

**Columbus Square Advisory Council Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2011**  
**Meeting Summary**  
**Prepared by Pat Funaro**

**I. Welcome**

The meeting started at approximately 7:10 PM and was chaired by vice-president, Chris DiCapua

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the December 2010 meeting were approved.

**III. Treasurer's Report**

The balance at the beginning of January was \$8,409. \$555 was spent on various items including the holiday party, office supplies, software for the new website and the domain name through 2013. The balance at the end of January was \$7,853.24.

As always a full report can be viewed in the office.

**IV. Parks and Recreation Update**

Stephanie reported that the merger of department of parks and recreation is moving forward. One of the recent changes is in the permit process, which is now more like that used by Fairmount Park. Permits for youth groups will be handled in the same way that they are currently. They are handled in-house for donations which go directly to the advisory council. The management of adult groups will change. They will be charged for specific time frames and the funds will go into a city-wide pool to support all playing fields. With the merger, the number of fields has increased from 25 to 225. With all of these fields to maintain, it is not clear how the funds will be divided among all of the contributing parks. Examples of such permits at Columbus include Philly Sports Network and Philly Flag Football.

The permits for the season will be marked on the calendar. The schedule will also include "community use" time when the fields will be available for unstructured community use.

The ability to turn on the sprinklers on Sunday in the summer time is also being examined.

Stephanie also described some of her new responsibilities which include oversight of Capitolo Playground. She had to leave the meeting early to attend to responsibilities at Capitolo.

## V. Committees Reports

The planning committee met on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Most of that meeting was spent discussing the possibilities for field maintenance. Here are some of the highlights of that meeting.

### **Beautification and Landscaping.**

- To address the maintenance of the fields, a subcommittee was formed to identify short and long-term goals. In the short term, the field will be re-seeded in March. No groups are permitted during the month of March so this time frame will be used for tilling and seeding the worst areas of the field. Access to the field will also be restricted in order to allow the seeds to take root. The subcommittee is looking into the best type of soil and seed to purchase. The first efforts to groom the field will take place on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Volunteers are welcomed.
- Regular monthly clean-ups will resume on the last Saturday of each month starting March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Christopher Columbus Charter School will be starting a children's vegetable garden. A location is to be determined
- An Isahia Zagar mosaic is being pursued for the storage container located on the Reed Street side of the park.
- Different materials are being considered for extending the pathway along the perimeter to 13<sup>th</sup> and Wharton Streets.
- A work order has been placed for pruning trees on the 13<sup>th</sup> Street side of the park. Once scheduled, it will include temporary "no parking" postings by the police so that the trees can be appropriately accessed.
- The status of creating benches from the marble slabs is being investigated.
- It has been proposed that we permit the dedication of planters to be installed on the tops of the large cement blocks near the park entrance gates. These would look similar to those that at the park at 4<sup>th</sup> and Federal Streets.
- *Love Your Park* will take place on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome to assist with various park clean up and maintenance activities. This is also the same day as the city-wide tree planning activities. See the website for more details.

## **Programming**

The following programs are planned for the Spring:

- Yoga has resumed with a new instructor, Josephine. Classes are on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM. Individual classes cost \$6.00. A group of 6 consecutive classes can be purchased for \$30.00
- Several workshops are planned for the spring. All cost \$2.00 if registered in advance or \$5.00 at the door with no reservation and include the following:
  - Pretzel Making:** Thursday, February 24, 7:00-8:30 PM
  - Home Improvement:** Thursday, March 3, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
  - International Cooking:** to be scheduled for April, May and June.Volunteer instructors are needed to run these workshops. So far, one possible topic is Indian cooking.

The South Philadelphia Parents Resource Center (an offshoot of Kids on South Wash) is planning several workshops and classes to be held at Columbus Square Park on topics about balancing work and family obligations beginning on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$25 per couple with a limit of 10 couples. The program will run over several months. Other topics to be offered include pre-natal yoga and a breast feeding support group. See the website for more information.

## **Communications**

Many thanks go to Pat Ryan for setting up the new website, powered by Google. It is about to go live and will generate automatic updates to the mail list for meetings and programming. The website is free and easy to maintain.

## **Fundraising**

Possible fundraising activities include a Fall Flea Market. It was suggested that rather than inside in the play area, tables be set up around the perimeter of the park to give more visibility. Also suggested was a Holiday Craft Fair to be held in the late fall and an adult dance.

**SPADO:** No report provided

**PDAC:** No report provided

## **VI. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. It will include a workshop on composting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.