

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

March 4, 2007

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Eva Balazs, Frances Cameron, Anne Ellinger, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Agnes O'Donnell, John and Patricia Worden.

Next meeting: Sunday, April 1, 2007, 32 Hamilton Road, #402/

The **minutes** of the February meeting were accepted with one correction: the date was February 4, not 5.

Treasurer's Report:

- The CD is now approximately \$1860 and matures March 19. It was voted to roll it over and decide at a future meeting whether to put some money from the checking account into an on-line CD with a higher rate.
- Dues-paying members now number 113.
- A 4-page newsletter costs about \$1 each including printing, handling, and postage. We could save money by having volunteers put on the name labels and postage as before. Frances will check whether we could get the nonprofit rate without getting a bulk mailing permit.
- Eric will check when the reports to the state are due.

Miscellaneous:

- **Park maintenance:** Joe Connelly has a more consolidated maintenance plan from CRJ and is putting it out to bid. He is also seeking bids for repairing the vandalized bulletin board.
- The dedication of the **coyote** will probably be sometime in March. *[Date subsequently set for 3 PM Saturday, March 24].* People who donated money in memory of Marilyn will be invited.
- Ellen and Sarah will set a date for the spring cleanup, possibly Saturday, April 21 or 28. April 22 is Earth Day, a good motivator but there will be a lot of competing events that weekend. The cleanup will be publicized in the calendar of events on or near Earth Day that Sustainable Arlington compiles for the *Arlington Advocate* each year;
- **Library display:** nothing to report yet. *[Follow-up: the display table is booked by other groups for the rest of the year.]*
- **Newsletter:** John Gearin wants to do the whole thing, is willing to try to learn InDesign if FSPP buys the manual; but there is also an on-line tutorial which may be free.
- **Dues solicitation** mailing to be done in April, needs volunteers and an organizer.
- **Website:** Fred has been working on putting in the database so that Betsy and Eric can keep membership data up-to-date.
- Patricia Worden mentioned that some precincts don't have enough candidates for **Town Meeting** and FSPP should encourage people who want to advocate for the park to become write-in candidates. *[Follow-up: Elizabeth checked how to do this and what precincts have openings, and Karen e-mailed this information to the membership.]*

Park activities:

- To provide a regular, visible presence for FSPP – an event with the FSPP canopy and banner, on the same Saturday of each month (proposed: 5/26, 6/22, 7/28, 8/25, with rain dates on Sunday). The September event will be the Spy Pond Splash on 9/29. Ideally, have something for little kids, for big kids, and for adults each day. Some of the activities could be repeated.
- Staffing: Would need one person in charge of each day, plus one for each activity. Can we get enough? Some might come from cooperating groups (see below). Anne could recruit people to lead activities. She will do an e-mail request form for volunteers.

- Karen reported that Betsy is willing to take charge of one activity, especially one involving kids, such as a scavenger hunt, or an invasives hunt (maybe that could be an additional activity, with Elizabeth).
- Other ideas (some could be for the Splash):
 - Cooperate with Garden Club – have a plant sale.
 - Cooperate with Boys & Girls Club – have a “regatta”?
 - Reciprocal promotion with the Vision 2020 Spy Pond Committee (display their materials).
 - Sell T-shirts (Karen to check if this requires a permit).
 - Adrienne Landry could be asked to display some of her paintings, and perhaps do a painting.
 - Involve Arlington Center for the Arts (Karen to talk to director).
 - Get kids to make more signs for the park, with a more positive approach, or anti-geese.
 - Get some disposable cameras for kids to take pictures, display them the next month.
 - Get Deborah Henson-Conant (harpist).
 - Eva Balazs’s jazz band is willing to play for the Splash.
 - Kathy M .is willing to repeat her birch bark canoe project for kids.
- We would need someone in charge of publicity: announcement of the whole series, then reminders.
- Time could be 3-6 PM. People could be encouraged to bring a picnic; we would arrange for slush vendor.
- Would need to arrange for bathroom facilities: ask Elks, and/or Boys & Girls Club.

Respectfully submitted: Elizabeth Karpati