

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK
10/1/17 Meeting Minutes
32 Hamilton Rd. Unit # 402

Present: Karen Grossman, President; Dick Norcross and Lally Stowell, Ram Subramanian, and Joanie Walls.

Introductions: Karen called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Those present introduced themselves and told their FSPP association.

Minutes of the August 13, 2017 meeting were reviewed and accepted as presented. There was discussion between Dick and Karen regarding beautification notes as generalizations. Karen asked Dick to review with her during their next walk thru. It was noted in the Recording Secretary's absence Joanie Walls would assist with the minutes for the October 1, 2017 meeting.

Treasurer's Report August 13, 2017 thru October 1, 2017:

We have not heard back yet (it's perhaps too soon) from Massachusetts re: the status of our recent Annual Report filings. Our latest report was rejected because we (i.e. Marshall – previous Treasurer) did not include a list of Directors on the submission. There are 91 members who have contributed a total of \$2,870. October 1, 2017 Checking Account balance is \$21,075.91 and petty cash is \$50.00. Since the last meeting we received \$677 in dues, donations and t-shirt sales. We've spent \$547.38 on Work Day tools, copies of newsletters, Fun Day general and Fun Day miscellaneous expenses. There was discussion regarding the end of year solicitation mailing, potential help needs for the mailing, and the winter newsletter. Karen and Marshall will set the mailing date soon and Karen will solicit volunteers to help.

Website: The database is currently up to date with respect to dues and donations, new members, Work Day contacts, street and email addresses. Daniel has done a good job maintaining the website but can't attend the meetings. He created a sign in sheet to be used at events. 50 people from Fun Day were added to the database from the Arlington Land Trust Waivers. Deepak Bidwai has posted all recent information to the website. Deepak has been doing a good job updating the website. Karen would like to add to the website the thank you letter to the editor of the Arlington Advocate based on Betsy's thank you article in our newsletter. Dick commented that the letter was superb. The letter was a joint effort prepared by Betsy and edited by Karen. Four pictures from the activities were added to the website. Ram has volunteered to be FSPP's social media administrator on Facebook. This information can be noted in our next newsletter.

Beautification: Dick started a discussion regarding the location of the new benches in the park. Karen, Lally and Dick discussed bench placement in great detail. Dick wanted to go on record in the minutes that he didn't agree with the placement of a proposed bench in line with the others in the grassy area adjacent to the Pond Lane parking area. He feels it would be better utilized in other areas. Bench repairs are still needed due to vandalism with assistance from DPW and John Marshall.

Dick also brought up art in the park and how to invite more work similar to the Penny the Swan sculpture. Comments that followed considered the possibility of pursuing additional work by Kevin Duffy. Lally and Karen mentioned that the park is part of the cultural district. Dick asked Karen to make a date to look at rock sculptures sometime in October.

Outreach and Communication: Elaine did an excellent job publicizing Fun Day, Town Day, Work Days, etc. Town Day was a success with t-shirt sales, some donations, and many people stopping by our table. Sally did an excellent job with outreach on Town Day.

Betsy had an extremely successful Fun Day with many volunteers. She found different groups to help out such as Audubon/ Habitat of Belmont, Tinkergarden and Color Me. Music was better than ever. Kids danced, and boat tours went well with the Arlington Land Trust in charge. Ram spoke about photography, great pictures he took, challenges getting contact information. Dick noted the need for more face painting assistance next year.

On a recent Work Day Marshall began the search for the storm drain in the grass near the top of the handicap ramp. Lally and Joanie found and successfully uncovered the drain as a follow up to his endeavor. They moved extra sand from the path to even out the ramp down to the water. Dick visited the park after the Work Day to clean up weeds by the boat ramp, picked up trash, cleaned up drains in the parking lot, etc. In October eight 10 year olds with parents' support will clean up the cobblestones. People Making a Difference® will also prune bushes in October. Dick said he's worked on them twice. The planting beds look great. Lally said the Golden Rods and Black Asters are looking very good. On the Work Day the invasive vines were removed from the fence.

The red flags on the trees should not be moved since they are surveying markers left from work that is going on around the pond edge for the Conservation Commission's project: Spy Pond Edge Protection and Erosion Control using CPA funds.

Portable restrooms in SPP have been messy and full. Not sure if the company is cleaning them properly and/or who is making the mess. Beverly Williams reported this to the company and Karen spoke to Jon Marshall and one of the crew coaches. Dick noted the trash around the park has diminished.

Karen reported that she and Sally Hempstead have agreed we will have three newsletters going forward as Sally previously recommended at our August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Sunday, December 3, Annual Meeting at 6 pm preceded by the Annual Potluck Dinner at 5 pm the Jefferson Cutter House, Arlington Center Respectfully submitted, Joanie Walls, Treasurer, for Marshall McCloskey, Recording Secretary