

**Friends of Eaton Park
Committee Meeting held in Eaton Park Community Centre
Thursday 27 August 2009 at 7pm**

1. Minutes of last meeting

These were accepted.

2. Matters arising

(2.4) Judith wrote to Simon Meeks on the 13 August about the question of a park keeper for Eaton Park.

(3) Christine reported that at present there is an offer of £1 for adults and 50p for children for putting and bowls.

(3) Kevin has identified four people, including himself who are interested in attending a taster session for playing bowls. He is going to look into an early evening session.

(3.3) Eva passed on to Helen contact details for Orbit Housing.

(5) Judith has written to Helen Selleck. Norwich City Council's programme is available for the end of April. She agreed it would be good to make promotional links.

Agreed

Judith to ask whether NCC would include Friends of Eaton Park's website address on NCC print and online media promoting events at the park. Our site offers a simple way to see all Eaton Park events in one place instead of having to hunt for them amidst other information as on NCC's website. There is also a need for clarification of how posters get placed in the North Park Avenue notice and Community Centre notice boards.

(8) Judith reported our insurance has been renewed. Judith has also emailed the dog warden to invite her to attend an FOEP meeting but has not received a response.

(10.1) Judith reported that Fiona has given a spare Radar key to the café.

(10.4) NCC has produced a new map of where paths are to be mown in the wildflower area. This now avoids the area planted by the Friends and we have been given a copy of the map.

3. Correspondence

Fiona has sent through a couple of emails about funding opportunities. Christine reported that we have been approached by an independent TV company to make a documentary *Britain's Park Story* for BBC 4 and to be shown next spring. Communications at Norwich City Council are now involved. They are considering featuring Eaton Park.

Agreed

Christine to contact Fiona to find who is leading on this in communications so that we can offer our help.

4. Treasurer's Report

Last year's accounts are with the auditor. Kevin circulated the end of year accounts. We have a balance of £1,577.32. This is made up of £119.49 restricted funds from Norwich City Council and the rest is unrestricted.

The total cost of display boards is £175 including delivery and VAT. Christine also looked in to cheaper options which offer a saving of £40. It was agreed to go with the first option and to direct the remaining restricted funds towards this.

Action

Liz to approach the Community Centre about storing the boards in return for being able to use them, on request, for their own activities.

5. Events

5.1 Chess set; Glenis has donated to Friends of Eaton Park a large-scale outdoor chess board. Vic proposed a vote of thanks – which was heartily given.

Agreed

We will aim to start chess in the park for next summer. Christine to put out a call for large chess pieces on freecycle.

5.2 Boot camp; new user group has been identified and needs to be added to the website. Christine and Eva to liaise on this.

5.3 Christmas event; Christine has written to Guy Bushnell who had proposed the idea of a Christmas Fair, to see if he would like to help. He has not responded and it was agreed that we won't follow through this idea.

5.4 Talk by Andy Anderson. Andy is an authority on Eaton Park and is likely to be interviewed in the forthcoming documentary about British parks (3 above). It was agreed that FOEP should promote a talk about the park but that we should hold off until later next year to identify the best time for this.

Agreed Christine to let Andy know we would like to do a talk with him next year and will get in touch when we have an idea of timings.

5.5 Santa Run, December 6; We will support the event with an exhibition and tombola.

5.6 Christine visited the railway earlier in the week. She witnessed a steam-up of a miniature traction engine and discussed an idea with them for organizing a steam up event in the park. She offered FOEP support for such an event.

6. Survey

The survey has raised many interesting points. Findings will be useful to share with the NCC and to support funding bids. Helen and Christine are going to draw together findings in a report. This can be made available on-line and emailed to respondents who expressed interest in knowing research findings. It can also be sent to the press.

15% of people were disabled, which is higher than the national average. Judith suggested that if we decide to progress the idea of an adult play area, it might be easier to raise funding if the area is designed to be appropriate for disabled adults.

Liz reported on an interesting visit to Bowthorpe Road Park which has a large and well-equipped adult play area.

7. Membership

Christine reported that Janet is going to join the Friends, and is interested in looking at the option of taking on the role of membership secretary and possibly doing a newsletter. However, she is unable to start until mid September.

Agreed

Liz offered to do the renewal mailing. Helen to write letter and supply this and annual report to Liz. Kevin to supply membership forms and list. Liz to get envelopes and stamps and to charge Friends.

8. Environmental activities

8.1 Norwich in Bloom – Vic reported that results take some time to come through. Awards are presented on the 16 September in Gorleston. This is the first year Norwich has been included in the international competition so the city has done very well.

9. Projects and fundraising

Christine, Helen and Kevin have met and are going to meet again next Wednesday.

10. Any other business

Three of the interviews conducted by Christine of senior local residents, have been included in a new book 'Norwich Memories' published by Norwich Living History Group and available for £10 in Waterstones. Christine has been asked by the co-ordinator of the group to thank Liz and others who had been involved. She circulated publicity from the group seeking to recruit new interviewers. Liz reported that at the book launch attended by herself and Christine, Christine was specially thanked for the work she had done to bring Friends of Eaton Park and people locally into the project.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

Thursday 24 September at 7pm in Eaton Park Community Centre.