

Friends of Montgomery Street Park

Amended minutes from quarterly meeting, 2nd December 2009, 8:00 p.m., at 8 Montgomery Street.

In attendance: Julienne Thurrott, Chris Rankin, Christine Rigouleau, Tasca Shadix, Michael Davidson, Charlotte MacDonald, Rob Hainsworth, Kate Tomlinson, Rebecca Noonan-Heale

Apologies: Suzanne Gibson, Lynn Grant, Geraldine Debard, Ilona Amos

1. Minutes from previous meeting, 3rd October, were discussed. Previous business from meetings in September and October was discussed. Most business had been done. Notable extracts from that conversation:

- We had previously discussed looking into WREN (Waste Resources Environmental Network), which gives grants for parks in proximity to landfills. We fit this criteria, as did Dalmeny Street Park, which got funds from WREN. We do need Council support for this. It was decided that we need to ask the Council if they will support us and focus on WREN as our first major funding objective for the coming year.

Action (Chris): Speak with Richie Fraser (sp?) about WREN.

Action (Julienne): Send FoMSP a summary of the WREN criteria.

- Michael Davidson had given our comments on the consultation to Esperanza at ELGT, but she has been away and hasn't responded yet.

Action (Michael): Follow up with Esperanza again on our comments on the consultation.

- We had previously discussed contacting Friends of Dalmeny Street Park to ask them about how they obtained their large planters, which led to discussion of offer by Lynn Spencely to fund planters and trees, and speaking with Chris Peach at BCTV about planters as well.

Action (Julienne): Speak with FoDSP about their planters.

Action (?) Speak with Chris Peach about planters.

Action (all) decide where best to locate planter and trees

Action (Christine,Chris) contact Lynn Spencely to confirm that she could help with funding

- Tasca had not completed her action (mea culpa!) of contacting FoHCA about coordinating clean-ups together or working on the dog issue.

Action (All): Need a new person, as Tasca will be away soon, to coordinate clean-ups with Alistair Cairns or Gavin McNab at FoHCA.

Action (Chris): Speak with Park Ranger Jennifer Ross about policing the park more frequently for dog violations, which seem to be on the rise again with large, aggressive dogs running loose in the greenspace.

2. Report From Chair

Chris Rankin had just attended the annual CEC parks review event, and spoke about that. The Council built or refurbished 7 play parks this year. Chris felt that, in comparison to other parks' projects, our proposed projects are not overly ambitious and should be successful with persistence on our part. We should continue to communicate with Park Ranger Jennifer Ross and Community Parks Officer Richie Fraser, who have suggested we try to get a grant from Leith Neighborhood Partnership to get the play equipment painted, and have obtained a quote of 1000 pounds for the job.

Action (Chris,) send grant application to LNP for painting play equipment.

3. Report from Treasurer

Christine Rigouleau reported that the "Plant It!" event was successful in more ways than one, as we got 18 new members and 8 renewals from the event. She reported that we have made about 450 pounds profit during this year.

4. Membership/Committee Members

Michael Davidson was elected Vice-Chair of the group.

It was discussed that we need both a new Events Manager and, at least for the next six months, a new Secretary, as Suzanne Gibson has had to step down as Events Manager and Tasca will be away. Christine Rigouleau has spoken with a new member, Ilona Amos who may be interested in helping with Events. We discussed ways to make the Events position less overwhelming (such as setting dates for events earlier, and having a Coordinator for them), and also ways to attract new volunteers. Charlie Macdonald suggested that we actively advertise for them, while Rob Hainsworth had the suggestion of Events Management students at Napier's.

Action (All): Find new Events Manager.

Action (Chris?Charly?): Advertise in the Volunteer Centre in the new year. Consider putting up posters in the park and contacting students from Napier who may be majoring in Events Management and would like the experience.

Action (Tasca and Michael): Meet to show Michael how to maintain the website during Tasca's absence.

Action (Chris) Write to Suzanne to thank her for her involvement in organizing event

Action (christine) Meet Ilona Amos to discuss possible involvement in events

5. Events/Fundraising

As discussed, we want to focus on approaching WREN for funding in the new year. Christine had the idea of looking further a field for support with events and approach places like Mark & Spencer and IKEA who have budget to support community groups and have a strong green agenda.

Action (Christine): Speak with IKEA prior to next event.

We briefly discussed the spring event (formerly known as "Paint It!" but now possibly not involving painting). It was suggested that Edinburgh College of Art and Stepping Stone might be resources for an event to repaint/decorate the substations. Rob Hainsworth also suggested that Stepping Stone could be a good venue for future meetings

Action (Michael) Contact College of art student or stepping stone

Chris also mentioned having met the person responsible for organising urban orchards and this could be of interest for the park and could form the basis of a future event

Action (Chris) Contact urban orchard

The issue of storage for event was also discussed. It was suggested that the church at the corner of Easter road or the Baptist church may be able to help. The other solution would be the Police box if the owner was agreeable

Action (Julienne) Forward contact details of Police box owner to Michael

Action (Michael) contact police box owner re storage