

**FRIENDS OF SPY POND PARK  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 30, 2023**

**INTRODUCTIONS:** Karen Grossman, Adrienne Landry, Lally Stowell, Phinney Morrison, Susan Saw, Megan Chrisman. Jenny Babon and Marshall McCloskey joined after introductions.

**MARCH 5 MEETING MINUTES ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS:**

The meeting minutes were approved with the following correction:

- The new July Workday date is July 22 (Karen will make the correction).

Megan made a standing motion that we purchase DeScript at the point that we feel that it will augment the meeting notes process. The motion was approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Bank Account Balance as of 02/28/2023: \$34,101.61			
Bank Account Balance as of 04/28/2023: \$14,077.17; \$14,059.17 after outstanding reimbursements			
Income		Expenses	
Contributions via NFG (Network For Good)	\$50.00	Printing for Newsletters, Solicitation & Bulletin Board Notices	\$(392.23)
Membership dues	\$105.00	Brochures & folders	\$(232.38)
Donations	\$35.00	Fees related with CDs	\$(43.00)
Credited Amount <sup>1</sup>	\$435.17	Withdrawals for a CD investment <sup>2</sup>	\$(20,000.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$625.17</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$(20,667.61)</b>

<sup>1</sup>The transaction of \$435.17 reported in the previous meeting was credited in March 2023.

<sup>2</sup>A certificate of deposit (CD) of \$20,000 with an annual percentage yield of 5% was invested on March 25, 2023, at Metro Credit Union and will mature on March 26, 2025. Dues solicitation will be mailed May 10.

We would like to set up Zelle (a mobile payment app) with our bank account; they just need the email address and phone number. Susan is figuring out how to make the payments. Karen asked who would provide the email address; Susan replied the FSPP volunteers would provide info. to the contributors. Karen noted that for recordkeeping purposes we would like to track contributors' names and email addresses to be able to credit them; Susan thinks we will still get that info. if they submit it while they are making the payment. Jenny asked if we could use a QR code to direct contributors to our Zelle account; Susan will research this for the May 20 Workday. Phinney and Lauren could potentially use Zelle at the outreach table in the park.

We are in the process of filing the PC (public charity) filings for state and federal for 2022. Karen thanked Susan for all her work getting this done.

**BEAUTIFICATION**

Everything was taken off the main bulletin board except for the newsletter. Karen will ask Anne Ellinger if she can repost the rules and regulations signs in the coming weeks, along with purchasing longer staples for windy days.

Adrienne Landry reported on BU's Global Day of Service in Spy Pond Park: "What a gloriously cool day to work in the park on April 15! After two unusually hot, 85° days, we were glad to work in the cooler temperature.

Two BU alumni joined us for the morning as part of BU's Global Days of Service. They were Bahare Sanaie Morahed and Georges Petitpas who both did an excellent job working alongside Bill Stalcup and Adrienne Landry. The group dug seven holes for seven new shrubs to be planted next week. They then mixed in compost with the turned earth to refill the

holes and await the plants. This was part of an on-going project initiated and lead by Adrienne to replace invasive plants with native plants in Spy Pond Park.

Important work was also done by Sharon Green who mended fences at the end of each planting bed and picked up debris throughout the park. Georges, Adrienne, and Bill also helped bag dead plant debris from last season.

As in past seasons, Lally Stowell coordinated volunteers and kept track of supplies needed for the day. Lauren Bonilla and her family greeted and signed in volunteers while also engaging visitors in conversations about Spy Pond Park and the ongoing work we do to maintain the park for the many visitors who enjoy the park throughout the year.”

On the EcoFest Work Day, Adrienne reported: “April 22 was a cool, overcast day to work. Our group consisted of two volunteers, Kerry McConnaughay and Parvis Khosravi, who signed up through the Town of Arlington EcoFest site. They, along with FSPP members, Linda Clark, Brian Hare, Adrienne Landry, and Bill Stalcup, planted seven native shrubs. Linda, an avid gardener, gave an excellent demonstration on how to plant a shrub that came from a nursery in a plastic pot, to putting it in the ground with water, compost, soil (from the hole) and the plant itself. As mentioned above, we had dug seven holes in preparation for today’s planting.

We planted three *Viburnum dentatum* on the edge of the slope and the Park where three large burning bush had died over the last few years. They are tall, hearty shrubs and should hold the soil on the embankment. We then planted three Red-twig dogwoods in the area behind the stone wall near the parking lot. Finally, we planted a male Winterberry Southern Gentleman, the male partner to the Winterberry red sprite plants that were planted over the last two years.

They were both very good days, and a lot was accomplished!”

