Friends of Windmill Gardens General Meeting

7pm, Thursday February 27th 2014 St Paul's Church House, 24 Blenheim Gardens SW2 5BZ

Minutes

Actions

Iain will send Green Flag templates, criteria and score sheets to Jean to distribute Iain do a Green Flag mock assessment with us Laura, Cat and Jean to have a meeting to discuss booking system

1. Welcome

Present: Sandra Watts, Gill Reyes, Jean Kerrigan (Chair), Chris Patton, Donna Riddington, Shaun Wilson (treasurer), Alex Gaffikin (secretary), Nick Weedon, Viv Whittingham, Annick Alet, Owen Llewellyn, Lara Bonici (Parks Officer), Dr Iain Boulton (Lambeth), June Stillman, C Weniz, A Piper, Stephen Lawlor (Lambeth), Angela Rouse, Kim Winter, Anita Thorpe, Collette Thomas, Madalen Rubalcava, Apologies: Laura Zauli, Penny Steele, Robert Adie, Cllr Rachel Heywood, Cllr Sally Prentice, Juneary Raymond, Sue Murray, Lesley Pryde, Kat Sparrow, Annie Jones, Richard Santhiri

2. Minutes and Matters Arising from last GM - October 2013

Agreed as a correct record

3. Green Flag and Green Flag Community Award - Dr Iain Boulton



A bit like the 'blue flag' standard for beaches there is a scheme called a 'green flag' http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/.

Brockwell Park, Ruskin Park etc are Green Flag parks. Every year 2 judges visit your park to see if it meets a certain standard. This is re-checked every year. To be eligible;

- The park has to be open to the public.
- You need a management plan.

There is also the 'Green Flag Community Award' – a simpler version which recognises the achievements a community has made to its green spaces. Don't need a detailed management plan. There is one judge – not looking for perfection but improvement. Iain recommends going for the Green Flag Community Award as a trial run for the Green Flag award. Fee is £50 and could be paid by council. Apply in January. Pros:

- · It can attract additional resources
- Draws in visitors
- Recognises what we are doing

Action: Iain will send templates, criteria and score sheets to Jean to distribute Action: Iain is also happy to do a mock assessment with us, so we can see if we are ready

A&Q

(OL) Q: what problems do parks face with trying to get Green Flag?

A: Many fall down on community involvement. Judges love festivals, open days. Produce a portfolio of pics and marketing. Also management plans; should be 12 pages of actions – not an inch thick. Plans can be 3 to 10 years.

(NW) Q: does site need to be good already or is it a catalyst for improvement?

A: Both. Kennington Park was good. Other sites they had to focus on areas.

(JK) Q: we are small park - will that be a problem?

A: It's more about what you are doing with your resources rather than the amount of money pouring in eg Milkwood Park is v small. There is no cut-off for size of site.

(VW) Q: is the community award inspection annual?

A: Yes. Though the Green Flag inspectors are thinking of coming every 2 to 3 years.

(SWa) Q: apart from the actual green flag what else do you get?

A: certificate & ceremony. Sometimes put plaques not flags. But don't get money.

(OL) Q: when do judges come?

A: Judges usually come at the end of May - in negotiation with parks

(JK) are Friends interested in getting a green flag community award? Yes we are.

(JK) Q: When do mock?

A: I think we can have a mini mock before April and a bigger mock in August

Lambeth Council's Cooperative Parks Programme Update - Dr Iain Boulton

Natalie Thomsen and Alastair Johnson lead on this. Last year we asked people how they wanted to run their parks;

Level 1 - Leave it 'as is' with the council

Level 2 - Ran by a management board mix of council and friends/community

Level 3 - Go it alone, independent management

Cabinet gave money to the programme to help fund testing this out

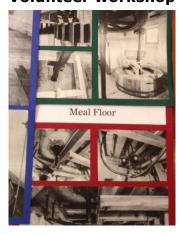
4. Report from Development and Education Officer Windmill volunteers

Last year we had students from Lambeth College. We have developed an 8 stage programme for this year. Students will get a certificate and reference.

