

Columbus Square Advisory Council Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2010 and Saturday, October 23, 2010
Meeting Summary
Prepared by Pat Funaro

I. **Welcome**

The meeting started at approximately 7:05 PM. All were welcomed.

I. **Minutes**

The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

II. **Treasurer's Report**

The starting balance at the end of August was \$10,940.82. There were no deposits in September. Expenses were \$2,090.32. The balance at the end of September was \$8,850.50. As always, the full financial report can be viewed in the office.

III. **Department of Parks and Recreation Report**

Field Permits: In response to the question that was raised at the September meeting regarding what permits are in effect for the remainder of the year, Stephanie reported the following schedule:

- Monday & Wednesday: Palumbo Soccer, 6-9 pm; see www.palumbosoccer.org for more information.
- Tuesday & Thursday: Palumbo Soccer 6-7:30 pm
- Tuesday: Men's rugby, 7:30-9 pm
- Thursday: Philly Sports Network, kick ball league @ 7:30 pm
- Friday: unscheduled until 6pm; Anderson Soccer @ 6pm
- Saturday: Greater Philadelphia Flag Football League, 9am-2pm
- Saturday: unscheduled 2pm to dusk
- Sunday: unscheduled all day

Both the Men's Rugby and Flag Football leagues have been very generous to the park. The Flag Football League will be planning a special event in November. For more details about any of the leagues or specific times that the field is permitted for use, see Stephanie

Parks & Rec Merger: The merger is moving along, including redistricting and staff reorganization. Stephanie has been promoted, but information about her new assignment is still pending.

The **Indoor Tuesday Playgroup** has resumed now that the weather has gotten cooler. The hours are 3:30-5:30 pm. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. At the Saturday meeting, some parents requested permission to clean the storage closet in the main room where play items are stored. It was suggested that this might be a good project to add to the list of Fall for Your Park activities. This will be discussed with Stephanie.

V.

Committee Reports

Programming: The following activities were reviewed:

- Part One of **Survival Spanish** has been completed and was very successful. There will be a one week break and the class will resume with Part Two on Wednesday, November 4. The class is from 6:30 to 8:30. The cost is \$35 for a five-week class. A new Beginners class will be offered, possibly in early Spring.
- **Yoga** continues to be popular on Tuesday nights at its earlier time, starting at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$7 per class or \$35 for 5 consecutive classes. There will be no yoga class on Election Day, Tuesday, November 2nd, as the park is a voting site.
- **Fall Family Fun Day** is scheduled for Saturday, October 30th from 10 am to 12 noon. It will include pumpkin painting, face painting and a costume parade for the children. There will also be a baked goods sale with apple cider and coffee. Donations of baked goods are requested for the sale. Goodies will be provided for the children.
- **Gnocchi Making** is the first of a series of ethnic cooking workshops to be offered. The date is Thursday, November 4th at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$2 for advance registrations or \$5 at the door. Possible other cooking classes to be offered include Greek, West Indian and Indian cuisine. Anyone wishing to volunteer to teach an ethnic cooking workshop is asked to contact the office.
- **Fall for Your Park** is scheduled for Saturday, November 13th from 10am to 1pm. The October clean up on the last Saturday of the month will be cancelled. Instead, the clean up will occur on November 13th.
- The annual **Holiday Party** will be held at the last meeting of the calendar year, Thursday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. It will be a potluck event. All are encouraged to bring a special dish. Entertainment for the children will be provided.

Communications: In addition to the website, see Facebook for photos and other information about park activities. Also see the two kiosks for information.

Susan Patrone and Peter Verrecchia were recently highlighted in the South Philadelphia Review for their service to the community.

Many thanks to Jeremy Ryan who was the volunteer webmaster for Columbus Square. He will be moving from the area and we will be looking into other options for managing the website and the data base.

Fundraising: The bake sale at the Fall Family Fun Day on October 30th will be the next park fundraiser.

SPADO: There was no report from SPADO.

PDAC: There was no report from PDAC. However, a new police captain has been assigned to the district. He will be invited to a future meeting. If there are any questions

or issue areas you would like to raise with the captain, please forward them to Ilene Wilder in preparation for the meeting.

Beautification/Landscaping: As previously indicated, the regular park clean up on the last Saturday of the month has been cancelled for October. Instead, the clean up will occur on Saturday, November 13 as part of the Fall for Your Park activities.

I. **New Business**

Rain Garden. Joanne Dahme and other representatives from the Water Department discussed the plans for the Rain Garden that has been scheduled to be installed at the corner of 12th and Reed Streets. This is part of the overall rainwater mitigation plan for the area and is intended to reduce the water run off and large puddles at this intersection. The Water Department will be responsible for the maintenance of the garden, but asks for help from the community to pick up trash, etc. from the area.

Both the design of the garden and potential plants were reviewed. Copies of the drawings will be posted in the center. It was also announced that replacement plants in the current pits on 13th Street are scheduled to be planted by the Water Department during the last week of October.

The formal meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm and all who were interested went to the corner of 12th and Reed with the Water Department representatives to review the area where the rain garden will be installed. The garden will take up a good portion of the cement area in front of the 12th and Reed entrance. There will be adequate walking space around the entire perimeter of the garden.

Additional Items Raised at Saturday, October 23rd meeting, held 9:00-10:00 AM:

- Ongoing maintenance of the building was raised as an issue, particularly the cleaning of the floor in the main meeting room and snow removal in the winter.
- It was suggested that a meeting be facilitated with Jackson School to help connect the park with Spanish speaking parents. Flyers and descriptions about park activities will be posted in both English and Spanish.
- Concerns were raised about the bad condition of the sidewalk on Reed Street. A follow up contact will be made with Councilman DiCicco.
- It was suggested that rain barrels be used in the park, eg, to collect rain run off from the Round House.
- Concerns were raised about children who climb the gates in side the park. It was requested that signage be added to discourage this.
- It was suggested that a climbing structure be considered for children as a possible addition to the play area.

VIII. There next CCAC Business Meeting will be Thursday, November 18th at 7:00PM and Saturday, November 20th at 9:00 AM.