

Columbus Square Advisory Council Meeting  
Thursday, May 19, 2011  
Meeting Summary  
Prepared by Pat Funaro

I. **Minutes From Last Meeting**

Minutes from the April meeting were not available. They will be posted on the website.

II. **Treasurer's Report**

On April 6, 2011 the account balance was \$6,203.94. Camp registrations and field donations have been deposited. The balance as of this date (5/19/11) is \$6,323.75. As always, a full review of the account is available at the office.

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

All Parks and Recreation sites participate in **fundraising activities** to help maintain the city's **pools**. Columbus Square has joined with others in the region to help support these efforts. Flyers were made available which described all of these fundraising activities.

Registrations are being taken for **Summer Camp** through June 17<sup>th</sup>. Fourteen registrations have been received so far. There is a capacity of 30. Camp will run for 6 weeks from July 5 through August 12<sup>th</sup> and is for ages 5 to 12 years. See the Summer Camp Registration Sheet for more information.

A new **Preschool Program** will be starting up in the Fall and will run from September 19, 2011 through May 25, 2012. The program will be offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Registrations are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 school year. There will be a maximum of 30 participants. The registration fee is \$50 and tuition for the term is \$900 or \$100 per month. To assist with program setup, donations of games and supplies are requested. A teacher has already been identified.

**Yoga** class is continuing on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm. The last class for the season will be Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Classes will resume again in the Fall.

IV. **Committee Reports**

**Beautifications/Landscape:** Thanks go out to Pete Kourahanis for helping to seed and maintain the grass around the perimeter of the square. Also thanks are extended to Kaki Short for lending her lawnmower for use to help maintain the grass. Some fundraising activities will need to be undertaken to purchase a lawnmower and other equipment to maintain the grass. Pete K. offered to pay for half of the expenses toward the purchase of a lawnmower.

**Programming:** The next cooking class, Greek Cooking is scheduled for Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. The cost is \$2.00 for those who register in advance or \$5.00 for at the door.

**Family Fun Nights** will be resumed on Friday nights in the summer. A possible Concert in the Park may also be planned.

**Communications:** The website is up and running and has received some positive feedback.

**Fundraising:** A **Spring Flea Market** is planned for Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Tables will be set up around the perimeter of the park. Space can be reserved for \$20 in advance. The advisory council will host a table to sell baked goods and other donated items. All of the proceeds from that table to go directly to support park programs. Entertainment is also planned for the day. Flyers were distributed and will be posted around the community.

Other planned fundraising activities include the following:

- Fall Flea Market and pumpkin painting is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Indoor Holiday Craft Fair, November 19<sup>th</sup>

Other fundraising ideas include getting businesses to sponsor specific projects, e.g., gardens, with accompanying signs to acknowledge the support. Applying for grants from chain stores and banks including Home Depot, Target, Wells Fargo, Lowes.

## **V. New Business**

An issue was raised by a community member who was very concerned about animal leash ordinances being ignored by dog owners. She has spoken to officers Delgado and Harkins. A flyer has also been posted by Officer Delgado. However, the leash requirement continues to be ignored. It was suggested that there needs to be a more concerted effort to educate dog owners to this requirement. It was also noted that the leash requirement applies to everyone, even those who volunteer at the park. It is especially important for those who volunteer to set the proper example for all others who use the park. Dogs off

leash, no matter how well trained, pose a potential safety issue for themselves, other dogs, dog owners and pedestrians.

Kaki Short reminded everyone that she had participated on a task force that was created by the Department of Parks and Recreation to look at this very issue. The group has not met for some time. Kaki agreed to find out the status of the task force and also to find out what other parks are doing who might be faced with the same issue.

It was suggested that Officer Delgado would be invited to the next meeting to continue the conversation of how to address this issue. The "leash" task force document will also be reviewed, if available.

VI. **Next Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM.**