(KW) Might be good to extend the structure to other volunteers

(OL) A: do we get feedback /evaluation form from the students? - good idea

Volunteer workshop



The volunteer workshop was in November and we discussed how to spend budget. Owen has taken new photos of the interior to go on the ground floor. Displayed on the ground floor wall. Also the cut-away drawing and exterior of the windmill. (JK) All open windmill dates are up on the website and we have had our first booking

Action: Laura, Kat and Jean to have a meeting to discuss booking in system – go with Doodle calendar again.

Training day for guides on the 23rd March

Prototype panels for ground floor

Volunteer day

2 Temple Place – free tour and exhibition about Discoveries and Science. We have 14 on the list and can take 25. Sunday 9th March in the afternoon. 2.30 to 4.30.

Update on Windmill repairs

There are two sorts of works that need doing – (1) the maintenance works and (2) remaining list of snagging / defects works

(1) Maintenance

Before Xmas, Lara Mifsud Bonici, Toussaint Reba and Balfour Beatty - now called Cofely - carried out a survey. Works commence W/b 13th May in the 4 weeks gap – work take 2 to 3 weeks. The weather should be better to allow the pitch to dry. Many things in the maintenance will also cover the snagging / defects list. Works will cost £18k (from section 106). (JK) asked about Cofely and the materials that Cofely are using fit with EH. Lara meeting Cofely tomorrow afternoon.

(2) Snagging / defects works

Once maintenance is done, the final snagging / defects will go to tender. There is £14k in HLF. After maintenance Toussaint will sit down with us to prioritise works.

(NW) Q: netting? Shutters?

(JK) shutters never got done in first set of works. (SL) not being addressed now. (JK) but windows being replaced with glass and that might get smashed if not got covers

(CP) Q: need a lip above the door

(JK) this is essential - but might need to go to EH

(MR) it's ok if the maintenance works overrun into the date of the festival – we can put poppies on the scaffolding

5. Treasurer's Report

£12,904 of which £3091.55 unrestricted. Insurance is just over £700. We have paid HLF our £2k contribution We make about £5k income from merchandise and refreshments

6. Reports from Sub Groups: Comms



(KW) Mill memories project – applied to the HLF to do some oral history work and we have been interviewing people. Put together an outline book structure.

Pansy is going to have some electronic panels so when you touch them you hear the person speaking. Plus more conventional panels. And a celebration lunch.

Cards on sale



(KW) PR for 2014 events. Booking system is up. New panels which will be available in the one o'clock club. Merchandise range is being extended – new T-shirts. Trialling notebooks and greetings cards. It is a really good fundraiser. Diverse Gifts is selling them – Cold Harbour Lane. Also Pempansie, Brixton Hill, is now selling T-shirts.

New T-shirt

Festival - Sunday 22nd June - Magdalen

Festival theme is 'poppies and prams' – loosely based on first world war. Prams introduces things on wheels that are not a truck! Skills – nurses, postmen, painters. Gill Reyes found 'The Pram Chorus' – based in Clapham.

Fundraising - Viv

We have conditionally received a grant for £4.5k from Awards for All. For most of the activities including April and November planting. Because under £5k we should be able to do another bid next year.

Parks - Annick

The volunteers keep the park clean and tidy. Get a donation of bulbs every year which need to be planted – 2000 planted this year and they are starting to show. Preparing the wheat project this year to get heritage and modern wheat planted near the windmill. Reinstate the wild flowers behind the windmill. Organising a workshop on biodiversity to make birds' nests. Workshop this Saturday to clean and weed herb bed and start wheat bed, 2pm to 4pm. Tools and refreshments supplied.

Iain Boulton - Last year doing bat walks - end of March to September. If you fancy one, I can offer one.

(JK) Q: some trees have fallen in gales – what will happen?

Lara – sometimes leave logs for insects, can leave chippings

7. **AOB:**

Next General Meeting proposed dates: May 22nd or June 12th 2014

Donna Riddington http://www.saatchiart.com/Donna_Riddington is a local artist and she is hoping to put on an exhibition over Open House in the windmill. She would like to get in touch with FOWG. She is a painter but a lot of her work is mixed media, large scale, unusual sites. She would like to show work at Open House – perhaps down stairs? Out doors? Want to communicate ideas on Brixton, Windmill etc to other people. Will help with outreach—workshops with students etc

(KW) we have an Art in the Park weekend as well. Visitors there are less – maybe an alternative.

(JK) - also Big Draw

Lara – can open park late too

(SW) - invite along to exec.