



NEWSLETTER

Friends of Clark Park
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November 2002

Sue Scanlin Editor
Lorraine Estep Publisher

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS OF CLARK PARK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2002

By Lorraine Estep

Meeting began at 8:12 PM: Sue Scanlin opened by presenting the year of 2002 in review highlighting the time and money spent on tree care in the park.

Membership voted on a motion tabled from last membership meeting: Matt Wolfe presented in support of his motion, *It is resolved that the action of July 17, 2001 of the Board of Directors of the FOCP which adopted the Revitalization Master Plan is hereby rescinded by the membership.*

Anne Kringel spoke in opposition to the motion. The membership voted as follows; 35 votes for the motion, 67 votes against the motion, 1 members abstained. The motion did not pass.

Election of Officers and Directors: Sue Scanlin presented officer candidates: President – Andy Cole, Vice President – Anne Kringel, Secretary – Brian Siano and Lorraine Estep, Treasurer—Bill Moriarty.

Paul Brooks requested any write-in candidates to be made known, none presented by membership.

Andy Cole presented Board Candidates: Rolando de Aguiar, Paul Brooks, Ann Curtiss-King, Ann Dixon, Dubside, Wadia Gardiner, Anuj Gupta, Scott Maits, Milan Marvelous, Mauricio Mendez-Vaz, Todd Sandler, Jackie Slaughter, Darryl W. Stovall, and Anthony “Tony” West. Those candidates who wished to do so made presentations to the assembled members.

Votes tallied: President: Andy Cole 91 votes, Sue Scanlin 1 vote, 2 members abstained. Vice President: Anne Kringel 65 votes, Matt Wolf 1 vote, Nat Turner 3 votes, Tex Cobb 1 vote, Transgender 1 vote, 33 members abstained. Secretary: Lorraine Estep 61 votes, Brian Siano 38 votes, 4 members abstained. Treasurer: Bill Moriarty 82 votes, Matt Wolfe 1 vote, 21 members abstained.

Directors elected by order of highest votes received: Jackie Slaughter, Darryl Stovall, Anthony “Tony” West, Dubside, Anuj Gupta, Anne Dixon, Mauricio Mendez-Vaz, and Todd Sandler.

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PRESIDENTS’ STUFF

By Andrew W. Cole

I’d like to thank everyone who came to the membership meeting on October 29, 2002. I apologize for my inexperience with the election and open business parts of the meeting. I’ll try to learn about Robert’s Rules before our next meeting so that I’ll at least have some idea of what I’m doing wrong.

The presentations for and against the motion to rescind the Board’s approval of the Revitalization plan were well received and the vote against the motion an important indicator for myself and the rest of the Board of the opinion of the membership.

I also thought we had an extraordinarily talented group of candidates for Directors and Officers (okay, except for me) and I think that bodes well for the future of the FOCP. Next year, however, I hope we have candidates contesting all Officer positions as well as the depth we had this year in Director nominees.

As president, my goals are relatively modest for the FOCP, especially compared with the previous two administrations’ levels of accomplishment. Nonetheless, I have two major goals for the coming year; to continue the process of cleaning up the park and to improve safety and security in the park.

If you look at the calendar in this newsletter you’ll notice several work days scheduled. On these work days FOCP members are asked to come and work on projects for cleaning and maintaining the park such as repairing and painting the bulletin boards, cleaning glass from the playgrounds, and planting and mulching trees and flowers. I know these aren’t ‘exciting’ tasks but they need to be done if the park is to continue to improve.

In later newsletters I intend to have suggestions for ways that FOCP members can help with security and safety in the park.

Finally, please let me know what you think. I’m not guaranteeing that I’ll be able to respond to every message but I will read everything that’s sent to me and will respond when I can. You can send letters to me at FOCP, Box PO Box 31908, Philadelphia, PA 19104 or email to Friends@clarkpark.info.

(Membership Meeting Minutes continued)

[Mauricio Mendez-Vaz and Todd Sandler were not announced during the meeting as Andy Cole miscounted the number of Board Members to be elected. He apologizes for the error.]

Presentation of New Business:

* Mike Hardy presented a motion: *To thank Sue Scanlin for all of her hard work this past year.* Anne Kringel seconds this motion. All in favor. Motion passed

* Darryl Stovall presented a motion: *Resolved that the FOCP hold more than one general membership meeting each year to discuss elements of concern to the general membership.* Ronald Hudson seconded this motion. Membership wished to vote on this motion. The motion was passed. Subsequently some general discussion ensued. Members reminded by Sue Scanlin that board meetings are open to all members and are posted on the website and newsletter.

