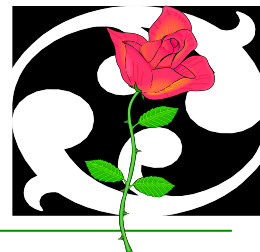


FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK



**St Anne and All Saints Church Hall, South Lambeth Road
Thursday 14th March at 8pm**

1. Apologies: Sophie Koch (Treasurer), Helen Monger

Committee in attendance:

Teresa Clay – Chair
Polly Freeman – Membership Secretary
Laura Cook - Secretary
Louise Norwood
Susan Smith

2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising

All agreed minutes of last meeting.

3. Easter Egg Hunt 2013

Louise Norwood reminded those present that the annual Easter Egg Hunt would be on Saturday 16th March with registration at 10.30am and the hunt starting at 11am. All local children aged 1 – 10 would be welcome. Any volunteers to help with hunt to meet at fountain at 10am.

4. Summer Fair 2013

Logistics

Polly Freeman reported that the Fair would be on Sunday 23rd June, 2pm – 5pm. Volunteers would be needed from 10am. Polly requested that volunteers also help put up publicity posters, prior to Fair, in local shops, schools etc.

Polly advised that she had booked various things including the disabled loo, first aid, Wyvil band and Rabatos Restaurant. She is also investigating donkeys, preferably with their own minders. Some other suggestions included Birds of Prey (from Surrey) and Chickens. Polly to investigate further.

Polly said she'd approached Vauxhall BID and Start-Up (small businesses) to suggest they might run some new stalls to ensure a better range. Cllr Ishbell Brown later advised that Richard Gould of Oval Cricket Ground had undertaken to support the Fair this year.

Polly confirmed that Jill Gregson would be coordinating the stalls and that Helen Monger had applied for all the licences but thought a deposit cheque might still be required.

The Chair thanked Polly for all her efforts.

The Chair advised that there were still various items outstanding:

- A van and muscle to collect and return tables and chairs from local church halls etc.
- Organise generator from Travis Perkins

Teresa and Louise to visit Seth to collect information on the above as well as banners, ice cream van etc.

Sponsorship

It was confirmed that Winkworth have agreed £2k sponsorship for the Fair again. They will also produce banners and leaflets and organise a mail drop.

Millicent Fawcett Plaque

Polly advised that the new Millicent Fawcett plaque, to replace that which was damaged at the base of the Mulberry Tree, would be unveiled at the Fair. All agreed that Polly should ask Kate Hoey (MP for Vauxhall) to unveil the plaque.

Security

The Chair reported that, following the disturbance caused at last years Fair by loud music and a fracas around Nobby Clarke's lorries, he would be requested not to bring music or alcohol to the Fair this year. The Chair reported that the generator that was used for the loud speakers was illegal and could have forced the Fair to shut down had there been a spot check. The consumption of alcohol in the park was against the by-laws.

Susan Smith to discuss matter with Nobby Clarke.

It was agreed that it might be necessary to have bouncers on the gates. Polly advised that the Community Policing team and Vauxhall BID wardens, all wearing yellow jackets, would be helping with security.

5. Maintenance Issues

Gardening Groups

Christina Burnett from Vauxhall CIC reminded those present that we are hoping that more streets, estates or groups of residents will adopt particular beds to garden. Volunteer vests will be provided and there are various tools in the gardeners' shed so they can work whenever it suits them.

Tommy Candler's friend and eminent garden designer has provided the Friends with a plan about the work that needs to be done in the park. Polly reported that she is encouraging Mickey Penny (Lambeth Parks' Officer) to follow the plan. This is particularly important if the park is to be awarded another Green Flag award this year.

Roses

Polly advised that she and Tommy were going to source roses to be planted around the pergola. Tommy has generously agreed to fund part of the cost of the roses with the Friends providing any shortfall.

Fountain

All agreed that FOVP funds should be used to pay for restoration of the fountain base, c. £2k. Polly to confirm stone mason.

Sun Dial

A supporter of the park has kindly offered to fund a Sun Dial in memory of her late husband. Polly to review plans with her.

Sensory (or Fragrant) Garden

Christina Burnett reminded those present of her proposal for a 'sensory' garden. All agreed she should arrange a feasibility study and explore it further.

Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Chair reminded those present that Lambeth are in the process of re-letting the Grounds Maintenance contract, with the new one to be in place by April 2014. The Chair reported that Lambeth would probably require a single contract for all parks services but hopes to convince them to sub-contract to smaller groups. She reiterated that the priority is to focus on groups with horticultural expertise, whether charitable or commercial.

6. Planning Issues

Polly advised that there would be an exhibition of plans for the redevelopment of Keybridge House on Thursday 20th March 3pm-7pm and Saturday 22nd March 10am- 2pm.

There is also a meeting on Thursday 20th March in the Wheatsheaf Hall to discuss plans for the VNEB. Polly to attend the meeting and talk about our concern that the developments will put pressure on the park (although it is considered to be outside the VNEB area).

Polly reiterated that where developments did not provide a decent amount of outside space, they should be obliged to give more money to the park against denigration. The Chair reiterated that if Lambeth's Cooperative Council was to be in any way meaningful, money donated to the park by developers must not be lifted by the council for other purposes, particularly not without consultation.

7. New Constitution

The Chair explained that in addition to our new constitution, HMRC requires further information to recognise FOVP as a charity. This includes 3 years of accounts, a business plan and details of all responsible persons. Chair to circulate for relevant committee members to fill in personal details.

The Chair reported that having full charity status would make FOVP exempt from VAT and make it easier to set up direct debit payments and claim gift aid on membership payments.

Laura Cook
Secretary
19th March 2013