On the topic of funding for Parterre, Adrienne mentioned an email from David Morgan saying that we will have about \$7K for this season and Parterre cost around \$5k last year without planting, so the extra \$2k may involve planting. After May 9, Adrienne will try to meet with Parterre to explain what we want, including tending to plants they have previously planted. She emailed Mike Rademacher of the DPW about cleaning up the beach area. Karen mentioned that DPW needs to be aware of the endangered sedge down there. We thank Adrienne for all her efforts!

On the topic of the playground renovation, Karen got an email from Joe Connelly, Director of Recreation, saying that they were going to be opening the park in the middle of the month and doing the safety inspection. Karen has not checked how much was cleaned up around the playground and asked for feedback; Phinney noted that there was cleaning happening toward the end of the workdays and Jenny said the sand had mostly been cleaned up. We are glad there is a pervious surface from the main path through the park at the north beach so that people with disabilities can get closer to the pond. Karen is still concerned about the path surface through the park; David Morgan has acknowledged it needs more work before it can be vacuumed (it’s been about four years since installation with no vacuuming). David White of the Conservation Commission (ConComm) was also made aware of the pebbles that can cause pollution for the pond; Karen is communicating with David Morgan to have the town provide funding to fix it.

#### **WEBSITE:**

Daniel Jalkut has been updating the Mailchimp list as people unsubscribe; he may need to cull the list further to stay under the Mailchimp free tier.

We may want to have a page linked out from the Workdays page on the FSPP website to include information from Adrienne about work being done in the planting beds. Or, we could just add a short paragraph on the Workdays if it’s not enough content to justify a new page. Adrienne suggested we should also post a QR code with the relevant link on the signs in the park. It may also make sense to link out to the info from the About page or the News box on the homepage. Karen suggested that Adrienne work out a plan with Julie; she would like to get more info. out.

#### **OUTREACH:**

Jenny has been getting the word out about Workdays and leadership changes.

Lauren enjoys going to the park and welcoming the workers, but doesn’t have time for much else, so Phinney has assumed responsibility for communicating with volunteers at other times and documenting their data.

Karen said she will be sending out the notice of the May 20 Workday soon.

Jenny said that the first week of May she will send out a reminder for the updated Workday dates, including the July 22 date change. She will send communications to a different email for the high school volunteers and information on rodenticides that we can hand out during Workdays. Laura Kiesel also asked FSPP for volunteers for an Earth Aware group that studies phenology and wants to include Spy Pond; Jenny will find out if she wants FSPP to be involved. Karen replied that we can put the notice in our newsletter for June, but Earth Aware should recruit and document their own high school volunteers. Lally suggested that Laura could directly contact the high schools to assist with recruiting. Adrienne recommended Rachel Oliveiri, sustainability coordinator for all public schools, as a potential contact.

Karen reported that Oakes Plimpton is planning to reissue "Ice Business" pamphlets and will donate 40 copies to FSPP to sell over a period of time in the park. FSPP will get to keep the proceeds.

Karen proposed putting something in our newsletter about the Save Alewife Brook cleanup. They have driven trucks full of debris from the Alewife Brook. Karen will ask Betsy Leondar-Wright for something for the newsletter for Fun Day volunteers.

The No Place Like Home Project walk comprises metal discs that students have made imagining what life would be like in 50 years, related to topics such as vegetation and Arlington's reaction to climate change. There will be two discs posted in Spy Pond Park; Karen is not sure where, yet.

For the Stormwater Management summit, we have been asked by the town liaison for the planning department to present what we're doing in the park to manage stormwater. Adrienne has provided information about stormwater filtration at the water's edge, as well as ensuring viability of new plants and removing invasive plants. Karen will also report on other initiatives in the edge protection project that uses ConComm's Preservation Act funding.

Marshall McCloskey, Mailing Coordinator, has a connection for payment of the permit fees required for our bulk mailings and the P.O. box fees for the box in Arlington with Enterprise. This will help with the bulk mailing and help someone else eventually take over Marshall's job. He has also found a software company (PostageDollarSaver) based in Austin, TX, that will enable the required paperwork to be filed online, which should cost FSPP about \$79.50. The software would generate a confidential list of valid addresses and barcoded printable mailing labels from our database. We will table purchase discussion until the next meeting; we could potentially test drive the software for the November mailing. Marshall will double check on the database confidentiality in the meantime.

Karen and Marshall went to the post office to get info. for the solicitation mailing; Karen took trays and organized four people to stuff the envelopes. Karen and Marshall will meet the week of May 8-9 to mail the envelopes.

We are still looking for an Assistant Mailing Coordinator and a person to shadow Karen's duties; Karen will put this in the newsletter.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

The newsletter deadline will be June 15.

**NEW BUSINESS AND NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Karen will send the July meeting date to the board for July 23 (changed after the meeting to July 25, as requested).

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Chrisman  
Recording Secretary