

**Friends of Eaton Park
Committee Meeting held in Eaton Park Community Centre
Thursday 29 October 2009 at 7pm**

1. Minutes of last meeting

These were accepted.

2. Matters arising

(2.3) Moira Ross Dempster, Dog Warden, has sent her apologies and will re-schedule her presentation to us for another meeting.

3. Correspondence

3.1 Fiona Tibbit has written to tell us there will be a River clean up in Earlham Park at 10am on 11 November. Meet at the picnic area at Watton Road Bridge. Refreshments and equipment will be provided.

3.2 Eva has put a young girl interested in footballing opportunities in touch with Jex Rangers.

3.3 Judith has had a complaint about the two gates on North Park Avenue that are very difficult for bikes and people in wheelchairs to navigate. Other members of the committee had also received comments on this poorly designed access point.

Agreed

The committee asked Judith to bring the issue up with Simon Meeks and ask for a bike and wheelchair option to be installed.

3.4 Gemma has received offers of help from two contacts. One is a graphic designer and has offered to design our logo for free. The second works for Plantscape and may be able to find us some plants such as variegated ivy to help with masking the water tank.

Agreed

Gemma to ask graphic design contact to forward samples of her work for initial consideration. Judith to follow up with Fiona on planting plans for the tennis court hedge and the water tank. Gemma to express enthusiasm on behalf of FOEP on the possibility of being donated plants suitable for masking the water tank and to find out what is possible.

4. Treasurer's Report

Our current balance is £1528.33. Over the past month we have had expenses of £373.42 on the new display boards, our insurance with BTCV and hosting the website; and income of £116.30 from memberships and tea monies.

5. Events

5.1 Santa Run

Christine reported that for Radio Heart's Santa Run on Sunday 6 December other confirmed attractions include a massive aircraft carrier and boats on the boating lake. Jason Francis from Eaton Park Boot Camp has emailed to say members from his group are all doing the Santa Run. The run is in aid of two local cancer charities and the event lasts from midday til 4pm.

Action

Helen and Christine to update the Eaton Park display for the event. All to bring items for the fundraising tombola to the next meeting.

5.2 Filming in Eaton Park

Christine reported that filming for a new TV programme on British Parks had taken place in Eaton Park on Monday. The presenter is Dan Cruikshank. Andy Anderson who has written about the park was interviewed, as was Harry Herring and representatives from Norwich and District Society of Model Engineers, Norwich Model Boat Club and Norwich Stars Cycle Speedway Club. Lots of footage was filmed including the fantastic boat display and Dan Cruikshank having a train ride.

5.3 Talk by Andy Anderson

Christine reported that Andy Anderson has lent her several photos of the park. She has obtained permission to put them on the website. Andy is keen to do a talk. He was previously Chairman of the Norwich Society for many years and has written several local history books.

Agreed

Liz pencil FOEP in for two possible dates in the main hall at the Community Centre, Friday 12 or 19 March 2010. Christine to book Andy and discuss format of the evening. Initial thinking is that evening should comprise a one hour talk from Andy followed by refreshments, questions and a memory sharing session.

5.4 Tree identification walk

Christine has recently been on a tree identification walk with Richard Hobbs, tree specialist and previously of Norfolk Wildlife Trust. She proposed we book Richard for a tree walk next year.

Agreed

Christine to book Richard and talk through format of the event with him. Initial thinking is that this might take place on a Sunday morning from 10am to 1pm, with a refreshment break in the café half way through. Christine also to ask if as part of his contract with us he would look over our existing list of trees in Eaton Park and add to it as needed.

6. Survey report

Helen has completed the report which includes a number of interesting findings. The report provides useful background for future planning and fundraising and was also worth sharing with relevant people.

Agreed

Helen to send copies of the report to respondents who had requested copies; user groups; key council staff and members and the press.

7. AGM

This is on Thursday 26 November.

Agreed

Helen to send out prepare paperwork and liaise with Vic over content. Helen to send papers to members and local councilors and to include mention of the AGM to user groups when sending out the User Survey. Judith to supply emails for the twelve councilors. Eva and Christine to liaise with Vic over protocol for the running of the AGM. Tea will be served after the meeting.

8. Environmental update

Litter pick

Judith proposed we postpone this. The park had a good clean up for the filming on Monday and City Care said it didn't have litter pickers for us to use.

Agreed

Environmental sub-committee to buy six litter pickers for FOEP. Date for next litter picking to be scheduled at our January meeting.

9. Fundraising

9.1 Norwich City Council grant

Helen and Christine have completed and sent in the end of project report form. Helen has ascertained that though this fund has closed, we would be eligible to apply for up to £1000 from a discretionary fund.

9.2 Norwich City Council meeting

At the recent fundraising meeting Helen and Christine identified a need for a planning meeting with key Norwich City Council staff to inform fundraising and planning.

Agreed

Helen and Christine to set up a meeting and Eva to attend too if available. Subjects for discussion to include events, marketing and benches.

9.3 Benches

More benches to continue to be a priority for the FOEP.

Agreed

If possible, benches to be built into forthcoming funding bids. Additionally FOEP to attempt to encourage more people to purchase commemorative benches by placing information on the website on how to do this. Judith to contact Fiona for this information and to give to Christine.

9.4 Chess

Eva is keen to start outdoor chess as early as possible next year. This might be something we can promote to local schools.

Agreed

Eva to get costs for large chess pieces to Christine and Helen for potential inclusion in funding bid.

10. Any other business

10.1 Parking

Claire Wood brought up the question of having a car park attendant and parking fines for Eaton Park car parks. Judith said there isn't funding to do this. there was a discussion around the need to discourage car use coming to the park as well as to discourage people taking advantage of the free parking it offers.

Agreed

Judith will raise the issue with Norwich City Council of UEA students and staff miss-using the car park and look into options for addressing it.

10.2 Membership

Gemma has been researching ways to increase membership and would welcome some feedback.

Agreed

Helen to send her notes to Helen for circulation to FOEP members for comment.

10.3 Norwich in Bloom

Christine asked if anyone knew what exactly which award Norwich had won. The award was won partly on the basis of community involvement and she's keen to highlight Eaton Park's involvement on the website.

10.4 PCSO report

Julie had sent report that several youths have been banned from Eaton Park and the area because of their behaviour. Also the person who set fire to the grass near the play area has been caught.

11. Date, time and place of next meeting

Annual General Meeting, Thursday 26 November, 7pm in the Community Centre.