

Friends of Montgomery Street Park

Minutes from quarterly meeting, 3rd March 2010, 8:30 p.m., at 8 Montgomery Street.

In attendance:, Chris Rankin, Christine Rigouleau, Michael Davidson, Charlotte MacDonald, Rob Hainsworth, Kate Tomlinson, Rebecca Noonan-Heale, Lynette Robertson

Apologies: Julienne Thurrott , Geraldine Debard, Ilona Amos

Previous Minutes

1. The actions from the previous meeting, 2nd December, were discussed.

- Previous Action (Chris): Speak with Richie Fraser about WREN.

Chris confirmed that he had attended a 'Meet the Funders' event in February and had discussed WREN funding with a rep. from the organization. Chris subsequently met with Caroline Sanderson of WREN and Ritchie Fraser and Jennifer Ross of CEC in the park to discuss the possibility of apply for funding to replace the security fence with steps and seating. WREN were very receptive to the suggestion and it could be an eligible project. CEC to follow up on the application.

Action (Chris): continue to Liaise with CEC on the application.

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

Michael and Chris met with Esperanza to finalise the ELGT consultation report. Michael has now put this on the website.

No further actions

- Previous Discussion - 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. Actions Julienne: Speak with FoDSP about their planters. Action Somebody to 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

None of the above actions had been done. We had a further discussion about pursuing planters for the park and agreed that these were less of a priority than other initiatives at present.

No further actions

- Previous Action (All): Need a new person, as Tasca will be away soon, to coordinate clean-ups with Alistair Cairns or Gavin McNab at FoHCA. Neither FoMSP or FoCHA had organized any CLEAN –UPS recently. It was agreed that a joint clean up should be held on Sun 28 March

Action - Rob: organize the equipment for the clean up and mention to FoCHA. Chris also to contact FoCHA with the date.

Action – Michael to make a poster for the park.

- Previous 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.

Chris met with Park Ranger Jennifer Ross and Ritchie Fraser in January about the issue of dogs. They advised that they could ask for increased patrols of Environmental Wardens to supervise dog fouling. They also advised that it is best to avoid confronting owners and to call the Environmental Wardens instead.

No further actions

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

Chris advised that the application for funding to paint the play equipment had been sent to the neighbourhood partnership but that it had been refused with the reason given that the work was ongoing maintenance and not something that the NP would fund. Chris was also able to advise that CEC had taken on the responsibility of painting the equipment and that it should be carried out in March.

No further actions

- Previous 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.

These actions had not been followed up the need for an events co-ordinator is still there.

Action – Charly to advertise in the Volunteer Centre for an events co-ordinator

Action – Rob to contact students of Event Management at Napier University

Action – Christine to meet with Ilona Amos who had previously expressed an interest in helping with events.

- Previous Action – Michael to meet with Tasca to learn how to update and maintain the website.

Michael did this and is updating the website as required.

- Previous Action – Chris to write to Suzanne thanking her for her help.

Done

- Previous Action - Christine to speak to IKEA about funding for park improvements.

Not followed up

Action – Still a good idea to contact IKEA and other funders but WREN application taking priority at present.

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

Not followed up

- Previous Action - (Chris) Contact urban orchard

Not followed up

Action – Michael to contact John Hancox about funding and sourcing of fruit trees to establish a small orchard in the park

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

Not followed up

2. Consultation Document

The consultation exercise carried out by ELGT is now complete and Michael has uploaded this to the website. This will prove a useful reference for future funding applications.

Action – Chris to contact Esperanza at ELGT to arrange invoicing and payment

3. Funding

As discussed above the process for applying for WREN funding to remove the fence and wall in the park is underway. The anticipated deadline for the application is June.

Action – Chris to continue to co-ordinate the application with input from others as required.

Funding for the creation of a small orchard in the park was also agreed as being worthy of further investigation.

Action – Michael to pursue avenues for funding and developing an orchard in the park.

4. Website – Julianne had forwarded an invoice of £99.00 from K2 Marketing for website maintenance and hosting. It was agreed that this seemed a lot of money for the service and that cheaper alternatives may be available. Additionally, nobody could remember an annual charge being part of the deal.

Action – Michael to contact K2 to enquire about the cost and whether this annual charge had been made clear at the start.

It emerged during the meeting that the website as an email forwarding facility which was checked intermittently by Michael who confirmed that it was mainly full of spam. Nobody has a regular remit to check the site however. It was discussed whether this facility was useful or whether the address of one of the committee would be more useful for people to contact the group.

Action – All, to consider the best way of people contacting the group and whether the email forwarding facility is something we want on the site.

5. Events

3 events were discussed and dates set for each.

Park Spring Clean Up – 28 March 11.00am

Picnic in the Park – Sat 29 May

Summer Fair– Sat 21 August

It was agreed that a joint clean up with FoCHA which had been discussed at our last AGM would be a good idea.

Action – Chris to contact FoCHA and add note to newsletter

Action – Rob to organize equipment

Action – Michael to make poster advertising.

The Picnic in the Park is intended to be an event to bring people into the park with organized entertainment such as the Bike Station, Police 5-a side, facing painting, Frisbee, bouncy castle – i.e things which can be put on by others with co-ordination by FoMSP.

Action – a separate meeting with interested people to be organized by Chris.

The August fair is intended to be similar to past summer events but needs a dedicated organizer to be in post to get this started.

Action – Advertises for the position of events co-ordinator.
Charly to advertise in the Volunteers centre.

6. Membership

Membership continues to be strong but many memberships have lapsed and not renewed.

Action – Charly to email all members to ask them to renew and pay as this is still an important source of funds for the group.

7. AOCB

Kate Tomlinson asked for assistance with a questionnaire that FoCHA are preparing for London Road and Hillside Gardens.

Action – Chris to try and find past FoMSP questionnaires and forward to Kate

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is the AGM on Wednesday 02 June 2010

Action – Chris organize venue, possibly Stepping Stones on East Norton Place.