



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Clark Park
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September 2002

Lorraine Estep Editor
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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS OF CLARK PARK IS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2002 at 8:00 PM.

By Anne Kringel

The general membership meeting will be held at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia's Griffith Hall, located at 43rd St. and Kingsessing. All members are encouraged to attend as this is also the meeting for **election of board members and officers**.

A proposed slate of board members and officers will be circulated to the membership prior to this meeting. Before the meeting, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., the Department of Recreation and the design firm of **Lager Raabe Skafte** Landscape Architects will present the preliminary plan for new playgrounds in the park and will solicit comments. The presentation is open to everyone.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS AND REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF DIRECTORS FROM TWENTY TO SEVENTEEN

By Andrew W. Cole

As mentioned above, a proposed slate of board members and officers will be circulated prior to the general membership meeting.

Please note that per my motion, the number of board members has been reduced and we will be electing six directors and four officers at this election and six directors will be returning to complete their second year. The number of officers will remain at five with President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ex-officio, the previous President. The total number of directors and officers will now be seventeen.

The motion to reduce the number of directors was brought in order to ensure that the board would have a quorum when convened. As you will see in the list of current directors, several have resigned and several others could not make a majority of the board meetings.

HOW DID FOCPP SPEND MONEY THIS YEAR?

By Paul Brooks

Major expenditures items during the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2002 included:

(continued on page 2, "SPEND")

STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

By Anne Kringel

The Clark Park Renewal Project Steering Committee has been hard at work this summer on the first stages of implementing the master plan: choosing site amenities for the park and installing new playgrounds. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives of the Friends, the Department of Recreation, the University City District, city and state elected officials, and institutions and community groups that surround the park. It is chaired by **Anne Kringel** from the Friends and **Barbara McCabe** from the Department of Recreation.

In May and June, the Steering Committee used a grant from **Dolfinger-McMahon** to learn about and choose possible site amenities. These are elements that recur throughout the park --benches, lampposts, walkways, game tables, and trash cans. Choosing recurring elements is an important first step in a large landscape design. The design firm of **Lager Raabe Skafte** Landscape Architects educated the Steering Committee about various options. The Steering Committee narrowed down the choices and presented a range of options to the community at a public meeting in June.

Based upon the feedback at the public meeting, **Lager Raabe** prepared a booklet for the Steering Committee that contains two or three options for each park element. When we raise funds for the overall design of the park, the design firm we hire will now know important information about the look the neighborhood wants for the park.

The Steering Committee is also working on obtaining new playgrounds for the park. The Department of Recreation has \$100,000 for construction of new playgrounds, but that money will only pay to rebuild the junior play area near the basketball courts. Both playgrounds are in need of replacement at a total cost of \$200,000. The Steering Committee has obtained a \$50,000 matching grant from the **William Penn Foundation** and is working to raise the remaining money. For more information see "Support The Playground Fund" on page 3.

SPEND (continued)

tree evaluations \$1,040
maintenance-worker bonus \$1,000
repair of iron fence by statues: \$500.

A complete summary of FOCP's finances for the year will be available at the annual meeting.

LEARN HOW TO CARE FOR TREES BY TAKING THE PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S FREE "TREE TENDERS" TRAINING COURSE.

This 12-hour course covers urban stresses on trees, and includes basic planting, pruning, tree pit care, and tree identification. Groups of four or more who attend all sessions receive special tree tending tools and benefits. The next training will occur on three Wednesday evenings in October (Oct 9, 16 and 23) at PHS, 100 N. 20th Street, with a hands-on picnic workshop on Saturday, October 19.

To apply, contact **Mindy Maslin** at (215) 988-8844, mmaslin@pennhort.org or through the PHS website, www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org

BARK IN THE PARK - Sat., October 5 - 2-4 pm at the bowl in Clark "B" Park. Meet the vet, enjoy doggie contests, raffle of dog goodies. All are welcome to this very sociable canine event. Don't forget your leash and doggie bags!

VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION - Sat., November 9 - 11 am at the Gettysburg Stone in Clark "A" Park. This annual tribute to all who have served and continue to serve in order to preserve our priceless freedom takes place on the site of the Satterlee Hospital, the largest Army hospital during the Civil War. Participants include the Police Department, HMS School students, Boy Scouts and a Civil War re-enactor.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AROUND THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE - Sun., December 15 - 5 pm in Clark "B" Park near 45th and Chester Ave. Bring your voice and join with your neighbors in celebrating the joys of the Christmas season. Refreshments will be served.

CHARLES DICKENS' BIRTHDAY PARTY - Sun., February 2, 2003: 2:00 PM at Griffith Hall, University of the Sciences, 43rd & Kingsessing Mall. Dramatic readings from Dickens' works and music and songs of the period. Enjoy birthday treats and help crown Dickens and Little Nell with wreaths.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE PROGRESS

REPORT - The fence around the Dickens Statue is fully repaired and repainted. Thanks to the work of **Lew Mellman** and his team of volunteers.

REMEMBER OUR WEB ADDRESS –

www.clarkpark.info for the latest news and information regarding events.

PUMPKIN PAINTING FOR KIDS – Sat., October 26 at 10:00 am. Join us by the playground to paint a pumpkin. Pumpkins and paint provided. Volunteers for playground cleanup are also welcome!

WATCH FOR WHAT'S COOKIN' IN OCTOBER –

Bitar's Middle Eastern Restaurant is planning a 10% discount card. For a \$10 donation to Friends of Clark Park you can have 10% off everything at Bitar's.

CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FALL/WINTER 2002:

- October 5th Bark in the Park: 2:00-4:00 PM
- October 26th Pumpkin Painting: 10:00 AM
- October 29th Annual Membership Meeting: 8:00 PM
- November 9th Veteran's Day Commemoration: 11:00 AM
- December 15th Christmas Caroling in the Park: 5:00 PM
- February 2nd Charles Dickens' Birthday Party: 2:00 PM

SUPPORT THE PLAYGROUND FUND

By Cynthia Roberts

We're on our way toward building new, safe playgrounds in Clark Park. The Master Plan recommends two separate playgrounds - one for tots and one for kids ages 5 and up-so that little ones aren't trampled by 10-year-olds when they play in Clark Park.

The Department of Recreation is designing a new "Junior" play area on the site of the current all-ages playground. A fenced "Tot Lot" will be built northwest of the old playground, toward the Bowl. The design creates a new play area while not disturbing trees.

The cost for the playgrounds is \$200,000; **Department of Recreation** and **Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell** have secured \$100,000 for construction, and the William Penn Foundation has generously offered a \$50,000 community challenge grant to help us raise the remaining funds for construction.

The Master Plan Steering Committee has launched a 50-to-50 Campaign, asking 50 individuals, organizations, or businesses to give a \$1,000 donation toward the playground fund. Thanks to some generous early pledges we've already raised \$10,000 - \$40,000 to go! Donations of any size will help us reach our goal in the dollar-for-dollar challenge.

Those pledging \$1,000 or more will be listed on a plaque near the playground. Here are some ways that you can help: Organize your block to make a \$1,000 donation by getting 10 neighbors to donate \$100 each; Hold a "Playground Potluck" and ask 20 friends to bring a check for \$50 - and a covered dish to share; Contact your employer to see if your playground gift qualifies for a company sponsored "match"; Ask grandparents to make a gift on behalf of their grandchildren.

All contributions are tax-deductible. Mail your donation to: **Clark Park Playground Fund**, PO Box 7416, Philadelphia, PA 19101-8812

TREE UPDATE

By Paul Brooks

Thanks to generous contributions from many FOCP members, our **Tree-Care Endowment** holds more than \$3,000, invested in a "high-yield" savings account. While the playground fund is FOCP's highest fund-raising priority for now, our tree endowment needs to grow a lot bigger before it will fund much tree maintenance. Make your check or money order payable to "Friends of Clark Park" and write "Tree Endowment Fund" on the memo line, or enclose a note specifying that purpose, and mail to: FOCP, P.O. Box 31908, Phila. PA 19104. All donations are tax-deductible.

In July a contractor hired by FOCP began pruning dead branches from the park's trees, guided by last year's **Morris Arboretum** survey. The contractor

will be back to prune our London Plane trees this winter, when the cold will cut the chance of disease transmission. Thanks to **Lew Mellman** for coordinating the contractor's work.

In August FOCP won a matching grant for \$2,500 from the **Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry Council** to help pay for tree pruning. The recent windstorm which felled large branches everywhere reminds us that pruning and timely removal of dead trees is a safety concern.

FALL SOCCER SEASON OPENS SEPT. 28

By Paul Brooks

More than 100 children, ages 5 through 11, will play this fall in Clark Park Youth Soccer League's (CPYSL) 13th season. The nine-week season of intramural games and skills-development will continue every Saturday through Nov. 23. Field prep. begins at 10am and each session wraps-up about 1:30pm. Cooperation from other park users -- e.g. clean-up after your own dog and fill his holes back in, so no one trips -- is greatly appreciated. Unfortunately, we expect all teams will be full by Sept. 28, but call us next March 1 about the spring season. We wish we could take every child, but we haven't enough volunteer coaches. CPYSL is a member of the **Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association**.

Financial support for CPYSL comes from local sponsors including: **Spruce Hill Community Association**, 257 S. 45th St.; **Audiomind, Inc.** (222-1500); **Wayne's Garage**, 4521 Springfield Ave. (222-5703); **O'Donnell Real Estate**, 4534 Baltimore Ave. (222-2600); **Calvary Center for Culture and Community**, **Calvary Church** (386-6494); and **Philadelphia Construction Co.** (662-1000); and from our "national" sponsors: **Mercer MC**; **Monroe Roth Assoc.**; **Matthews Media Group**; **Harte-Hankes Interactive**; and the **U.S. Navy**, by its friend **Charles Larson**. CPYSL appreciates the continuing support of the Philadelphia Activities Fund, and of **Councilwoman Jannie L. Blackwell**.

Sponsoring a youth soccer team is a great way for a business, professional or organization to benefit local children and strengthen our neighborhood, while gaining recognition as a "good citizen". You can sponsor a team for a year (two seasons) for \$150. Call **Nancy Roth** (215-382-1550) for more information.

Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19104

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to join or if your membership expires this year (the expiration date is listed under your address on the newsletter), you can join or renew your membership by sending the following information to

**Friends of Clark Park
PO Box 31908
Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19104:**

**NAME
ADDRESS
TELEPHONE
EMAIL**

What level of membership you wish:

\$10 Individual (\$5 for Seniors)
\$15 Family
\$35 Patron/Business
\$75 Sponsor
\$125 Benefactor/Business Benefactor

Please indicate your areas of interest:

?Maintenance ?Tree Care
?Programs ?Tree Donation
?Safety ?Youth Soccer
?Garden

GOOD DEEDS

By Andrew W. Cole

Recently Steven Wagner and Milan Marvelous were seen picking up trash in Park “A” in September. Thanks for the effort, we appreciate everyone who pitches in to make the park a cleaner and safer environment!

If anyone spots neighbors helping the park, please send an email to friends@clarkpark.info or call 215-552-8186 and let us know who did it, when they did it, and what they did, and we’ll try to make sure they get a friendly commendation. Thanks to all who’ve been so helpful in keeping the park clean (but that I didn’t get to see ... or didn’t get your name).