

Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy
Board of Directors Meeting – April 9, 2013
Atlantic Wharf – 290 Congress Street
Meeting Minutes

RKGC Board: Georgia Murray, Young Park, Chris Manfredi, Maggie Hunt, Robyn Reed, Jane Pappalardo, Chris Fincham, James Chan, Cheryl Cronin, Susanne Lavoie, Martin (Woody) Lynn, Chris Betke, Phil Griffiths, Helen Chin Schlichte.

RKGC Staff: Jesse Brackenbury, Steve Anderson, Bob Stigberg, Jodi Wolin, Lisa Schimmel, Linda Jonash, Charlie McCabe, Amy Dwyer, Darryl Milton.

Georgia Murray opened the meeting and welcomed everyone noting that Matt Conti from NorthEndWaterfront.Com would be filming the meeting. The first order of business was to approve the meeting minutes from the January 29, 2013 public meeting. **A motion was made and duly seconded to approve the minutes and the minutes were approved by a roll call vote with 12 votes in the affirmative and none in the negative.**

Georgia Murray then acknowledged Phil Griffiths who will be leaving his position at EOEEA to join the Boston Harbor Islands Alliance and thanked him for his service on the board and the Conservancy looks forward to working with him in his new capacity.

North End Community Presentations

Georgia Murray introduced presentations from two North End groups, the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park and The Friends of the North End Parks noting that the Conservancy wants to be responsive to all of our constituents highlighting the North End Community Workshop the Conservancy hosted on April 2, 2013 and the amount of community input put received from those in attendance. Shade in particular was mentioned as a priority for the community and Georgia Murray announced that the Greenway board has authorized \$15,000 for the purchase of 11 umbrellas for the North End parks. Joanne Hayes Rines president of the FOCCP began her presentation by reviewing the history of the friends group and noted that two founding members of the Friends of Christopher Columbus Park currently sit on the Greenway board and board member Robyn Reed currently chairs the FOCCP horticulture committee. Ms. Hayes Rines reiterated that they were an all-volunteer organization with an annual budget of \$60,000 - \$40,000 of which goes to fund the blue lights on the pergola. It was noted that a good deal of time was spent on drafting the original by-laws for the group and it is important to follow them closely to ensure that any undertaking by the group is mission aligned. FOCCP was recently awarded a Garden Clubs of America grant for \$10,000 and a Beautify Boston grant of \$20,000 that will fully fund the Crossroads Circle project in the park. Ms. Hayes Rines described the scope of the project and the process of working with the city of Boston parks department. The group has a goal of a ribbon cutting of Columbus Day. There were a number of questions regarding the original design of the park and creating better connections to the waterfront.

The Friends of the North End Parks was represented by its president Nate Swain. The group presented on how they hoped to improve the horticulture in the North End parks, particularly the boxwood beds. They would like to see more sweeps of color and create a more interesting over all pallet inspired by Adrian Bloom that would provide four season of color. Nate noted the planting of roughly 13,000 daffodils last fall and is looking forward to some amazing spring color

and a daffodil day kick-off event on Sunday April 14. FOTNEP loves the fountains and lawns but would like to see the boxwoods replaced over time and shading of the pergola area addressed. Nate stressed that the group looks forward to working with the Conservancy to improve the parks. There were a number of comments from the public including that the parks have not achieved the potential goals that were promised to the community during the design process. It was also noted that Conservancy staff should look to find more ways to bring the community into the process of caring for the parks. Georgia Murray stated that she and the Conservancy looked forward to working with the friends group, that taking on major redesign projects is a huge undertaking and the Greenway's FY14 budget will need to be reviewed to determine its priorities. The Greenway has improved and will continue to do so as the park evolves.

A board member noted that the board itself is organic and always changing with new members who remain open minded and collaborative. The recent legislative changes should be an opportunity to re-engage with the community.

Capital Improvement Protocol

The Conservancy has gone through the process of updating the Greenway's capital improvement protocol that was originally drafted in 2009. There were three major changes: 1. Removing references to the former GLC, 2. the third party improvement protocols were updated to include an application process that mirror's the Boston park department's and 3. the overall language was tightened. The board noted that the changes were timely as a number of other governance documents were being updated and it streamlines the current process. **A motion was made to approve the update capital improvement protocols, duly seconded the protocols were approved with a roll call vote of 13 in the affirmative and none in the negative.**

Greenway Priorities Brainstorm

Georgia Murray engaged the board in a brainstorming discussion on what their priorities are and what they wanted to see happen on the Greenway in the future both short and long term. It was noted that the last time the board did this exercise was in the spring on 2009 and it is time to revisit the Greenway goals and priorities should be. A number of thoughts and ideas were offered in an open discussion of the board including:

- A self-sustaining greenhouse
- A linear connection with jogging or bicycle paths
- Each park should have a unique identity and reason on visit
- Discreet sport on the Greenway (e.g. volley ball in Chinatown, Ultimate Frisbee)
- Winter interest at Dewey Square (Ice Skating Rink with hockey programming, Retail)
- Develop statewide partners with cultural institutions like Tanglewood, Williamstown Theatre
- Musical partnering with Berkeley School of Music
- Addressing the ramp parcels, P12 in particular (Dog Park?)
- Pedestrian Crossings
- Better Signage to delineate what is and what is not part of the Greenway
- Street musicians/performers

2013 Programs & Events Presentation

Charlie McCabe Director of Programs presented an overview of the 2013 program schedule and reviewed the over 350 events from last season, the 66% increase in pack usage, the results of

this year's program survey and reviewed how an individual or organization could apply to host and event on the Greenway. Mr. McCabe also updated the board on the proposed event fee structure that the Conservancy is implementing to offset the costs associated with hosting events in the park.

Greenway Conservancy staff present updates on a number issues including the Gala being held on the Greenway this May and the public process associated with that event, the reconstruction of the Rings Fountain the majority of which is being done by Conservancy staff and an update on the construction of the custom carousel scheduled to open Labor Day weekend.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

List of Documents Used by the Conservancy at the Meeting

1. Agenda for the April 9, 2013 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of the January 29, 2013 Board Meeting
3. Amended Capital Improvement Protocols for the Greenway Conservancy
4. 2013 Programs & Events Presentation
5. Rings Fountain Repairs Presentation
6. Carousel Update Presentation