Archives I E-2 AC

Arnold Arboretum Committee records, 1982-1988: Guide

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University

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Descriptive Summary

Repository: Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, Jamaica Plain, MA
Call No.: I E-2 AC
Location: Archives
Title: Arnold Arboretum Committee records, 1982-1988
Date(s): 1982-1988
Creator: The Arnold Arboretum Committee
Quantity: 2.5 linear inches (1 box)
Language of material: English
Abstract: Founded in May 1982, the Arnold Arboretum Committee was an independent, non-profit organization of community members dedicated to improving security at the Arnold Arboretum. The Committee helped advocate and fundraise for Park Rangers Program and other safety programs at the Arboretum. In 1985, the Committee was incorporated and received official non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service.
Note: Access to Finding Aid record in HOLLIS.
Preferred Citation: Arnold Arboretum Committee records, 1982-1988. Archives of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.
Additional Material: For Arnold Arboretum administrative papers related to the Boston Park Rangers, including other fundraising, see Boston Park Rangers Program.

Processing Information

Acquisition Information
Provenance: This collection was transferred from the Arnold Arboretum’s departmental holdings to the Arboretum’s Archives in 1984 when the Archive was created, with a small amount of additional material donated by Mary Ashton in 2011.

Terms of Access
Researchers seeking to examine archival materials are strongly encouraged to make an appointment. The Director, or an office of origin, may place restrictions on the use of some or all of its records. The extent and length of the restriction will be determined by the Director, office of origin, and the Archivist.

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Historical Note

Founded in May 1982, the Arnold Arboretum Committee was an independent, non-profit organization of community members dedicated to improving security at the Arnold Arboretum. In the spring of 1982, several violent assaults occurred around the Arnold Arboretum, raising alarms within neighboring communities and prompting the creation of the Committee. Collaborating with Arboretum staff, the organization was made up of residents Jamaica Plan, Roslindale, West Roxbury, and from other areas near the Arboretum. In 1985, the Arnold Arboretum Committee was incorporated and received official non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. Kate Nixon, a Public Relations officer at the Arboretum, worked with the Arnold Arboretum Committee, serving as their primary contact for press releases and corresponding with Arboretum staff members and local officials on the Committee’s behalf.

The Arboretum Committee helped advocate and fundraise for the creation of the Park Rangers Program, run by the City of Boston’s Parks and Recreation Department. In 1983, park rangers began patrolling the grounds of the Arboretum as well as other public parks in Boston. Throughout the 1980’s, the Boston Park Rangers received continuing support from the Arboretum Committee. The group held fundraising and publicity events, such as a White Rhinoceros Sale (April 30, 1983), “An Old-Fashioned Winter Day in the Park” (February 12, 1984), gala parties, and sponsored photography contests (1984-85). In July 1982, they did door-to-door fundraising in the surrounding neighborhood and in 1985, ran a telephone fundraiser for the Park Rangers. The group also organized and supported other safety programs, such as self-defense classes and the clean-up of the roadways surrounding the Arboretum’s grounds.

Scope and Content
This collection consists of the records relating to the organization and activities of the Arboretum Committee, including the articles of organization, by-laws, proposals, meeting minutes, meeting notices, press releases, correspondence, programming materials, and brochures. The records in this collection end in 1988, though the Committee likely continued to exist for a time after this date.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged into three series.

Series I: Articles of Organization and Proposals
Series II: Meeting Minutes and Notices
Series III: General Records and Correspondence
Container List

Series I:
Box 1
Folder
1: Articles of Organization and Proposals
   • Includes “Articles of Organization and By-Laws of The Arboretum Committee,” drafts of
     this document, comments on the Bylaws, list of Committee candidate addresses, Arboretum
     Committee membership lists (names and addresses), exemption from Federal income tax
     (August 2, 1985), application for Boston Partners in Urban Recreation.

Series II:
Box 1
Folder
2: Meeting Minutes and Notices
   • Meeting Minutes and Notices (includes January 26, 1983; February 16, 1983; March
     14, 1983; May 16, 1983; July 6, 1983; September 22, 1983; October 18, 1983; December
     13, 1983; January 10, 1984; March 5, 1984; June 21, 1984; June 27, 1984; November
     13, 1984; August 13, 1985; February 20, 1986; March 11, 1986; October 17, 1987);
     Meeting Notices for additional dates.