* Lester Goldstein motioned that a meeting of the membership be held in 90 days. The membership voted in favor. The motion was passed.

* Liz Campion presented a motion: *Against public restrooms in the Master Plan.* Much discussion ensued among the membership. Anne Kringel shared in history that there has been many strong opinions on bathrooms with no resolution, and that the Master Plan does show a site for the bathrooms but they will not be built without strong community support. A member then voiced desire to table this motion and the membership agreed.

Meeting adjourned at about 9:50 pm

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.

REMEMBER OUR WEB ADDRESS

www.clarkpark.info for the latest news and information regarding the Friends of Clark Park.

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.

GREEN LINE CAFE TO OPEN SOON

The Green Line café at 43rd and Baltimore is scheduled to open in December according to sources at the recent tree pit work on the 4400 Block of Osage.

DOG OF THE MONTH - Donate \$20 to the University City Dog Owners Group (UCDOG) for the purchase of "Mutt Mitts" and we'll make your canine "Dog of the Month" on the Friends of Clark Park website, www.clarkpark.info. Does your pooch have a playmate? Two dogs may share the "Dog of the Month" title.

The Mutt Mitts dispenser, attached to a lamppost near the Clark Park Bowl, holds plastic bags for pickup of dog waste. Friends of Clark Park and UCDOG teamed up to purchase the dispenser and encourage dog owners to keep the park clean. Your \$20 donation will fill a dispenser for one month.

Now, sit. Fetch your checkbook. Send a \$20 check and a non-returnable photo of your dog to:

**UCDOG
4646 Locust
St, Philadelphia, PA 19139.**

FRIENDS OF CLARK PARK CALENDAR OF EVENTS WINTER/SPRING 2002:

- December 15, 2002, Christmas Caroling in the Park by the Shuffleboard Area at 5:00 PM
- January 7, 2003, FOCP Board Meeting: in Rosenberger Hall at 7:30 PM
- January 28, 2003, FOCP General Membership Meeting in Griffith Hall at 7:30 PM
- February 1, 2003, FOCP Winter Work Day at 10:30 AM
- February 2, 2003, Charles Dickens' Birthday Party in Griffith Hall at 2:00 PM
- February 15, 2003, FOCP Winter Newsletter
- **SLEDDING DAY**, FOCP will provide hot cider and chocolate at the bowl when it snows enough to sled (and we have the day off from work or school).
- March 4, 2003, FOCP Board Meeting in Rosenberger Hall at 7:30 PM
- March 22, 2003, FOCP Spring First Work Day at 10:30 AM
- April 29, 2003, FOCP Membership Meeting in Griffith Hall at 7:30 PM
- May 3, 2003, FOCP Spring Second Work Day at 10:30 AM
- May 6, 2003, FOCP Board Meeting in Rosenberger Hall at 7:30 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.

DUES AND DOLLARS

By Cindy Roberts

Collecting members' dues at the check-in table during our October meeting, I heard the question more than once: "I paid for 'Party in the Park,' why are you asking for dues?"

Good question. Here's the answer. "Party for the Park" is a major fundraiser that has done more to keep Clark Park clean and well maintained than any other effort in the park's 100-plus year history. FOCP and the UCD started the party in May 2000 to raise substantial funds so that we could hire a supplemental maintenance crew to do what the city doesn't -- mow the grass on a regular basis, give us an extra weekly trash pickup year 'round, handle back-breaking tasks like removing millions of leaves in the fall, provide turf maintenance like soil aeration in the bowl, and more.

Every dollar from your "party" ticket goes toward maintenance of Clark Park -- and not into the operating expenses of Friends of Clark Park. FOCP members get a \$15 discount on tickets (\$75 general, \$60 FOCP members), which is the same as the cost of a Friends household membership.

Your ticket purchase does more than raise dollars for the park, it also tells corporate funders -- who are the major donors to "Party for the Park" -- that this community cares. If residents fail to support the party, corporate funders will find plenty of other places to make donations, and Clark Park would suffer.

Sixty-dollar tickets aren't cheap, but let's take a page from public radio -- if you put aside \$10 a month after reading this, you will have saved enough to purchase a ticket by next May. When your invitation to "Party for the Park" arrives next spring, say "yes" and join us for a great evening that brings us together to support one of the city's finest parks -- Clark Park.

**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 area(s) of interest:

- ?Maintenance
- ?Tree Care
- ?Programs
- ?Tree Donation
- ?Safety
- ?Youth Soccer
- ?Garden
- ? Other _____

GOOD DEEDS

By Andrew W. Cole

Recently Bill Lance was seen picking up trash in Park “A” in November. 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).