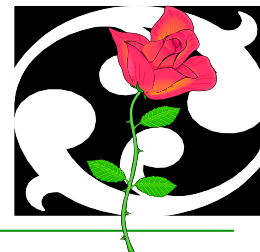


FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK



**St Anne and All Saints Church Hall, South Lambeth Road
Thursday 11th March at 8pm**

1. Apologies: Helena Lewis (Treasurer), Tommy Candler

Committee in attendance:

Teresa Clay – Chair
Polly Freeman – Membership Secretary
Laura Cook - Secretary
Louise Norwood
Sophie Kotch
Helen Monger

2. Minutes of last meeting and any matters arising

All agreed minutes of last meeting.

3. Easter Egg Hunt 2013

Louise Norwood confirmed that the treasurer had submitted an application to the council for the Easter Egg Hunt and Summer Fair. Easter Egg Hunt to be on Saturday 29th March with registration at 10.30am and the hunt starting at 11am. All volunteers to meet near fountain at 10am.

Poster to be redesigned, possibly by an art student. Sophie Kotch to confirm.

4. Summer Fair 2013

Summer Fair to be held on Sunday 22nd June, 2pm – 5pm. Volunteers needed from 10am.

Polly advised that she had booked various things including Chelsea Football Club, karaoke, inflatable slide and teacups. All agreed we should have Punch and Judy again as it is a popular attraction. The food stalls so far booked are Jerk chicken, crepe, St Anne's tea stall. Polly to approach Mumbai Delight and possibly Portuguese tapas too.

Two members of the Friends offered to run the plant stall and all agreed they could leaflet local houses requesting plant donations. Plants donated by New Covent Garden to be included on stall. Profits from plant stall to be used to fund new plants for park.

All agreed that the Friends could amalgamate the membership tent with a bric-a-brac stall.

All agreed that there should be an event in memory of Seth Taylor in recognition of all his hard work for the park and particularly the Summer Fair. It was suggested that perhaps there could be a 'challenge cup' or similar at the dog show. Another was that there could be a particular game from which the donations could be used to buy a tree. Helena to check with Jacqui.

Polly confirmed that Jill Gregson would be coordinating the stalls again. Charges to remain the same: £50 – food stall, £30 – commercial stall, £10 – charity or community stall.

Summer Fair planning meeting to be held at Polly's house on Tuesday 20th May.

The Chair thanked Polly for all her efforts.

5. Maintenance Issues

Veolia

The Chair reported on walk-about with Sally Prentice, Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure. Sally extracted an admission from Veolia that their employees are neither trained nor supervised. Sally made it clear that this was unacceptable.

Veolia have committed to regular walk-about with notes taken and action points followed up.

Volunteer Groups

Polly reported that Vauxhall One will be re-establishing the maze in the lavender garden. A mosaic making group will add games such as chess to the picnic benches.

One O'Clock Club

Polly reported that Mickey Penney, the Parks' Officer, has said that the shed attached to the club may not be used by volunteers or to store lavender. It is owned by Childrens' Services not Parks, therefore it is difficult to get any maintenance done.

New Facilities

Helen suggested that we could have outdoor tennis tables or possibly an outdoor gym near the tennis courts. It was agreed that we should have a questionnaire about usages for the park at the membership tent at the Summer Fair.

6. Cooperative Parks

The Chair confirmed that Vauxhall Park is due to be part of the pioneer group. The Chair reiterated for that an updated management plan will be required. As none of the committee has the time nor expertise to write this, the Chair has made it clear to Cllr Sally Prentice that we will need the council to fund it. The Chair will be raising this again at the Parks' Forum.

The Chair reported that there has been no communication from the council regarding the pioneer park programme.

7. Planning

Helen Monger sought and was granted authority from the committee to send another letter to the Information Officer, restating her request for a financial viability study on the redevelopment of Keybridge House. The letter will also complain about the poor handling of the planning process. The developers have failed to advertise on-site or in a timely manner, nor have they sent any letters to the Friends.

Helen reported that the Bondway redevelopers might be prepared to give mitigation money directly to the park. She has stated that our priorities for investment are the One O'Clock Club, the playground and resurfacing the paths.

8. AOB

Charity Status

The Chair reported that our accounts and constitution will need to be submitted to HMRC to complete the application. Charity status will enable us to apply for some tax refunds and gift aid.

Pricing

Helen advised that Lambeth Council is changing pricing structure for services and events in parks as they are under pressure to raise more revenue. It is not yet clear whether the money raised would be reinvested in the park. As we made clear in our Cooperative Parks questionnaire, this would be essential for us to undertake Cooperative Management.

Website

It was noted that some details on the website need to be changed. Seth Taylor's name and picture need to be removed. Laura Cook's picture and address need to be included as the Secretary. The Secretary to ask Martin Stanley to make revisions.

Polly to arrange getting the website redesigned.

Laura Cook
Secretary
13th March 2014