

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

APRIL 1, 2007

In attendance: Eric Baatz, John Gearin, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Fred Moses, Agnes O'Donnell, Doris Powell, Ellen Robertson.

The **minutes** of the March meeting were accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report:

- The checking account stands at \$7304.18. The latest newsletter (6 p.) cost \$257 for printing, \$247 for handling, \$140 for postage. The CD was rolled over for 11 months at 5.25% APY.
- On-line accounts have high rates for individuals only; the maximum for organizations is 4.5%. John reported that the Watertown Savings Bank has the same rate for a combined CD/money market account where the money would be more easily accessible.
- We need to submit two forms annually, one for public charities and one to the Secretary of State. We may need to do an extra one of the latter to bring it into sync with our annual meeting dates.

Park maintenance:

- Teresa DeBenedictis was going to let us know the date for training for DPW staff on maintaining the stormwater system at the park Elizabeth will check with her.
- CRJ gave Joe Connelly an extremely detailed maintenance plan; Joe got one bid on it and it was for \$24,000! We need to check the plan and see what if anything can be omitted or done by us. Joe is pondering how to get more funds, e.g. by a fundraiser for all parks or a checkoff on a tax bill like the "Dollars for Scholars."
- The bulletin board smashed by vandals has finally been repaired (Ellen, Betsy, and Anne have keys) but the promised anti-geese sign at Linwood has not yet been put up.
- We installed and dedicated "Marilyn" the plastic coyote along the shore. The swans, at least, showed more curiosity than fear.
- A woman is asking FSPP to buy a tree for a Brownie troop to plant in the park. This would require permission from Park & Rec. The request was tabled until we get more information.
- The spring cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 12-2; meeting place at Linwood Circle. Ellen will do publicity. The work could include putting up the new bulletin board if we get some strong volunteers.
- There have been more graffiti. Betsy and Gail removed them except from cement where their efforts didn't work. Ellen has spoken to the police about this. John suggested going to the Selectmen if the problem continues.

Other matters:

- Outreach: Ellen, Agnes, Gail Neff, and Doris have continued calling members and trying to get missing e-mail addresses. Many of the phone numbers we have on record are invalid. Ellen will give all new info to Betsy before she runs the labels for the dues mailing.
- Newsletter: John has been studying the InDesign software. He wants to do another issue soon, before the first of the monthly events (planned for late May), and is looking for content. We should have an archive of all newsletters; John has copies of most issues. We could investigate third-class mailing: the Friends of Robbins Park send their newsletter that way, in envelopes, and it gets delivered pretty fast.
- Dues mailing will be done April 16, with different letters going to members and non-members on the mailing list.
- Fred got FSPP registered in the Robbins Library list of community groups.

Monthly park events:

- Dates are Saturdays, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, and the “Splash” on September 29, with the rain dates on Sundays.
- Anne sent a draft flyer for approval which can be e-mailed to members and put on the website.
- Anne also asked for sign-ups for staffing each event (sign up for the Saturday, and for the Sunday rain date if needed). Sign-up request needs to go out to whole active membership. Six categories are listed for each event: Coordinator / someone at FSPP table / activities for kids / for teens / for adults / other.
- Karen will ask Park and Rec for a permit if needed.
- Anne proposed some policy guidelines: FSPP may sell T-shirts and collect dues but no other commercial activities will be allowed (unless they have a permit, e. g. slush vendor). Other groups may participate only if pond-related or taking part in one of the activities; they may publicize their programs but may not collect money.
- Additional ideas for activities or policies should be sent to anne@zings.org
- Karen moved and it was voted to allocate \$100 for the monthly activities; more could be voted later.
- Publicity in the *Arlington Advocate* – article in May, then monthly reminders, try to get a reporter to cover the events: Agnes volunteered. Fred will put the flyer on the website.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, May 6, 32 Hamilton Road, #402.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati