



FRIENDS OF VICTORIA PARK

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9th October 2020. 7.30pm Via zoom.

Minutes

1. Attendees

Present: Simon Howard-Smith, Michelle Rowles, Lorna Bennett, Bob Shrubbs, Janet Morton, Thereza Baker, Roger Batho (HLF/ABC Project manager), Nicola Priest (HLF/ABC Project Youth Involvement Officer), Dawn Trustham, Debbie Hughes, Edwin Bartlett, Jean Shrubbs, Deirdre (Sk8side), Em, Tara Lakin.

Apologies: Cllr Dara Farrell, Cllr Matthew Forest

2. Welcome

SHS welcomed everyone to the meeting and briefly introduced the project team. Although due to Covid restrictions our face to face events had to be cancelled, the group has approximately doubled facebook engagement during last year.

3. Treasurer report

LB read the report and the figures attached. The report was accepted.

4. Chair Report

SHS gave credit to the committee for keeping the group going during the period in which he stepped back, and welcomed the HLF project team. SHS explained that the group was hoping to launch Couch to 5k running sessions after members received training booked for January. We have also made initial links with Cycle Circle, with the hope of launching some cycling activities in the park.

The Litterpicks undertaken by the Friends and Gateway Church, and that carried out by the project team were successful. At the current time we have to hire equipment from ABC which has requirements attached, it is hoped that there will become litterpick equipment available for use in Victoria Park, which will enable further litterpicks to be carried out.

At the start of this year we hosted a successful quiz evening, which we hope to repeat once Covid restrictions are lifted.

5. Election of management committee.

Anonymous ballots were carried out using Zoom ballot facility to re-elect existing committee members to existing roles, and to elect Debbie Hughes and Dawn Trustam to the committee. Both votes received unanimous support.

6. Review of Constitution

No changes to be made to constitution at this time.

7. Update from ABC/HLF project team

RB explained that the team had been heavily involved in re-negotiation of the project due to lockdown. Both ABC and Heritage Lottery Fund were clear that they wanted to deliver the project. A provisional agreement is in place to deliver the project over a longer time frame which will result in building works being completed in 2024 instead of 2023.

The Barklife Dogshow attracted 700 entrants, and it is hoped that more activities will be able to take place in the park. RB also expressed that he was impressed with what the Friends group were hoping to achieve.

NP explained that they were working on setting up a youth council.

Deirdre asked if it was possible for Sk8side to receive some updates and further engagement with the young people as they had been involved in previous consultation and lack of response left young people thinking their views hadn't been heard. NP to arrange meeting with Sk8side.

8. Future Plans

SHS explained that the Friends group were hoping to work with the team to create a virtual Christmas Market. SHS to discuss further with team.

Other events we hope to carry out as restrictions allow:

- Litterpicks
- Hopefully events in conjunction with Cycle Circle
- Teddy Bears picnic
- Working with Sk8side to improve youth involvement in the park.
- Working with KSCP to increase ecology and environmental events

9. Memorandum of Agreement

Committee voted to approve the MOU document aimed at improving consistency when working with the project Team.

10. Any other business

BS mentioned the Kent Bee Plan zoom meeting on 16th November further details <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/kents-plan-bee-virtual-summit-2020-tickets-123471523651>

LB explained that when we had started we had considered using Metrobank to change they require a minuted decision. SHS suggested that should be carried in next committee meeting.

DT brought apologies from the Coffee Van that they may not be in the park this week due to taking time out to improve the stall.

TL expressed that she would be keen to be involved in future volunteering opportunities and also asked what the purpose of the orange marks in the park were.

RB explained they were a part of the Victoria Park and Me program to collect stories of peoples experiences in the park. The 2 stags were originally on the balustrades by the fountain, originally believed to have been removed during war, but recently evidence has been found suggesting they were still present in 1950s.