

Friends of Brockwell Park, Minutes of Committee Meeting Norwood Lodge, 7.30pm, July 18 2016

Present: Peter Bradley (PB), Chair; Adam Steinhouse (AS), Vice-Chair; Noshir Patel (NP), Secretary; Dean Littler (DL), Treasurer; Laura Morland (LM), Park Liaison; Antonia Gross (AG), Membership Secretary; Michael Boyle (MB), Newsletter; Edward Lavender (EL).

Apologies: Alice Salisbury.

Minutes of last Committee Meeting June 20 2016: approved and signed by Chair.

Matters arising:

1. Stephen Lawlor, of Kennington Park Flower Garden has told AG that his proposed networking day for workers in Kennington Park Flower Garden, Brockwell Park Walled Garden and Greenhouse and Peckham Rye Park is deferred until September 2016. He has funds for it and will arrange transport. **Action:** AG and LM to liaise.
2. Disability Access: AG presented to the Committee a survey questionnaire which Lucia has drafted for all Brockwell Park Stakeholders to complete. **Action:** AG will complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Committee by July 22, embodying comments forwarded to her by members by that date.
3. NP reports that Herne Hill Forum (HHF) wants to include Brockwell Lido in its Neighbourhood Plan. This contravenes FOBP's/BPCP's stance, on the governance of Brockwell Park as an independent entity under the planning authority of BPCP. It was felt that HHF would certainly fail in this attempt.
4. DL said that he awaits a formal written request for the agreed donation of £250.00 for the Jungle Book play in the Walled Garden this year.

Fixed Business.

1. AGM. Notice given in Summer Newsletter, with details: AGM date Sunday October 16; notice for Amendments to the Constitution by September 1; nominations to the Committee by October 1. **Actions:** a) AG to file amendment (one sentence) to clarify committee indemnity. b) October Committee Meeting brought forward from October 17 to October 10, in order to discuss AGM arrangements.
2. Carboots on August 14 and September 11 discussed: Committee Members who will be present identified, plans for contacting various helpers discussed. **Action:** MB and LM to contact various people.
3. Lambeth Country Show debriefing.
 - One of the trolleys is broken; we may have to get a new one. It should be kept inside FOBP room in Norwood Lodge, to prevent use by other Park workers. **Action:** LM will follow this up.
 - Agreed FOBP should share stand at LCS with BPCP in future, if possible. This would increase visibility and impact, reduce confusion and help spread the load of staffing the stalls.
 - There should be better organisation of stall volunteers, in future, with a job description. **Action:** PB will again organise a Doodle system for next year for both Committee Members and volunteers to use; and will instruct Committee Members on its use beforehand.
 - There should be an earlier start to planning the whole operation next year, with a formal planning meeting 2 weeks before the event.

- Our two petitions overshadowed in their presence and importance the mugs and tea towels that we had for sale. It was reported that some stalls were making a lot of money from sales of goods. This problem was noted, but no plan of action arose.
- The two Petitions gathered 130 signatures for the Event protest, and 134 for the Noise protest. Some comments adverse to the petitions were reported to the Committee. **Action:** a). The Committee thanked MB for his strenuous efforts in this matter. b). FOBP will use this material in forthcoming meeting with Lambeth Council Cabinet Member/officers.

4. Event Strategy.

- The protest over noise by Clapham residents, and Wandsworth Council to Lambeth Council Events Team's proposed organisation of 8 events this year led to the suggestion that FOBP team up with the Clapham/Wandsworth protest. This was rejected: we do not have the time/people to do so; we need to focus on our own priorities first.
- Based on committee feedback, particularly from MB, PB prepared and sent to Lambeth Council, within five days, a detailed comment on its draft events strategy, on the Friday before it was due to be discussed at a full Cabinet meeting. It contained around 20 practical points for mitigation of the adverse fallout of the events policy. The Council seems to have taken them seriously and Leader of the Council, Lib Peck, has invited FOBP to meet, 'in the next couple of weeks', Cllr Jack Hopkins (Cabinet responsibility for Parks) and officers, 'to go through these suggestions'. **Action:** The Committee congratulated PB for such an outcome, and thanked him strongly for his huge effort in achieving it. PB to forward our response to Lee Fiorentino for attention of events team.
- LM reported that she has received 24 responses to the web appeal for comments on the recent Sunfall Park Event on July 9-10; PB received 12. It was decided that all present and future comments should be channelled to PB for collation and summary. Some comments supported the Events, and PB's strategy for including them in the collation, in order to give a sense of even-handedness and inclusivity to the responses, was endorsed.
- It was decided that FOBP needs to organise a response to every future Park Event. How to do so with economy of time/personnel was discussed. It is hoped that when the new website is completed, responses can be organised efficiently through it.
- MB advocated strongly that we should build on the strength of the volume of response to the Petitions signed at the LCS and aim for a huge number of signatures by house-to-house canvassing around the Park. This was discussed but finally seen as a possible tactic for the future: again, time/personnel resource is a problem. It was felt that we should await the outcome of an FOBP meeting with Lambeth Council Cabinet/officers before embarking on such an undertaking. If necessary, we could then think about campaigning on points not agreed.
- AS said that our strategy should focus on defined areas: numbers of events; sound levels; timing of events as regards Park recovery periods between them.

- It was also stated that another specific area of concern is the financial one: how much money is raised, where does it go? These specific areas could be addressed by PB and AS in their forthcoming meeting with Cllr Hopkins and officers.
- AS stressed that we must avoid Cabinet manoeuvres to claim FOBP's endorsement of its policies. FOBP must maintain its independent voice. **Action:** PB will ensure our own press release goes out straight after the meeting with the Cabinet, in order not to be manipulated.
- PB raised the specific subject of wellbeing and community benefit in the Park, following the recent King's Fund statement on the link between health and the natural environment. **Action:** MB will arrange to meet with Cllrs Jim Dickson and Mohammed Seedat, who job-share as the Cabinet Member responsible for this area.

Reports

1. Vice-Chair: there is to be a Cressingham Gardens Development Management Team exhibition on September 5. On August 3, there will be an official opening of the Estate Office.
2. Secretary. NP will attend the Park Management Committee on July 20. He will raise the following issues: FOBP feedback from the LCS, petition strategy, the installation of the bird sculpture in the Walled Garden, the situation on the Tennis Table.
3. Treasurer. £12,883 in one account; £28,315.85 in the other. Yet to be included: £300 from LCS sales/memberships; £300+ from July Carboot proceeds.
4. Park Liaison. 1. LM reports that the benches programme is in limbo: the 2017 allocation list is full; all sites have been agreed with Clarence Riley, the Parks Manager, and sponsored, according to Sandra. However, DL has not received a list of the sponsors and is not clear about receipt of the 50% upfront money due from sponsors. Neither procurement orders nor site preparation orders have been issued yet. **Actions:** a). LM will try to get a response from Clarence Riley. b). DL will liaise with Sandra re list. 2. LM reports that 8 people are asking for trees, but that programme cannot advance because of lack of costing information from Clarence Riley. 3. LM, in answer to questions about the Yellow Rattle (YR) programme e-mailed the following day that 'establishing YR in the meadow may be a larger and more complex task than originally envisaged. Given the clay/dense heavy grass in the area, it may need more mowing around the sown patches to allow YR to get a hold.' Thence follow the problems of costing, organisation of mowings and paying for all that. LM is involved in ongoing discussions about this.
5. Newsletter. The Committee congratulated PB and the team on the Summer issue for its beautiful presentation.

AOB

1. NP suggested that FOBP should buy a key safe to house all the keys to Norwood Lodge, with the safe to be kept in the FOBP room; with extra keys to be cut for a key ring for the front door and FOBP room. This idea was agreed. **Action:** NP to organise this.
2. AS said that at the LCS a local artist offered her Christmas Cards to FOBP for free. **Action:** AS will follow up on this.
3. PB is going to give a talk on Japan on September 4 at 11.30 in the Hall.
4. AG raised the possibility of a Party for Friends of Brockwell Park,

possibly in February 2017. The idea was noted, but no action proposed now.

5. Next Newsletter: before Winter Fair (agreed to cancel Autumn edition Newsletter).

Meeting closed at 10.10pm.

NEXT MEETINGS, 7.30 NORWOOD LODGE: September 19; October 10