

# FRIENDS OF BROCKWELL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING

At: Norwood Lodge, 7.30pm, February 15 2016.

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

**Report, In Absentia:** Madeleine Boomgaarden, Website Project Manager (MB)

**Apologies:** Alice Salisbury, Michael Boyle.

2. **Minutes of meeting January 18, 2016** were approved and signed by PB.

### 3. **Matters arising from Minutes.**

- Roy Vickery from South London Botanical Society has agreed to conduct the Autumn Walk on 9 October, on the subject of 'Uses of our Wild Plants'.
- Lambeth County Fair pitch: NP has booked the same pitch as last year.
- The PO Box has been booked for another year. Committee members will post missives to Norwood Lodge as a trial of function; NP to circulate the complete mailing address.

### 4. **Fixed Business for discussion**

#### **4.1 Website reorganisation**

The Committee records its thanks to MB for all the thought and effort that she has put into the project.

- a) The committee has viewed the website work of Gal, and on this basis and MB's recommendation, agrees for him to work with her on the website.
- b) The committee accepts the quotes for this work of £1050 and £350 respectively from Gal and MB. Both are to be asked if these figures include VAT.
- c) It is agreed that Keith Fitchett (KF) should be invited to participate, at his pleasure in the project, and that he should be paid for any work done.
- d) KF has been paying to host the website in the US *gratis* for several years, and the committee agreed to offer back payment to cover these costs.
- e) It was felt that the committee needs to be involved in the project directly too, and a **FOBP website sub-committee** was approved, comprising: DL, NP, AG. Particular concerns are: the integrity of the existing database; the security of the membership list; and the question of maintenance of the website once it has been finalised.
- f) Ted Giles has withdrawn from participation, on grounds of outside commitments, and lack of experience in Wordpress, which the site will be using.

#### **4.2 BPCP request for funding: emergency work on Brockwell Park hedge-planting project**

The committee agreed to the sum requested of £390 including VAT. However, the Treasurer DL voiced his concern at the irregular method of request: an email with general committee distribution, rather than a formal request to the Treasurer or Secretary for consideration at the next committee meeting. This is a question of governance and it was agreed rules need to be established for requests for funding, including fixed submission dates. It was agreed that this was important, and a suitable topic for Away Day discussion.

**4.3 Proposal to increase sound levels at Park events.** This has come from the Parks Events Committee, based on Victoria and Hyde Park models of 75dB and 90dB for normal and low-frequency sound. The committee found this model and the sound levels, which would hold for up to 8 events per year, as inappropriate for our Park, which is in a built-up area. However, the only thing we can do to make our point is to send the relevant sections of our 2015 Brockwell Park Survey to the Council. **Action:** PB will do this.

**4.4 Park Management Team Report** (by NP, meeting January 20 2016). a) The concrete base of the now-demolished Changing Block has not been rendered safe; and it is not clear whether this work is covered under the demolition contract. If not, where will the extra money come from? b) The formula for distribution of events revenue has not been finalised. Although the initial Council statement on the matter had been of a 3-way equal split between the Council, the hosting Park and the general Lambeth Parks account, this has not been confirmed, causing uneasiness.

**4.5 Mobile Phone Mast at 35 Trinity Rise.** which is within the Brockwell Park Conservation Area. **Action:** PB will write to Lambeth Planning to document FOBPs objections.

**4.6 Away Day.** Topics which need to be tackled are:

- Budget and finance governance
- Membership
- The website
- Dates for the Away Day will, due to other commitments of various committee members, have to be in April.  
**Action:** PB will send round a Doodle matrix with dates to all committee members.

**4.7 Survey Monkey.** Although we still have 6 weeks remaining in our contract, it was felt that nothing useful could be organised in that time.

**4.8 Disabled Access.** Members feel this is a very important topic, but it is floating. **Action:** AG will liaise with Lucia Daniels, who drew up the original paper on this, and try to arrange a presentation at our next meeting.

## **5. Reports**

### **Chair**

- PB attended the Lambeth Parks and Green Spaces Forum meeting. Unhappily, the longstanding chair, Colette Thomas is standing down. Although Jean Kerrigan, vice-chair, has stepped in temporarily, she will stand down at the next meeting if no chair takes office. The future of the Forum is precarious.
- Lambeth Parks has decided to take parks' grounds maintenance back in-house. There are doubts about the availability of the knowledge and expertise needed for this.
- There are plans by Lambeth Parks Department for a 'Parks Summit', and a 'Parks Charter', although details are not available.
- PB is sending proposals for two motions to be put to the BPCP open meeting on February 21: 1. Concerning reconstituting the Clock Tower garden. 2. Welcoming the Bird Statue in the Walled Garden, which is to be created by Lucy Casson, sculptor of the foxes and cherries montage above Electric Avenue, Brixton. She was a friend of the late Sereena Pilkington, who left £3000 for a sculpture to be done in Brockwell Park by Ms Casson.

**Vice-Chair and Secretary:** No reports.

### **Treasurer**

- Accounts: Main (1) contains £32,939,71; (2) contains £12,827.11
- DL has now has online access to the accounts. Having done so, has spelled out in full, as required by the bank the names of the three additional signatories on the accounts (Peter Bradley, Laura Morland, Antonia Gross,), rather than just using their initials. **Action:** The Committee agreed unanimously that PB, LM and AG will be signatories; **and:** that Linda Spashett, Paul Reynolds and Robert Holden are to be removed as signatories, a measure which the Committee is able to perform unilaterally.
- FOBP insurance is to be changed in March 2016 to Zurich, since The Conservation Trust is withdrawing from the insurance business.

**Next Newsletter.** The newsletter committee has yet to meet to plan the Spring Newsletter, due out March/April. AG mentioned that she is still cleaning up the Membership List: relevant to who will receive the newsletter in future.

### **Park Liaison.**

- All the trees for this year have been sold.
- LM and AG spent a day's work with the Community Payback Team on tree care, which went well. However, this is not a long-term solution, and so far there is no plan when Veolia's contract ends, either for tree care or for grounds maintenance in general, beyond it being taken back 'in house'. **Action:** LM will discuss with Susy Hogarth and Ann Kingsbury.
- Benches. **Action:** LM and Clarence Riley are to review together the potential sites for the 5 new benches. LM will then present a plan to the Parks Management Team.
- The Great North Wood project. London Wildlife Trust (LWT) has plans to launch it by planting oak trees along the top of the meadow to the East of the Cressingham Estate, but had not consulted with either Cressingham, FOBP, or BPCP. However, LM has been in touch with LWT, and Ann Kingsbury will meet with them onsite on February 19 in order to work out an appropriate planting. A worthy project, to be welcomed since it means more trees for the Park, at no expense; but needs coordination.

## **6. AOB**

- AS suggested that FOBP write to all the Mayoral candidates, stating our position on Parks in Lambeth, and in London generally. This was agreed. **Action:** AS will draft letter.
- AG offered to host the next FOBP Committee Meeting at her house. This was welcomed through chattering teeth by all present.
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**Date of Next Meeting: Monday March 21, 7.30pm, Chez Antonia.** 148 Downton Avenue, SW2 3TT. It's the Hillside Rd end of the street and better to approach via South Circular or Tulse Hill end of Palace Road.