Series III:
Box 1
Folder
3: General Records and Correspondence
   • Arnold Arboretum Committee, Inc., brochure
   • Peter S. Ashton to “Neighbors,” regarding formation of Committee. May 3, 1982.
   • Sylvia Grey, Milton, MA. Letter to editor with newspaper clipping and note from
     Ms. Grey.
   • Kate Nixon to Superintendent Robert Bradley, Boston Police Department, Boston,
     MA. May 27, 1982.
   • Arboretum Committee (Sub-Committee on Security) to Members of Arboretum
     Committee and Mass Media, regarding safety.
   • Arboretum Committee (Sub-Committee on Security) to Members of Arboretum
   • Arboretum Committee (Sub-Committee on Security) to Members of Arboretum
     Committee and Mass Media, “Safety Update,” follow-up after Arboretum
     Committee Meeting on June 2, 1982.
   • Kate Nixon to All Arboretum Staff, regarding work of Arboretum Committee thus
   • Press Release, Arboretum Park Ranger Weekend (July 17 and 18) announcement
     and form. Blank copy and copy with completed form.
   • Kate Nixon to Ray Williams, Assistant to the President, Northeastern University,
     Boston, MA. June 30, 1982.
   • Kate Nixon to Hugh McCormack, Massachusetts Urban Reinvestment Advisory
     Group, Jamaica Plain, MA. July 1, 1982.
   • Carolyn Moctear, MA to Michael F. Leonard, in response to request for
     suggestions in newspaper. Mailed July 6, 1982. Includes newspaper clipping and
     envelop.
• Kate Nixon to Commissioner Robert D. McCoy, Parks and Recreation Department, Boston, MA. July 7, 1982.
• Kate Nixon to George Arnold Jr., Pastene Wine and Spirits, Somerville, MA, regarding party donations for “Harvest of Sweet Delights.” October 15, 1982.
• Kate Nixon to Arboretum Committee, regarding White Rhinoceros Sale. May 4, 1983.
• Kate Nixon to Nancy Mulbury, Greater Boston Council, Boy Scouts of America, Boston, MA, regarding use of space for self-defense course. June 15, 1983.
• Kate Nixon to “Mrs. Kimsey,” Roslindale, MA, regarding Peter’s Hill. July 13, 1983.
• Kate Nixon to Joe Warren, Community Affairs, Northeastern University, Boston, MA, regarding possible sponsorships. August 26, 1983.
• Kate Nixon and the Arboretum Committee to Laurence DiCara, mayor candidate, Boston, MA, regarding Arnold Arboretum Committee questionnaire. August 30, 1983.
• “Finnegan” to Kate Nixon, response to Arnold Arboretum Committee questionnaire. [Mailed September 28, 1983].
• Mel King, response to Arnold Arboretum Committee questionnaire. [1983]
• Dennis Kearney, response to Arnold Arboretum Committee questionnaire. [1983]
• Announcement regarding Mayoral Candidate night, October 5 [1983?].
• Kate Nixon, “An Arboretum Committee Update.” October 19, 1983.
• “Park Rangers in the Arboretum.” [1983]
• To All Arboretum and Boston Park Ranger Supporters. April 11, 1984.
• Press Release, “Arboretum Committee Turns Winter into Spring,” regarding success of the event. ”Old Fashioned Winter Day in the Park.” [1984].
• Invitation to “Sunday Brunch at the Arboretum.” November 18, 1984.
• Virginia Marcotte to “Those Working on the Photo Project,” regarding Arboretum Committee Photography Contest.” Date Unknown.
• Telephone Number List for Park Ranger Phonathon. [1985]
• Photograph: “Arboretum Telethon, Gutman Library” showing Kate Nixon, Sheila Lyons, Mary Ashton, Peter Ashton and Jean Klugman fundraising. 8x10”, black and white. March 21, 1985.
• Kate Nixon to Deputy Superintendent Joseph Saia, March 28, 1985.
• Kate Nixon to “Maura, Eddie, Tim, Leslie, John, and Don.” Date unknown.
• Project Calendar.