

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
MINUTES OCTOBER 9, 2016**

Present: President, Karen Grossman, Richard Norcross, Elaine Crowder, Sally Hempstead, Marshall McCloskey, Lally Stowell, Beverly Williams.

At 7 pm, Karen called the meeting to order and asked each of us our latest impressions of the park. We have noticed people enjoying the opened-up view by the boat ramp, and the two new benches in that area are being well used!

Minutes of August 7th were accepted as corrected. Bev will have to resign her post as Recording Secretary as of January 1, 2017 due to her husband's health. She noted that Karen was the first person to ask her to volunteer when she arrived in Arlington.

Treasurer: Marshall reported a balance of \$19,377.45. Dues are still coming in. As of September 12, we have 105 members. Database is totally up to date. Marshall reported that for a fee of \$40, we get changes of addresses, which saves the individual fees of returned mail.

End of year mailing will include a solicitation letter and notice of the Annual Meeting. Sally and Marshall will **coordinate and host the mailing.**

Fred Moses **has updated the e-mail list**, and Karen will send e-mail notices of annual meeting to those without current street addresses. Deepak Bidwai has **posted** all newsletters and minutes on the website.

Beautification: Lally reported no groups to help in August or September, but individuals cleaned out the cut branches, picked up trash, got most of the false indigo from the shoreline, and continued cleaning the grass between the cobblestones. October Work Day will emphasize cleaning between the cobblestones, litter, and the bushes by Linwood Circle. Department of Public Works treated the pond water for weeds on September 11th. Design project for the entire shoreline is running behind schedule; contractor could not proceed. On October 24 there will be a public hearing on Phase #1 of the Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control Project, and another one in December. Phase #2 application asked for \$490,000. The Conservation Commission will educate residents and solicit their help to plant along the shoreline.

The **swan sculpture** was dedicated on Fun Day, with children parading wearing the nature crowns they had made and hugging the swan. Sculptor Kevin Duffy installed a permanent marker, to which we had contributed funds. **Vandalism** in the Park is a recent concern, with picnic tables and benches damaged. The DPW will install temporary slats until they make permanent repairs. There is another bench in the children's area. Karen suggested a **competition** for decorating this bench and will pursue that with Adria Arch, Public Art. **Rain Garden:** notify Emily Snyder, ells.ells@verizon.net if you are interested in helping to maintain this garden. It is not part of our regular duties. **Portable Restroom** has been better maintained this season, but the door still does not close when unoccupied. Marshall will note this when he writes the final check.

Outreach: Elaine will make sure our Work Days are included with the online notices for Arlington High School guidance department so that more students become aware of the volunteer community service opportunities at SPP. She has notified Belmont High and Arlington Catholic and local churches. Please send her contacts of youth group leaders in the area. She will send notices of the Annual Meeting.

Fun Day on September 10th was a great success! It included music, crown making by Tinkergarden, crafts from Art Beat, Face Painting, a Scavenger Hunt, water testing by Mystic River Watershed Association, activities with MA Audubon Belmont Habitat, and A/B crew team boats making trips to Elizabeth Island. **Kudos** to Betsy Leondar-Wright and all who volunteered!

Sally reported that although sales and donations were down from last year, we had many sign-ups at **Town Day**. Thanks to Sally and Marshall for setting up and taking down our booth, and to all who volunteered! **Park Outreach** continues at each Work Day as well as placing brochures and newsletters at the Robbins and the Fox Libraries.

Winter newsletter deadline will be December 15th. Thanks for a great fall edition! Karen and Marshall posted copies on the bulletin boards in the park. (A goal for 2017 - repair of the glass enclosed board.)

Next meeting will be the Annual Meeting at the Jefferson Cutter House lower level conference room on December 4, 2016. The new director of Parks and Recreation, Jonathan Marshall, will speak. This includes a potluck dinner at 5pm with speaker at 6pm followed by the annual meeting. Karen asked members of the board to arrive at the Jefferson Cutter House at 4:30 pm to help set up.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly E. Williams, Secretary