

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK ANNUAL MEETING December 4, 2005

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Eva Balazs, Frances Cameron, Sarah Conn, Bill Eykamp, Karen Grossman, Elizabeth Karpati, Ed Koenig, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Fred Moses, Ellen Robertson, Myra Schwartz, Jeff Thielman and Aidan, Don Vitters.

The **minutes** of the October meeting were accepted. There was no **Treasurer's report** since the Treasurer could not attend.

Park Renovations – Don Vitters:

- Construction is just about finished. Next spring the Heimlich company will put on the finishing touches including cleaning up winter debris and placing interpretive signs designed by Hardy School students on the fence along the water's edge. Mr. Vitters praised the company for the job it has done.
- FSPP has a wish list for a couple more things: (1) A low sign saying "Spy Pond Park" at Linwood Circle (see October minutes and below). (2) A sign directing bikers to access from the park to the bikepath so that they don't climb the slope and erode it (a good place for this would be where they are most likely to start climbing).
- After a final walk-through the park will be turned over to the Town. It may be opened informally for public use in late April before the formal opening ceremonies in May.
- The Arlington Center for the Arts is planning an Asian festival at the pond in the spring; plans need to be coordinated with the opening ceremonies.
- The consultant (CRJ) is doing a maintenance plan. This will need to be meshed with the plan drafted by the Open Space Committee; the latter is asking for a copy of the CRJ plan when it is available. The Town will need to develop and post park rules and regulations.
- Mr. Vitters mentioned that the *Boston Globe* has contacted him about doing an article on the park renovations, possibly in the spring.

Review of accomplishments / committee reports:

- Beautification: Ellen and Sarah consulted Kate Thompson of CRJ about the sign for Linwood Circle, picked out a design and manufacturer, confirmed that using beautification grant money for the sign is acceptable, and will report to Park & Rec on December 13. They also used \$235 of the grant money to buy bulb-planting equipment.
- Renovations liaison: Betsy reported that this committee had about a dozen meetings with Heimlich and DPW personnel during construction and that this made a difference – they caught various things that might have been overlooked. Betsy also praised Heimlich and said the company really cared about doing a fine job. Heimlich used its heavy machinery to remove some old ice-house piers in the water that had been a hazard to boaters and swimmers.
- Anne Slepian made the signs that were posted on the construction fence to explain the renovation project. Her son has volunteered to move the sprinklers in the park as needed.
- The newsletter was published each season and carried updates about the renovation, some scientific information supplied by Bill Eykamp, and other pond-related news. The Library now has copies of the newsletter.
- The Town Day booth, managed by Kathy Modigliani, was a success; many T-shirts were sold.
- A display about the renovation was put on in Robbins Library by Ellen and Elizabeth with the help of Fred who supplied professional-looking labels.
- Enid's bench was dedicated in October with Betsy and a number of other friends of Enid speaking. Fred took a picture which appeared with an article in the *Arlington Advocate*.

Goals for 2006:

- Establish a maintenance plan and monitor maintenance – liaison with DPW.
- Celebrate the reopening of the park and use the occasion to try to involve more people and attract more members.
- Plant bulbs in the fall, perhaps in the area along Pond Lane and along the playground on the bikepath side, since the landscaper thinks we shouldn't plant in the park.
- Have another library display, if possible in April when the park opens. Ellen to check on availability of display space.
- Town Day – have another successful booth and sell more T-shirts.
- Investigate becoming more visible on the Town website or having our own website linked to it. Eric and Fred will look into this.
- Continue publishing the newsletter (John Gearin); consider putting it on-line. When taking it to the post office, state that it is “non-machineable” so that it does not get torn up by machines that can't handle it.
- Continue liaison with Vision 2020 (Elizabeth), check that egg-addling gets done and keep informed about water quality.
- Consider applying for another grant. Possible purpose: Buy plastic coyotes to scare geese away.
- Put up a third bulletin board (already constructed) in the playground.
- Collaborate with Arlington Center for the Arts on the planned Asian festival.

The goals listed above were accepted.

Elections:

- President: Karen Grossman
 - General Vice-President: (none – there were no candidates)
 - Vice President for Communication: John Gearin
 - Vice-Presidents for Beautification: Ellen Robertson and Sarah Conn
 - Treasurer: Marilyn Hepner
 - Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Karpati
 - Database Secretary: Betsy Leondar-Wright
 - Corresponding Secretary: (none – Karen and Betsy will share the job informally)
- Sarah volunteered to pick up mail from the post office box when Marilyn cannot do it.

Committees:

- Liaison to Vision 2020 and Spy Pond Committee : Elizabeth Karpati
- Renovations/maintenance: Betsy Leondar-Wright, John Gearin; ask Anne Slepian, Myra Schwartz, Jeff Thielman if they are willing to participate.
- Celebration of park reopening: to be selected at next meeting.
- Collaboration on festival with Arlington Center for the Arts: possibly Kathy Modigliani
- Town Day: Kathy Modigliani
- Library display: Karen Grossman, Ellen Robertson, Elizabeth Karpati
- Pending:
 - Phone committee: None yet – keep on agenda.
 - Liaison with bicycle committee: Not clear whether we need it.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, January 8; place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati