

Friends of Brockwell Park Committee Meeting January 18 2016.

Minutes

Members present: Peter Bradley, Chair (PB); Adam Steinhouse, Vice-Chair (AS); Noshir Patel, Secretary (NP); Dean Littler, Treasurer (DL); Laura Morland, Park Liaison (LM); Antonia Gross, Membership Secretary (AG); Edward Lavender (EL) (Minute-taker).

Apologies: Michael Boyle

Attending: Madeleine Boomgaarden (MaB)

1. FOBP Social Media interface. MaB is, very kindly, acting as our director and administrator in this area. She attended in order to report and comment on the present situation, and to ask for suggestions. She stressed the importance of an active presence in order to project our profile and maintain it in the community. She discussed the relation between her active sites, Twitter and Facebook, and the FOBP website, and especially its portal for new membership. Our Twitter account is active with 1500 regular followers, and Facebook with 500. She asked about setting up a FOBP Instagram account, which would be more likely to attract a younger population. This was agreed enthusiastically. Members also agreed that Park news items, photos, comments and specific items from committee meetings, which could provide content for our media interface should be channelled directly to MAB, for suitable placement at her discretion. MAB also volunteered to review the website and make suggestions for changes. The Committee thanked her for her contribution.

2. Matters arising from Committee Meeting November 16 2015. Item 4a. PB has not yet contacted South London Botanical Institute about the Autumn Walk. LM suggested that he contact Dr Roy Vickery at the Institute, who has published recently a fascinating book on Weeds. This was agreed. **4d.** PB did write to the Forums expressing FOBP concerns about the division of management of Brockwell Park, but had no reply. However, it has since been agreed that the Park will be administered as an independent entity. The problem remains of how, in this situation, to access for the Park CIL Funds, which are split between individual Forums individually. However, this is a problem for BPCP, not FOBP, to address. **6.** Vivien Lewis did write to Pauline Foster at Lambeth Council about Cressingham Gardens redevelopment, but the whole matter is in abeyance because of the Judicial Review. **11.** AG is still working on the new committee member induction pack. **12** AG reported on her discussion with lawyer colleague about FOBP Committee members' liability. Although personal liability is usually limited to the extent of that person's subscription fee (ie £5), this is not unchangeable. Advice is: to include a specific indemnity in favour of committee members in the charity's governing document. Also, to look at present insurance cover. **Action:** AG is going to investigate further.

3. Membership. AG is now working on updating and re-organising the list and system of payment tracking.

a). She has found that some members have paid twice (even thrice) in a given year. Possible reasons: member confusion or forgetfulness; paying by more than one method; calls for payment in the interval between a payment having been made (perhaps by SO) and its receipt or its manifestation (in the interval between payment and registration in the monthly Bank Statement sent to the Treasurer). Discussion centred around what to do about overpayments: 1. Invite the payer to donate the excess to FOBP. 2. Return the excess. 3. Offer the payer the option. **Action:** the committee adopted the 3rd course. **Action:** Dean undertook to negotiate direct online access to the Accounts (which for some reason had been withdrawn by the Bank) for himself, and in addition read-only access, for AG, as Membership Secretary.

b). AG asked: What is the purpose of membership? Is it anything more than revenue-raising? Discussion led to the agreement that a great resource is being neglected, in the form of hands-on participation in Park activities, and specific skills which could be used by FOBP; and a great opportunity is being missed to enhance recruitment by indicating the sorts of things which people could turn their hand to in engaging in Park-related activities. Further discussion moved into how to use the website to further these objectives; and to build relationships with members, by reinstating a regular free email to all who sign up to it.

c). AG suggested that membership is so important and ongoing an issue, that it should be an item of fixed business on the agenda, perhaps every second month. This was agreed. **Action:** Membership to be introduced as a fixed item of fixed business on the committee meeting agenda.

4. Website. Both MaB, and Ted Giles (TG) have volunteered to help in its redevelopment. In addition, there is at least one other person who has expressed an interest. It was agreed to invite TG to attend committee meetings on a regular basis; and to review the website and present comments and ideas to the committee, with the aim, if appropriate, of introducing him to MaB, so that they could work together. At some point, Keith Fitchett (KF) will probably need to be involved, since he set up the website originally. PB expressed reservations about a totally new website, voicing a unanimous opinion that KF's 'backend' website is robust and should not be lost. **Action:** EL to contact TG, invite him to the next few meetings and to review the website. Noshir to invite the other person.

5. Chair's Report. a). PB said he will be away March 19 to April 10, missing the April carboot and in August, missing that one too. **Action:** AS will chair the March 21 committee meeting. b). PB raised our plans for improving Brockwell Park disabled access and AG said she had discussed it with Lucia. **Action:** Disabled Access to be an item of Fixed Business at the next committee meeting. c). Park runs. It was agreed that it was the Sunday 'Charity' run, which caused such a problem, not the regular Saturday morning runs which are well marshalled now. It was suggested that the Saturday morning runs could start at 8.30 am instead of 9.00 am, which would allow most of the early morning (and often elderly) dog-walkers time to complete their walks. **Action:** NP

will look into this possibility with the organisers. d). Again, the problem of the Sunfall music event, organisation of which will run into the Lambeth Country Show preparations, and lead to large areas of the Park being fenced off for a month, in the middle of the summer. FOBP is strongly opposed to this, but the Council has been unresponsive so far to representations on the matter. In addition it is noted that Brockwell Park Management Team has found out that Lambeth Events did not discuss with Found events, nor even pass on to them, many of the complaints registered about last summer's event.

6. Secretary's Report. a). NP reported that bookings for this year's Lambeth Country Show are to open soon. It was agreed that he should book a pitch, preferably a corner one. **Action:** NP to book a corner pitch for the Lambeth Country Show. b). Several members noted that the Clocktower clock is wrong a lot of the time. NP replied that this was probably due to it not being rewound. But who is responsible for that? **Action:** NP will locate the party responsible for rewinding. NP asks all committee members to contact him when they see it showing the wrong time.

7. Treasurer's Report. a). £32,910.1 in the main account; with £16,000.00 accounted for by benches, sculpture, etc. £12,883.00 in the other account. b). The postbox, costing £144 per 6 months is up for renewal. Should we renew or redirect to Norwood Lodge. Reservations were expressed over safety-others use the Lodge; and over reliability of delivery there. **Action:** DL will renew the postbox for another full year (cheaper than renewing every 6 months). In the meantime, all committee members to post cards to Norwood Lodge, so that we can assess reliability. **Action:** NP to circulate the address of Norwood Lodge. c). Still no invoice from the Council for past bench costs, estimated at £10,000. The Committee advised to do nothing, but the potential liability remains against our assets.

8. Park Liaison.

a). Benches. LM reported that 5 sites are identified and ready. Clarence Riley, the Parks Manager, requires upfront payment of £2265.30 for the installation of the bases. He had negotiated down the price from £750 per site base. Donors have already paid half of the estimated price of £1500 per base and bench, and once the final installed price is known, the precise cost per donor will be calculated. b). Tree-planting and aftercare. Veolia presented a budget for future work which was unacceptable to Mr Riley. As an interim measure the Community Payback team has done the tree-planting with enthusiasm, at no marginal cost increase over their overall costs. This is not a long-term solution, though, and does not answer the problem of aftercare: watering, repair of fencing, clearing undergrowth, identifying and replacing dead trees. The intention is for much of this work now to be done 'in house' by the Council, but details have not yet been decided. LM warns that the cost of trees will probably increase. c). The Walled Garden. Alice Salisbury and KF have produced a flyer, both on plain paper and laminated, for general distribution. It is very attractive, and the committee expressed appreciation to Alice and Keith for their time and artistry. d). Further hedge-laying will take place next week, between Tulse Hill Gate down past Brockwell Gate. e). The Stink Pipe in the Park opposite Rosendale Road. Helen Spring, the Lost Effra project co-ordinator, would like to place some informative signs in the Park about it, the Effra river and the recent floods in the Park. The committee expressed interest, but felt that signs in the Park may be out of order.

9. AOB. 2016 Away Day. Discussion deferred to next meeting.

Meeting closed 10pm.

Next meeting: Monday February 15, 7.30pm, Norwood Lodge