

FRIENDS of WEST HAM PARK



WE ♥ WEST HAM PARK

Tuesday 21 June 2016 Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting The Bandstand West Ham Park

Committee Meeting

Attendees

Ron Innell (Chairman), Roger Jones (Vice Chairman), Lucy Murphy (Park Manager), Sean Dillon (Learning Team Project Officer), Julia Makin (Volunteer Development Officer), Sam Alexander (RSPB Family Events Officer), Abdul Sheik, Pat Mossop, Helen Mossop, Nicky Brown, Joel Farrell, Mary Edmondson, Lorna Brockett, Lyndsay Jones.

Apologies

No apologies had been received.

Introduction

Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the new staff members Sean and Julia, and Sam who is doing an RSPB project aimed at families and sponsored by Aldi supermarkets from the 5p plastic bag levy.

Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes from the meeting on 21 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record. Nicky requested an email copy of these minutes for the Friends website.

Recent Events

London Tree Week Walk

22 People attended the guided walk and helped to label and decorate the chosen trees. Mary reported that she had noticed people looking at the labelled trees during the week. Labels and ribbons were removed on 5th June, only one had gone missing. There was a small response to the online vote for a favourite tree. It was suggested that another time the voting details should be included on the tree labels. National Tree Week takes place later in the year, and we could possibly repeat the event then.

Bird Watching and Surveys

Lyndsay was asked to provide a longer term record of trends as we notice changes in the prevalence of some species. She will try to do this, but there have been changes in the style of the annual report over the years. It was suggested that we contact other nearby recording groups to compare records. Sam will find out whether the RSPB would like to receive our monthly returns, and Mary will find out more about the London Natural History Society where we already send a monthly report which has been mentioned in their annual reports.

Park Update

The tennis courts are now fully open, as is the outdoor gym. An online booking system for tennis and cricket facilities is being launched, offering several discount schemes. A coaching scheme will be starting shortly once a coach has been appointed.

Park Primary School children have been making sculptures with professional help, and these are to be displayed in the Iris Garden.

Have a Go Day has been moved to 17th July to avoid a clash with the Mayor's Newham Show.

Various local sports groups have signed up, and food concessions and a band have been booked.

Friends are asked to go along and help with activities on the day as well as promoting the activities of the Friends group.

Volunteer days in the garden will be held on 5th and 19th July.

Roger reminded the Park Staff of the need for plenty of forward notice of events in order to ensure as many of the Friends being available as possible.

Forthcoming Events

Bat Walks will be 25th August and 30th September

Newham's Biggest Leaf Pile will be on Sunday 6th November

Park in the Dark will be Friday 2nd December

Stargazing dates will be chosen at the next meeting

Dates of future meetings

Thursday 29 September 2106

Tuesday 22 November 2016

AOB

Fothergill Drawings. Mary and her husband Jack have made some progress after meeting academic botanist John Edmondson at Kew, who was able to give some pointers as to ways forward. The current location of the drawings is not known for sure. It is possible that there may be some in the collection of the Earl of Bute, and Mary and Jack have contacted the archivist at the family home, Mount Stewart on the Isle of Bute. Coincidentally Mary and Jack have a home on the island and will be able to follow this up if a positive response is received. They have also been advised that Kew Gardens have a trust fund which might be able to help once we had a firm proposal. Interest has also been expressed by the History of Natural History Society, and Jack has written an article for their next bulletin.

It was suggested that we could use the drawings as a theme for an event next summer (2017). Pat asked if we have and species named "fothergillia" in the park. Lucy will find out. She will also suggest possible sources of funding within the City of London.

New staff members Julia and Sean explained their roles in working to connect people with nature and encourage more people to volunteer in the park and enable the project to spread. Friends were asked to contact Julia and Sean via Lucy to discuss our ideas.

RSPB Wild Time Challenge. Sam explained this is a national project offering instant activities to families with primary school children. After her first six weeks of once or twice weekly visits to the park, she has had a good response from people with no previous contact with nature. A community blog is available on the RSPB/Wild Parks website.

Sam Julia and Sean then left.

Annual General Meeting

The Constitution document was considered. It was agreed to add promoting our history and heritage to the aims.

Item 3.2.7 would now read "The quorum for both the AGM and ordinary meetings shall be at least 8 members including elected officials. With these changes the constitution was approved.

Ron then stood down as Chairman and handed over to Lucy.

Lucy thanked Ron especially for his help during the year with the vegetable growing project and walking for health. She thanked all Friends members for our public events and general support and assistance.

Elections then took place.

Chair. Ron said he was willing to continue for his third year, as per the constitution. He was proposed by Lyndsay and seconded by Mary, and duly appointed.

Deputy Chair. Roger was also willing to continue and was proposed by Mary, seconded by Nicky, and duly appointed.

New roles as set out in our new constitution:

Secretary. Lyndsay volunteered to be Minutes Secretary. At the last meeting Dini Patel had offered to be the Membership Secretary, keeping the email membership list up to date and taking responsibility for sending information out to members. Ron will ask if she is still willing to do this.

Treasurer. Marion Innell has volunteered to be the Treasurer. She was proposed by Ron, seconded by Joel and duly appointed. She will now look into setting up a bank account for the Friends.

Communications Manager Nicky has been doing this job for us and is willing to continue. Proposed by Joel, seconded by Helen and duly appointed.

Events Manager and Educator Lyndsay has been doing this and is willing to continue. Proposed by Mary, seconded by Nicky and duly appointed.

Roger will make the final amendments as discussed to the constitution and produce the documents for signature by the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

Ron thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting 8.50.

Refreshments were then kindly provided by Lucy.