

Columbus Square Advisory Council Meeting
Saturday, March 19, 2011
Meeting Summary
Prepared by Pat Funaro

I. Welcome

The meeting started at approximately 10:05 AM. Immediately following the meeting was a workshop on Composting.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February meeting were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

Treasury information was not available at this meeting. A detailed report will be provided at the next business meeting in April. However information may be viewed before then in the office.

IV. Parks and Recreation Update

A Parks and Recreation representative was not present at this meeting. Stephanie Gradel has been transferred to a new location in Fishtown. Effective Monday, March 21st, the new Recreation Leader for Columbus Square will be Katie Wimsey.

We wish Stephanie well at her new assignment and look forward to working with our new Rec Leader. Katie will also have responsibility for Capitolo Playground.

V. Committees Reports

Beautification and Landscaping.

- The major bare spots on the field were seeded on Saturday, March 5th. The field will be closed to activities through the month in order to allow the seed to take root. Signs have been placed around the perimeter and gates locked to prevent usage.
- Love Your Park, the semi-annual citywide event to clean and beautify public parks will take place on Saturday, April 16th from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Volunteers are encouraged to help with the day's beautification and clean-up activities. This will take the place of the usual last Saturday of the month park cleanup for April.
- Tree-vitalize tree planting will also take place on Saturday, April 16th.
- For anyone who would like to assist with helping to maintain the park on an ongoing basis, a list of ongoing clean up activities is posted. All are asked to undertake only those posted activities.

Programming

A list of planned programs for 2011 was distributed and will be posted in and around the center and on line.

- In addition to the Composting workshop to take place after the business meeting, an International Cooking Series is planned with workshops in April, May and June.
- The South Philly Parents Resource Center will also be providing a series of workshops focusing on parents and children.
- Yoga classes also continue to be held on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 7:45 PM.

After the Spring workshops are completed, there will be a summer hiatus in programming to allow time to plan for the fall season. Ideas for new or additional programming are welcome. We also look forward to ideas from our new Recreation Leader in the area of programming.

Communications

The new website is being transitioned. All who are on the mailing list should expect to receive regular reminders about upcoming meetings and events. If you have not already done so, please provide an email address to receive this information.

SPADO: No report provided

PDAC: No report provided

VI. New Business

- **Sprinklers:** A question was raised regarding the status of getting a timer on the sprinklers so that they can operate during times when there is no staff present. This item is on the agenda for the new Rec Leader to follow through with the Department of Parks and Recreation.
- **Assault in the Park:** A very grave concern was raised regarding an incident that started outside of the park grounds (a child's scooter was stolen and found to be in the possession of another child). Subsequent to an attempt to repossess the stolen scooter, the parent was attacked by teenagers and family members of the child who took the scooter. The assault occurred on park grounds at approximately 5:00 PM on the grassy area near the dog run. Others in the park at the time provided assistance and the police were called. It was reported that the Recreation Leader was in the building, but did nothing to assist or follow up on the incident. Concerns were raised regarding this lack of action.

At the very least, it is expected that an incident report would be completed regarding any violent activity occurring on the park grounds. This will be followed up with the new Rec Leader.

A concern was also raised about issues of aggressive behavior by teenagers who frequent the park, and the need for Recreation staff to provide interventions and become more engaged with these youths.

It was suggested that security cameras be purchased and installed. Some present were willing to work on fundraising for this purpose and would look into the cost of such equipment.

It was also suggested that Recreation staff have a higher level of involvement with the police and that these types of incidents be brought to the attention of higher levels of staff within the Recreation Department.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 PM.