

Friends of Larkhall Park meeting
7th March 2023 7.30 pm
Al-Nagashi Mosque & Centre 283 - 291 Wandsworth Road, SW8 2ND

MINUTES

Nooruddin came to welcome us. They kindly provided tea, milk, free WiFi and biscuits. NB: Mosque prayers run until 8pm.

Hanan Mahmoud <admin@emca.org.uk>

Adel Negash <gm@emca.org.uk>;

PRESENT: Ben Rymer, Carl Kowsky, Nickie Bell, Florence DH, Sarah Dinwiddie
On zoom: Ida Turner, Linda Mills, Gareth Davison

Apologies: Linda Suggate, Nigel

1. Stockwell Festival: last time the festival cost circa £33k.
Even if we get the applications in now - there is a 12 + week delay before getting the money. Mia Harris has concerns that we can't put deposits down before this money is guaranteed.
Gareth, Ben, Carl and her met: thoughts are to do sth smaller, over the summer. Proposed meeting 11.30 am Friday about this, & potentially putting in bids for festival next year.
2. Community Garden update - Nickie
Inc commemorative tree for Pegatha & memorial Children's Garden.`

Nickie, Nigel and José met Sat 4th March at the garden.

Idea to coordinate with the Community Garden and social prescribing (Linda M). Also social group with lunch at the pub?

Gareth to draft something and liaise with Florence to publicise volunteering in the garden on Saturdays and other days.

Peggy who died, and was a key member of the community garden didn't want flowers but donations to the Friends of Larkhall Park.

Publicise Peggy and her wish for donation to The Friends of Larkhall Park on the FOLP website with a means of payment

Gareth gave FOLP bank acct details and his paypal details to Melanie, Peggy's friend who organised the funeral, and they were on the order of service. He has currently received £500 in her name, into his bank account.

3. Lunch Club - Courland Grove Baptist Church - support from FOLP?

Linda M suggested linking him again with other supermarket foodbanks
Gareth to approach Gails Bakery at Vauxhall
St Giles Trust store - non regular sized - Kennington
Linda M suggested going to local supermarkets - Hallaways, Tescos, JS
FOLP agreed a one-off donation of £50 to Community Lunch.
Ben R to organise this.

4. Banking update - Gareth - signatories still in progress.
A process for expenses will then be put in place by Gareth.

5. Lighting in the park - organise a walkaround with a representative (and not exclusively male) group

6. Alex's report and update on park issues is included below.

7. Masterplan strategy - Alex D agreed to contact some possible external facilitators. There will be an update on this at LPPB meeting Thurs 16th March.
How does the FOLP want to proceed?

Other actions:

Send a thank you from FoLP to Delta, for having alerted us to the possibility of trees available for free, for the park. We received: 15 Cherry Plum, 10 Hawthorn, 10 Dogwood, 5 Goat Willow.

Meeting ended: 9 pm.

Other pending issues not discussed as time did not allow:

- Guidelines for park noticeboards and process/permissions for notices?
- Redo website - contact area, newsletter sign-up, donation, linking with our social platforms and Google calendar, membership sign-up areas in particular - part of fundraiser / marketing role
- Information panels about Larkhall Park - who can store them? (currently in LP changing rooms). Scan them (some A1 size)
- Café status update and next steps
- One o'clock club update - David Oxley
- Larkhall Depot update - Carl
Carl met with David O Thurs 2nd March, asked him to put a question to Lambeth, so that FOLP can be involved in the redesign.

Update on Paid Fundraising position for Larkhall Park

This was agreed in principle at last FoLP meeting, Feb 2023, by the committee, and at the LPPB meeting in Jan 2021, by all present. Agreement was that the LPPB could find up to £5k to fund this role for 6 months (Job description and statement of work provided).

LPPB meeting Feb 2023, Cllr Joanne Simpson wanted more time to review this (she was not present at LPPB meetings in Dec 2022 and Jan 2023).

LPPB meeting 16th March 2023, all present, inc Alex Draper, Ian Ross, Cllr David Oxley and Cllr Joanne Simpson agreed this role is positive, with a likelihood of bringing additional funding to the park, and approved it.

Park update from ALEX DRAPER:

Volunteer days

- Sat 11th March - 11am till 2pm
- Sun 2nd April - 11am till 2pm
- Sat 15th April - 11am till 2pm
- Sat 14th May - 11am till 2pm

Two picnic tables are delivered – so we need suggestions of where to place. I think one should go nr east toddler play area.

Signage for petanque has arrived – hope to put up this week.

The asbestos survey has begun today and will take most of the week – involving 104 samples mostly concentrated on mounds, new play area and remaining cable working areas. Report should be with us in 1-2 weeks thereafter. Cost c £20k. I have completed the H&S funding application and Ian will submit.

Café/changing rooms roof: The contractor for roof repairs has been appointed. They are being set up as a supplier. As soon as I know when they will start I will let you know. I would imagine early April. We will replace the plant on the flat roof, as this is a major source of water ingress. The new plant will then be connected to the existing kitchen equipment and commissioned for use. This is the most logical and practical thing to do as it stands, as even if a future tenant wanted to remove the kitchen equipment, they could do so and it will not affect the new plant.

Landscape:

New trial flower intensive meadow areas are going in this week with volunteers helping tomorrow (7th). Wildflower turf (super pollinator) and seeded techniques being used. I will put up a notice for the dry garden WIP bed nr priory Grove entrance.

Community garden hedge plants are heeled in and can be planted once asbestos survey has been received. Although section between lighting poles will have to wait until cable relayed but there will be a dug trench to plant into!

David will be completing the Southville bed planting through March.

Colin has submitted a plan for the Wandsworth rd long bed. I have passed to colleagues and Linda for Comments. Colin on leave for rest of March.

Remaining woodland plants should go in March too.

Working up a spec for path and brick wall repairs throughout the park etc for next financial year

Vehicle access control measures and in progress.

Play ground (west): slide repaired (hurray) I have not received update yet from PIT team re other repairs but the parts are on order. New swing equipment for east play area will be required for new financial year as the current has reached the end of its service.

Earthwright should be giving an update this week too.

Trees: I have reported today a hung branch nr play area (west) that will be dealt with tomorrow/Wednesday. Hope to meet with John Mackie tree officer to talk about a number of issues next week.

Samia (mobile café): quote will be received within a week re outdoor power point. I will be connecting Samia with our principle Environmental health officer to pick up on the various standards certificates and process for applying to trade in Lambeth Parks.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next FoLP committee meeting will be on
Monday 17th April 7.30 pm at The Surprise Pub, in the annexe (and on Zoom).

The next Larkhall Park Partnership Board meeting will be on
Thursday 20th April 6.15 pm Oasis Adventure Playground
Alex Draper will send an invitation with a Teams link as well.