

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

AUGUST 9, 2009

Attendees: Karen Grossman, Richard Cahill, Doris Birmingham, DP Powell, Ilse Oliveira, Cynthia Thompson, Eric Baatz, Fred Moses

- Last month's **minutes** were unanimously accepted as submitted.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Eric reported that the CD was worth \$2,019.93 and there was \$10,049.16 in the checking account. Additionally, as requested the previous month, he had tried out the new information and queries on the Web site and reported that so far this year there had been 96 dues payers contributing a total of \$1860 and 20 donations totaling \$860. Karen highlighted the additional donations for the Eric William Kurtz Memorial of \$365, which brought the total of dues and donations for this year to \$3085.00.
- Karen also reported some interesting historical numbers:
 - 2008 had \$1775 in dues and \$525 in donations for a total of \$2300.
 - 2007 had \$1556 in dues and \$670 in donations for a total of \$3226.
 - 2006 had \$4721 in dues and \$130 in donations and \$35 for the Marilyn Memorial for a total of \$4886.
 - 2005 had \$1640 in dues and \$1732 in donations for a total of \$3372.
- Karen reported that Cynthia Thompson has been putting in two hours a week constantly on the Web site's database and has the dues and donations acknowledgements up to date.
- Eric said that he was targeting the end of the month for completing the rest of the yearly paperwork (required reports to the state and federal governments).
- **Park conditions:** Karen has found the Town Web site to be effective for reporting and communicating, for example, damage to the black fence and a bench near Linwood Beach. She also reported the dead tree near the playground (one of the two that had been vandalized last year) after not getting a response from Jimmy Dodge, the Arlington Tree Warden, and the unsightliness of the topped-off planted tree in the planting beds.
- Additionally, Karen has asked the town to chip in for care of the big forsythia bushes. Beyond their size, they have some young maples growing in them.
- Carol Johnson, the designer for the Park, was very concerned at our last work day about the condition of the path. She asked Karen to look into contractors who might donate time and materials. Karen subsequently contacted three contractors and met with one. One was iffy. One was not interested. Karen has also contacted a fourth contractor.
- Karen said that Bill Eykamp did an herbicide application ("Rodeo") to some of the grass on the path a couple of days ago. Not obvious what effect it has had, particularly given the short time since the application.
- Eric Berger is away. Ilse Oliveira will ask him to buy two hedge trimmers.
- Ilse will do outreach to people for Saturday's work.
- A group of six girls and two teachers from the Germaine Lawrence School were **weeding ? cleaning up?** in the Park Friday. The girls are getting credit for community service. We need signed releases for the girls. We can't use their names in any publicity or publication, even our newsletter. We can use the teachers' names, however. We want to write a thank you letter to their school, and we can mention them by name in that.
- We also need photo releases from the parents of the boys we have been paying to "weed" if we want to use pictures of them in the newsletter.

- We still need volunteers to phone people about meetings and work days.
- Doris Birmingham has been sending information to the Advocate before each Work Day. Betsy wrote an article about the children's activity at the July Work Day.
- Cynthia said that Famboogle has mentioned our Work Days. (See www.famboogle.com, which bills itself as "Arlington at your Fingertips.")
- **Playground:** Joe Connelly said that bids had closed in the first week of August for resurfacing the playground (to get rid of the yearly closing due to sand wasps). Mulch, like other places in the Town, will be used.
- No word from Betsy about a new location for the bulletin board that is currently in the playground.
- Eric said that he would see about getting shingles to finish the roof of the bulletin board.
- **Grants:** Karen hasn't heard anything from the Jenny Jones Foundation. We didn't get a grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF). She got feedback from them that they want projects with more community involvement.
- Karen has talked to Betsy Leondar-Wright about applying for a grant for activities next year.
- **Coming events:** Our next Work Day is September 12 and Town Day is September 26. We would like to have a newsletter out the week of September 12.
- Ilse and Doris have met about **Town Day** and have divided up the work. When they met, Ilse thought that she wouldn't be here for it, so she would coordinate the volunteers. At the meeting, she discovered that she would be here for it. Doris has an article for the newsletter.
- Still looking for **newsletter** contributions.
- Fred Moses has been both our **Web** master and database administrator and designer. He told us that Iron Speed Designer, a .NET code generator, would allow us to reduce our monthly Web site hosting fee to \$7 per month from \$17. (Earlier this year Fred got us down from \$60 per month.) Additionally, it allows the relatively easy generation of complex queries, a frequent desire for us, and role-based security. The meeting unanimously voted, with two abstentions, to partially reimburse Fred \$300 for acquiring Iron Speed Designer (cost \$650) and using it to our benefit.

The **next FSPP meeting** is September 13 at 7 p.m. at 32 Hamilton Road #402, Arlington, MA.

Respectfully submitted,

Minutes edited from Eric Baatz's notes by Elizabeth Karpati