

MINUTES - FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK

Annual Meeting Sunday, December 7, 2014

PRESENT: Karen L. Grossman, Uta Marion Low, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Lally Stowell, Betty Athanasoulas, Marshall McCloskey, Wallace Williams, Eric Hall Anderson, Bill Eykamp, Carol Johnson, Beverly Williams, Dick Norcross, Colin Blair, Elizabeth Karpati, Elaine Crowder, Fred Moses, Marlene Alderman, Lorraine Kaplan, Paula Minihan, and Mithilesh Sharma.

The annual meeting was held at the Jefferson Cutter House in Arlington Center. After a delicious potluck dinner, Carol R. Johnson, Landscape Architect, gave an illustrated talk about Spy Pond Park and her involvement from 2005 to the present. Karen thanked Carol and presented her with a Good Citizen Citation and 2 Spy Pond Park t-shirts.

Karen called the business meeting to order. Each person made introductory remarks and commented on the joys of working, playing, and watching the families enjoy the park. Bill Eykamp noted the huge numbers of mergansers successfully fishing in Spy Pond.

MINUTES of the October 5, 2014 board meeting were approved with the following corrections: 1. Marshall McCloskey was also in attendance. 2. The correct name of the Arlington church is St. Athanasius the Great Greek Orthodox Church.

TREASURER: Marshall reported that we have been granted a non-profit bulk-mailing permit, which should save about \$300, three times a year. The permit cost \$250. Approximately \$800 has come in from the recent end of the year solicitation. Thanks to Marshall, Treasurer! We have a good selection of t-shirts, which are a good advertising investment, as are the "SPY" stickers.

BEAUTIFICATION:

Marshall will put snow poles in front of the FSPP shed to avoid damage resulting from snow removal in the gravel parking lot.

Lally reported that the practice of committee members walking through the park, evaluating work that's needed the Monday before Work Days has been useful again this year. Volunteers cleared the grass in front of fences, and Jim McSwiggen and others have carefully removed grass from between the cobblestones. Lisa Reynolds removes poison ivy upon request. The Linwood Circle swamp rose hedge continues to be a challenge; volunteers trim it the best they can. Gail McCormick continues to bring surplus goodies for the Work Days from Food Link, Inc. Lally was applauded for her leadership, including her patience with youth group volunteers.

The bike path embankment erosion has diminished due to Town planting, but Karen may ask for more plants for the remaining bare spots. The Town also provided \$7500 to

replace broken tot lot equipment. Two benches have been removed and will be replaced by the Town. Kudos to sculptor, Kevin Duffy, for creating the swan sculpture named “Penny” near Linwood Circle. Unfortunately, a week after the initial installation and Fun Day dedication, the 700 lb. swan was rolled to the water's edge, and Kevin had to move, clean, and stabilize it.

WEBSITE: Thanks to Fred Moses for keeping the website up to date.

OUTREACH: Thanks to new board member, Elaine Crowder, for taking on the publicity duties. Please contact her at ecrowder@communication-exchange.com with organizations and individuals who should be getting notices of park events. Mithilesh Sharma, who made a video of Fun Day, will work on FSPP posts to Facebook. Thanks to Jason Fligg and Erin Freeburger for their creative leadership for Fun Day. Betsy will return to working with Jason as Co-Chairs in 2015. Fun Day may be held in late spring, in conjunction with an installation of public art planned, “Art Rocks Spy Pond,” and “Spy Pond Splash” sponsored by the Spy Pond Committee of Vision 2020.

COMMUNICATION: Thanks to Jamie Ciocco and Sally Hempstead for beautiful, professional newsletters each season again this year!

STANDING GOALS: We achieved all but #1 (increase active membership) and #5 (sell more t-shirts), perhaps due to weather not conducive to fewer park visitors during Work Day outreach.

GOALS FOR 2014: We met all goals except #6 (more craft events). #7 - Advocate for MyRWA to collect water quality data was discussed and noted that MyRWA only wants long-term data and are not particularly concerned about the pond. We will drop both.

GOALS FOR 2015:

1. Seek funding for design and shoreline project.
2. Put loam at water's edge in bed #6.
3. More plantings where feasible. (Town may do work on shoreline in the future.)
4. With cooperation of Town, re-install benches.
5. Erosion control in beds and grass, replanting some if possible.
6. Short written job description for all board positions.
7. Assess number and placement of trash barrels.

8. Install portable restroom April - October and make permanent signs to alert park users.
9. Continue with maintenance in planting beds.
10. Promote the art installation and Splash Day.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President - Karen Grossman

General Vice-president - Open

Recording Secretary - Beverly Williams

Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Marshall McCloskey

Vice-presidents for Communication and Outreach - Sally Hempstead and Jamie Ciocco

Publicity Chair - Elaine Crowder

Beautification Committee - Lally Stowell, Betty Athanasoulas, Elizabeth Karpati, Gail McCormick, Richard Norcross, and Bev Williams

Webmaster - Fred Moses

Co-Chairs for Park Events - Jason Fligg and Betsy Leondar-Wright

Fundraising - Jason Fligg

Videographer and Photographer - Mithilesh Sharma

Slate was APPROVED, with thanks for all the work done this year, and special appreciation to President Karen Grossman.

Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM. Next Board Meeting is Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 32 Hamilton Road, #402.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly E. Williams, Recording Secretary