

Letter from the FSRP President

Something new, something old, some things have changed, yet (reassuredly) nothing has changed.

With such a long-winded title, I hope I haven't scared you away. I'd like to introduce myself as the new President of the Friends of Schuylkill River Park (FSRP) and speak briefly about where we have been and where we are going.

First, I'd like to thank Lynne Hopper for her long tenure as board president. She has led the board well and I speak for the entire group of board members when I say that we enjoyed working under her guidance. As Lynne steps into the role of Past President, she will remain on the board and continue to guide the planning of the Fall Festival - our significant fund raising event of the year. Lynne's continued presence on the board will also mean that we will continue to benefit from her reasonable, candid counsel to all our efforts.

As I step into the role of FSRP President, I realize that I am lucky to have two past presidents sitting on the board with me. Both Lynne Hopper and Peg Connor (president before Lynne) will remain on the board and continue to contribute as they have in the past. With Derek Freres remaining as Vice President, the transition of leadership will be smooth and the future bright.

I like our board, and it is to Peg's and Lynne's credit, that we have been together for a while and share a collective vision for the Park and hold its best interests close.

I also want to reach out to the community. We are always looking for engaged neighbors who might be interested in contributing time on the FSRP's board.

What might that contribution be?

- It could be something as broad as fundraising. We are continually looking for board members who can help us understand what it takes to raise money for the Park.
- Communications--from newsletter work to bulletin board content or even adding content to our wonderful website. We are not as good as we could be at communicating to our members all that we do.
- It could be a specific focus like an interest in the dog run, the children's playground or O'Connor Pool. It helps to be engaged with the Park in some way that allows you to think of the Park as a user does.
- It could be that you have a landscape background or green thumb and like organizing and managing cleanups and keeping an eye on the continuous landscaping that we do.

But whatever the case, it is important that those interested in joining FSRP as a volunteer love the park and appreciate the diverse set of people who use it. Because our constituents are many, and their interests so diverse, we need board members who can think and care across the broad spectrum of the Park.

If you share an interest in the Park and believe you could contribute something as a board member or volunteer, please shoot us an email at fsrporg@gmail.com.

We will never have a board that is as varied and diverse as our park users, but we need board members and volunteers who can work together and are committed to serving the best interests of Schuylkill Park and its many stakeholders.

Will you join us?

Sean O'Rourke, AIA
President of the FSRP Board

BTW-I will continue this conversation with regular updates on our website or in our newsletter to talk about the Board's vision for the Park, so stay tuned!