matignon High School in Cambridge are scheduled to work later in October. A contractor installed three new pieces of playground equipment the Town purchased to replace the broken ones that had been removed. The small motorcycle has screws that may need tightening. The DPW repaired the water fountains as they did in other Town parks. Police will increase patrols around Linwood Circle. After noisy late night parties, there have been many beer cans left there, in the park and in Planting Bed #6. Karen asked Joe Connelly about the status of the Geese Removal Project and replacement of the benches, but does not have a report at this time.

WEBSITE: Fred Moses will post the fall newsletter, minutes, and photos. He will also generate labels in zip code order for the bulk mailing in November.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: The FSPP thanks Elaine Crowder for good publicity of recent events. Karen reported that former FSPP newsletter editor, John Gearin, died recently. Karen sent condolences and paid her respects on behalf of the FSPP.

NEWSLETTER: Sally announced that although she will be away in December until the 25th, December 15th would be the newsletter deadline.

ANNUAL POTLUCK & MEETING: will be held on December 7 with a 5 PM Potluck and a 6-9 Annual Meeting at the Jefferson Cutter House lower level conference room. We will present a Good Citizen Citation and a FSPP t-shirt to Carol Johnson that evening. Karen will ask Ms. Johnson to talk about the history of Spy Pond Park, as she has observed.

Respectfully submitted, Mithilesh Sharma, Secretary Pro-Tem for Beverly Williams