

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

JUNE 3, 2007

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Eva Balazs, John Gearin, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Gail McCormick, Agnes O'Donnell, Doris (DP) Powell.

Minutes: The figures in the May minutes were incorrect: they should have been \$8038.30 for the checking account and \$1879.85 for the CD. With this correction the May minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Checking is \$8617.20 and the CD \$1887.78. Dues received in May from 57 people; 3 are new and 2 of these joined via the Web page. Karen will send an e-mail reminder.

T-shirts: Waiting to hear from Print Aspects about the current price. Betsy suggested getting two bids. We should have all sizes available for sale on June 30, but money for buying them should be voted, and the next meeting isn't until July 1. Also, should we buy only what we need if we can get a discount for a larger quantity? The matter was tabled until we get more information; then a vote can be taken by e-mail.

Park maintenance: Joe Connelly got a bid on the modified plan from Valleycrest Maintenance Corp., the previous bidder: Mulch \$3860; Weeding 3x: $\$2560 \times 3 = \7680 ; Pruning 2x: $\$640 \times 2 = \1280 ; Paths 3x: $320 \times 3 = \$960$; grand total = \$13,760. He thinks weeding and pruning should be priorities. (Lawn care by PTS, which takes care of the playing fields, would be an additional \$3000-5000.)

* Funding: There is none for this year – none was requested from Town Meeting, possibly because of the gap between DPW directors. Agnes suggested we should have a presence at budget meetings; but money may not be voted even if requested. Joe is considering a fundraiser for all the parks (there is already a fund that can accept donations for park maintenance). FSPP could consider making a yearly nation to this fund, possibly \$1,000, and more this year because there is nothing in the Town budget – possibly enough for one weeding and mulching ($\$2560 + \$3860 = \$6420$)?

* Eric noted that DPW appears to have been watering. Kate Thompson of CRJ made no comment about the bare spots where plantings seem to have died.

* Elizabeth (liaison to DPW) met the new DPW director, John Bean, at the reception where he was introduced. She e-mailed him about several problems: turning on the water fountains, removing some graffiti that resisted mere scrubbing, condition of some newly planted trees and a cluster of old trees which look nearly dead, desirability of "Don't feed the geese" signs right at the shore or in the water, and the training about cleaning the stormwater management devices in the park. He replied promptly, promising action. *[Follow-up: The first two items were quickly taken care of. As of late June the new trees are still there, with few leaves, and the big old tree which is hollow and possibly dangerous has not yet been taken down. No word on any signs, or on the training, which depends on action by the manufacturer.]*

Beautification: No news. Installation of the bulletin board at the playground, planned for May 19, was rained out. Betsy will ask Andrew Fischer to reschedule. Nobody responded to Karen's e-mail asking for volunteers to move the coyote. Perhaps Scouts could be persuaded to help (make it part of a badge?).

Park activities – Anne's proposal for the first event on **June 30, 3-5 pm**, and volunteers:

- * FSPP table, with before-and-after pictures of park (probably Karen).
- * Educational scavenger hunt: leaves for kids, invasives for adults (Betsy and Elizabeth).
- * Face painting (who? Anne not here) * Improv theater (who?)

Betsy will ask for donations for prizes, e.g. plastic binoculars and small guidebooks.

Karen moved that we spend up to \$100 per event and it was so voted.

Newsletter: John has installed the main part of the new software and begun work on the next issue, which should come out before the June 30 event and advertise it. Agnes will help after January.

Bulk mail: Agnes reported that it would cost \$175 for the permit, \$175 per year, + 15.5 cents per item with the same first three digits in the zip code. Undeliverable items are discarded, not returned. Elizabeth moved that we get a bulk permit starting with the newsletter after the June issue, or in January if the annual fee is for a calendar year, and it was so voted. *[Delivery will be slower than first class.]*

NEXT MEETING: Sunday, July 1, 7 p.m., 32 Hamilton Road, #402.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth Karpati