

FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK MEETING

February 5, 2007

In attendance: Eric Baatz, Frances Cameron, Karen Grosman, Elizabeth Karpati, Fred Moses, Agnes O'Donnell, Ellen Robertson.

Minutes:

- The minutes of the January meeting were accepted with one correction and one addition: The first bulb-planting date was 10/14 (not 24). Frances Cameron asked that the record show that she was in charge of the 2006 Town Day booth and it was voted to do so.

Financial Report:

- We have \$7904.10 in the checking account. Dues receipts were \$115 and expenses \$36.56. The CD stood at \$1858.86 a month ago and should be about \$4.50 more now.
- We could put some of the money from the checking account into an Internet savings account, which gets about 5% interest (although this may drop). Eric will check how we can get money out of such an account and what the tax rate is.
- Elizabeth is to work with Sarah on a proposal to ask for another grant and to tell Karen when to put this item on an agenda.
- T-shirts: These are now stored in cardboard boxes in Kathy Modigliani's basement and some are musty or even moldy. Musty ones can be aired out, or washed and sold at a discount, but moldy ones will probably have to be discarded. It was voted (1) to ask Kathy to research the best price for plastic storage bins and to buy them, and (2) to report in writing on the current inventory and its condition and the need for more T-shirts in some sizes. Decision on what to do with T-shirts that are damaged but salvageable to be made later.

Park Maintenance:

- New graffiti on some tables in the middle of the park have been reported to the police; no answer yet.
- Stormwater system: Myra Schwartz has e-mailed Theresa DeBenedictis (acting head of DPW) about scheduling training on maintenance for DPW staff, but it hasn't been done yet. Elizabeth will remind Theresa; if no answer, Karen will ask Joe Connelly to remind her again. It was suggested that we could ask to have a representative of FSPP attend the training session to learn about the system.
- Joe Connelly has received a simplified maintenance plan from CRJ Associates and was to have met with Jim Dodge about it on Friday, 2/2.
- Erosion on the paths has been repaired but there is some erosion in the playground, exposing the base of some of the equipment. (The playground dates from the first park renovation in the early 1990s).

Beautification:

- Sarah and Ellen will set the date of the spring cleanup.
- Joe Connelly will check about the "Do not feed the geese" sign and about installing a replacement for the broken bulletin board.
- A date for installing the coyote needs to be set.

Outreach:

- Ellen, Agnes, Gail Neff, and Doris Powell made a total of over 75 calls reminding people about this meeting. Karen also sent a reminder with the January minutes. Low turnout today may be due to conflict with the Superbowl. The callers got e-mail addresses from some people and found that some numbers were wrong or not in service; they will report these to Betsy for the database, and will continue to call about meetings.
- Betsy has expressed concern that "chatty" items going out on the Yahoo group list may detract from meeting notices and minutes. A solution could be a separate forum for the former, or simply using different subject lines to differentiate "official" from "chatty" communications.

Park Activities:

- Anne Ellinger submitted the following suggestions via e-mail. To be discussed at the March meeting.
 - “I wonder about using some of our FSPP money to hire a community artist to act as organizer/coordinator? To me, this would be a great use of funds. I’d be glad to help find someone terrific and help supervise them.
 - I’d love to draw in, make visible, and celebrate the different sub-groups who use the pond (e.g. dog-walkers, boaters, people who go fishing, playground users, bird watchers, 3+ generation families...)
 - I’d love to draw in, make visible, and celebrate the different cultures and language-speakers who use the pond (e.g. in a typical week I’ll hear French, Greek, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese...)
 - I could imagine cool arts-based projects that carry on during the month between events.
 - E.g. Have notebooks in plastic containers at each of the rocky outcroppings, and ask people to write poems in them as they watch sunset. Read the poems at a monthly event.
 - E.g. Have people collect park trash for a month, and at a monthly event make a giant sculpture out of it
 - Similarly, there could be cool science-based projects...
 - I’d like to involve the Arlington Center for the Arts, if they’re interested
 - I loved lots of what we had at our opening. The scavenger hunt, the displays, songs about the pond, Eva’s band, the floating boats, the canoe-polo.”

Website:

- Fred proposes moving it to a different hosting service which he already uses and which has better technical support.
- Links: Town website under Friends groups, and mentioned in Parks listing. Also mentioned on Spy Pond Committee site.
- FSPP is not listed on the Minuteman Library network. Eric will do the paperwork to get it listed.
- FSPP is not included in the list of Arlington nonprofits which appears every few months in the *Arlington Advocate*. Karen will contact the editor to get us into the next listing.

Newsletter:

- John Gearin has been doing it with PageMaker, which has been replaced with InDesign and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. John is willing to do the newsletter for one more year but is unwilling to learn the new software. His PageMaker has crashed. It does not seem cost-effective to buy a second-hand PageMaker for just one year. Fred would be willing to do newsletter layout this year if John would collect and edit the content; Agnes is willing to help. Karen will ask Betsy to talk to John about this before the next meeting, when this issue is to be discussed.

Other business:

- Agnes reported that she had talked to the realtor who is handling the sale of Elizabeth Island, and the realtor thinks there will be no development on the island – it just isn’t suitable.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Sunday, March 4, 2007, 32 Hamilton Road, #402.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Karpati