

I. **Minutes From Last Meeting**

The minutes from February meeting were approved.

II. **Treasurer's Report**

At the end of February the balance was \$16,300.34. This includes fees from the Pre-school program and 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:

In addition to the programs already in progress (yoga, Pre-school tot program, play group and summer camp) the following new programs are planned:

- Exercise "Boot Camp" will be piloted on Monday March 19 from 7-8 pm.
- 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, is still planned. However, participants for this program are needed. More information will be put out about this program to solicit registrations.
- A potential new program is "All Around the World" targeted to children from 0 to 8 years to promote knowledge of and tolerance of different cultures and ethnicities. This program exists at other sites and may be offered at Columbus. A pilot will be tried on Saturday March 24 from 10-11 AM. The full program runs 11 weeks with 45 minute sessions.
- An after school program for next year is being planned.
- A city-wide "Love Your Park" clean-up event will be held on Saturday, May 12 from 9am to 12 noon.
- The Children's Garden is being developed by students from Christopher Columbus Charter School. They are growing seeds in the classroom to then plant. Some development possibilities are to use this as a learning garden that will tie into nutrition education. There is the possibility of collaboration with other gardening programs to have food available at low cost to low income residents.

- The Department of Parks and Recreation has a partnership with Penn State Extension which potentially can bring a gardening component to the summer camp.

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

Fundraising:

- The Spring Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday April 28th from 8am to 1pm. Donations of items to sell at the Advisory Council table are welcome.

IV. **Other Business**

SPADO: Members of SPADO fixed and added new fencing along the perimeter of the dog run to prevent young hands from potential harm by putting them through the rungs of the wrought iron fence. SPADO leadership also indicated that they are planning to apply for a grant to erect a shade shelter over the dog run to keep out the summer sun. Ideas for a possible shelter are being explored and additional ideas are welcome. SPADO is also looking at possible alternative surfaces for the dog run to replace the cinders.

The issues of dogs on the field and dogs off leash continue to be problematic. Katie will investigate getting new signs which clearly state that “No dogs allowed on the Field.” Katie also looked into the possibility of establishing permitted time for dogs to use the field. However, safety concerns were raised regarding children who might be on the field, so free-running dogs is not possible. Dogs must remain on their leashes.

It was suggested that random police patrols be discussed with the police district both regarding the off leash dog issue and vandalism in the park by local kids. The police and a town watch representative will be invited to the next meeting.

V. **Next Meeting: Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 PM.**