

I. **Minutes From Last Meeting**

The December meeting was the holiday pot luck party on December 15, 2011. No formal minutes were taken.

II. **Treasurer's Report**

The current fund balance is \$13,477.02. This includes grants received. A beautification grant in the amount of \$2500 must be spent by June 30, 2012. As always, a full review of the budget is available at the office.

III. **Committee Reports**

Programming:

Planned programming for the year includes the following:

- Yoga class has moved to Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. The cost remains at \$6 for an individual class or \$25 for a group of 5 consecutive classes.
- The Pre-School Tot Program is full for the year at 18 children. A waiting list will be started as needed. This is a program for 3-4 year olds held three days per week (Monday-Wednesday-Friday) from 9am to 12 noon. The current teacher has indicated that she will be leaving the program and a new teacher is being sought for next year.
- Play group for slightly younger children is held on Tuesdays from 3:30-5:30 pm and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am.
- Summer Camp information will be out shortly.
- An Interviewing Skills workshop will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 10-11:30 am. Advance registration is \$1.00. The cost at the door is \$3.00.
- The Bootstrap program, a standards-based curriculum for middle and high-school students to use algebraic and geometric concepts to program their own video games could not be launched this winter as planned. Instead it will start in the summer.
- A city-wide "Love Your Park" clean-up event will be held on Saturday, May 12. The Fall event will be on November 3rd. Both will be from 9am to 12 noon.
- The annual Holiday party will be held on Thursday, December 20th.

See the website for updates to programming and a full calendar of events: www.columbussquarepark.org. Also see our Facebook page.

Fundraising:

- Spring and Fall Flea Markets are planned for Saturday April 28th and Saturday, October 27th. The fall event will also include the annual Pumpkin Fest. The time for both is 8am to 1pm.
- There is the possibility that we could apply for a Kaboom grant to support the installation of a shade structure for the play area. This is being further investigated and more details will be forthcoming.

IV. Other Business

Dog Park: Leadership of the dog park is being re-energized and reorganized. A few of the new leaders were at this meeting. An issue was raised about the fallen mesh on the fences around the dog park. There is concern that the wide openings in the fencing could present safety issues for children who may put their hands between the rungs. Such an incident happened recently. However the child was not hurt. As a short-term option, new mesh will be purchased and installed to prevent small hands from fitting through the fence. However, a longer term more permanent solution will also be pursued.

Shade was also raised as an issue at the dog run. In addition, members will investigate better surface material.

Katie will set up and work out details regarding SPADO becoming an affiliate with the park. This will enable them to seek grants and avoid the process of pursuing separate non-profit status.

The issue of dogs on the field was also raised. The possibility of establishing a special permit at designated times was suggested. This would have to include the requirement that dog owners clean up the field. Further thought regarding the details is required.

Possible new programming: Chris recently attended a meeting of Age Friendly Philadelphia at which the concept of intergenerational pop-up parks or pocket parks in the area was discussed. This may be programming to be pursued in the future. Another possibility for a new program is “boot camp” training. There is a resident in the area who may be interested in leading this.

Sprinklers: As we are about to enter the season of warmer weather, it was requested that plans be made now to assure regular hours for sprinkler operation, even when staff may not be on-site.

V. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15th at 7:00 PM.