

Friends of Hillside Gardens

MEETING

6th December 2017

Present

Jesse Scharf - Chair

Nigel Duckers – Minutes Secretary

Tony Emerson

Gerry McAteer – Palace Road Nature Gardens

Martin Gough

Cllr Liz Akins

Robert Doyle

Jenny Lavis

Esperanza Harvey

Karina Skerry

Marvin Torres

Almond Torres

Marcus Warry

June Hyde

Apologies

Andreas Kappes

Martin & Lisa Wright

Cllr Iain Simpson

Cllr Regina Chowdhury

1	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p>						
2	<p>Elections</p> <p>Jesse Scharf formally resigned as Chair. Marcus Warry briefly introduced himself and was Proposed and Seconded, as below, and unanimously voted in on a show of hands. Marcus was welcomed into the role with a round of applause. JS continued in the Chair for this meeting.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="375 663 1370 823"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="375 663 613 743">Role</th> <th data-bbox="613 663 1036 743">Nominee</th> <th data-bbox="1036 663 1370 743">Proposer and Seconded</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="375 743 613 823">Chair</td> <td data-bbox="613 743 1036 823">Marcus Warry</td> <td data-bbox="1036 743 1370 823">Jesse Scharf June Hyde</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Role	Nominee	Proposer and Seconded	Chair	Marcus Warry	Jesse Scharf June Hyde
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Chair	Marcus Warry	Jesse Scharf June Hyde					
3	<p>The Wall</p> <p>The wall is currently being rebuilt. Most of the garages will be restored and rented out. Work may be finished in February. The contractors have cut the roots of a tree to limit its growth. Thanks were expressed to our local councillors for their persistence in this matter.</p>						
4	<p>Allotment</p> <p>Martin Gough reported on the allotment and growing group; see Appendix 1: Hillside Gardens Allotment Group Report 06/12/17. JS pointed out that the management map identifies all the trees on-site by number; Network Rail will not prune trees for reasons of light. Mich Thill is leaving the country for a period of time. Mich and Martin were thanked by the Chair and the meeting.</p>						
5	<p>Palace Road Nature Gardens</p> <p>Gerry McAteer reported on PRNG. He was pleased to be able to say that the £20k grant from the Western Riverside Environmental Fund – largely for clearance, planting an orchard and restoring the pond – has been approved, with works scheduled to commence next October.</p>						

	Community Payback workers are on-site on Tuesdays and that is working well.
6	<p>Mural</p> <p>Little progress has been made on previous ideas on the mural. The idea of the mural still has support and is mentioned in the Management Plan (see Appendix 2). Various helpful comments were made as to ways of progressing it eg GMcA praised Positive Arts who worked on the PRNG mural, Robert Doyle mentioned reserved funding etc – but the mural project will now be subsumed into the wider context of the Management Plan works.</p>
7	<p>Tennis Policy</p> <p>JS presented the FOHG Park Tennis Policy Document (see Appendix 3). He stressed that the management of tennis in the park is entirely the responsibility of Lambeth; coaches who want to work with the Friends have to be registered with the Lambeth Tennis Network and liaise with the Friends in regard to any applications for funding or use of our name. June Hyde mentioned that, on occasion, there were sometimes more than half of the courts being used at any one time by coaches, in contravention of Lambeth policy. Nigel Duckers suggested an additional clause be added to the Tennis Policy Document stating that all coaching should be fully compliant with all of Lambeth's policies in this regard. Martin Torres sketched out his hoped-for future group coaching plans. The tennis policy was agreed unanimously on a show of hands and JS was congratulated on his work on it.</p>
8	<p>The Management Plan and Section 106 Money</p> <p>Background</p> <p>A series of meetings had taken place, including with Kevin Crook of Lambeth, to update the Management Plan.</p> <p>In Progress</p> <p>The condition of the park is currently considered to be 'good'. The following works are due to take place:</p>

- Repairs to wooden slat fencing around dog free area
- Rehangng of gate at southern entrance to dog free area
- Repairs to boundary fence to Court 3 with stronger mesh
- Replace cradle swing in play area

Robert Doyle asked if the invading elder in the beech hedge around the dog free area could also be dealt with.

Section 106 and Capital Improvement

a) £33k of money from previous 106 projects is 'in the pot' now. This has been allocated for expenditure as follows (approximately):

- £6k for play area
- £26k sports
- £500 general expenditure

b) The Megabowl development should yield a further £341k approx of funds to be allocated as follows:

- £50k sports
- £50k play
- £240k other

JS emphasised that this was capital funding (as opposed to revenue) and had to be spent on physical things.

JS then went through the Management Plan Section 8 Forward Aspirations. This sets out a number of projects and priorities for capital expenditure including: resurfaced tennis courts and MUGA; floodlighting; redevelopment of Park Depot etc.

It has been agreed that a Park Keeper will be funded in a new office space – costing approx £87k – and a Project Manager be appointed to oversee the programme of improvements.

ND and others expressed some concern that capital expenditure not be 'syphoned off' for revenue by Lambeth. Martin Warry agreed with this and it was noted that the legitimate use of the £87k needed to be clarified with Kevin Crook.

Robert Doyle said that 'soft-landscaping' appeared to be an omission. June Hyde mentioned enforcement of the dog free area. Other aspirations were discussed with the meeting expressing general approval that upgrading the sports facilities be a priority.

	<p>A vote of thanks was proposed to Jesse Scharf for all his hard-work as Chair and for bringing us to the point where the meeting was discussing 'good news'.</p>
9	<p>DONM</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was provisionally set for Tuesday 13th Feb @ 7.30pm. Nigel suggested that the meeting dates for the year 18-19 be prebooked with the hall manager.</p>

