

BELGRAVE SQUARE GARDEN COMMITTEE MEETING

10 June 2009

8.30am at Seaford House, 37 Belgrave Square

Present:

Committee: Mr J Bolsover (Chairman) (JB) (Chair)
Mrs A Bond-Elliott (ABE)
Lady J Cleaver (JC)
Mr L Fage (LF)
Commander Gordon-Lennox (AGL)
Mrs C Lister (CL)
Mrs M Regnier-Leigh (MRL)
Mrs J Wetherell (JW)

Grosvenor: Mr S Smith (SS)
Ms F Collins (FAC)
Mr J Redondo (JR)

Guest: Kate Raw (KR)

Apologies: Ms K McDougall (KM)
Lord Ballyedmond (HO)
Helen Oratore (NAH)
Nigel Hughes (FJG)
Fran Giles (FJG)

ACTION

1.0 Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

- 1.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.
- 1.2 Dog fees. It was confirmed by all that they would be increased this year.
- 1.3 AGL brought along 3 identity badges and said one dozen were on order. These are for the committee to use when in the garden.
- 1.4 SS asked if we could have an invoice for these to pass to Account Dept at 70 GS. AGL to provide to SS. **AGL**
- 1.5 Notice Boards it was agreed that the locks on the notice boards should be brought back into use. SS to action. **SS**
- 1.6 Future minutes should be advertised as being available on the Garden website. **FJG**
- 1.7 It was proposed that future minutes be limited to a summary of discussion & action points and that the pages be numbered (now done by JB). All agreed. **FJG**
- 1.8 Lord Ballyedmond requested longer notice of meetings – Dates for next 3 meetings are to be agreed at the end of the meeting.

2.0 Chairman's report

- 2.1 The Landscape Agency Report to be discussed with the Gardens Department and a definitive plan to be put forward at the next Committee Meeting. **JB/SS/NAH**
- 2.2 The mesh has been removed from the bottom of the gates improving the appearance at the entrance.
- 2.3 The enclosed areas surrounding the statues. It was agreed they are looking unkempt - Jose to complete tidy up before Open Day. **JR**
- 2.4 JC suggested we ought to charge a Maintenance fee as these sites are leased. (NAH note – there is no provision in the leases for this to happen)

- 2.5 JB asked the Committee for thoughts on restricting children and dogs from the garden at different times. The committee thought this unworkable and unwise.
- 2.6 JB went on to say he had noticed Dogs tied up near the children's playground. AGL pointed out that multiple use of the garden must be allowed to take place eg a parent coming to the garden with their children and their dog needed to be accommodated.
- 2.7 JB reported that the graffiti had been removed and that SS was to get an estimate for the repainting and repair. **SS**
- 2.8 JC also mentioned the roofs being damp and that we need to check that the drainage is working correctly. Jose said that he does check 4 times pa and was aware that the south gazebo was a problem.
- 2.9 There was a discussion on banning music in the garden – all agreed that audible music was not acceptable, however, if they used their earphones then that was fine.
- 2.10 JB suggested that perhaps we should have no rules for the garden and simply ask keyholders to be considerate – but it was agreed that ground rules were required.
- 3.0 Landscape Manager's report**
- 3.1 Border and Lawn at the North Gate had both been completed.
- 3.2 The quiet garden and temple beds had been replanted with summer bedding and the hedges and topiary clipped and the tennis hedge had been cut.
- 3.3 West Gate had been damaged by a reversing car and a quote of £1400 received for its repair – the whole incident reported to Insurers. JB asked if there was any way this could be prevented in the future – it was agreed very little could be done.
- 3.4 Paths have been rolled twice since last meeting and will be rolled again in the autumn. JB asked Jose if the tracks on the paths were caused by prams or bikes – Jose said bikes.
- 3.5 JB asked if the holly hedge would be cut before open day - SS replied no and that it was scheduled for July 2009. JB said perhaps we should get a contractor to quote and take the hedge back behind the railings. SS to arrange. **SS**
- 3.6 AGL suggested committee members contribute by working in the garden – asked if they had ever done any self help. JC said it had been discussed long ago. AGL perhaps 4 times year get together a group of people to help and if we involved people more they would appreciate the garden. LF was worried about Health and Safety. SS agreed if this was organised properly it could be done. Jose said he would welcome the idea. SS to propose an activity for next meeting. **SS**
- 4.0 London Garden Squares Open Day**
- 4.1 Volunteers from the committee were:
- JB 10.00am – 12.00pm
 LF All Day
 KR 10.00 – 12.00pm
 MRL Lunch time
 2 Volunteers from LPGT
- 4.2 Agreed just West Gate to be Open and NO DOGS notices have gone up.
- 4.3 Catering - SS confirmed this has been arranged.
- 4.4 AGL required a list of names of all those needing to use the facilities of Seaford House. **SS to forward this information.** **SS**
- 4.5 SS said that Candace Gilles-Wright had booked the band.

5.0 Questionnaire results

5.1 MRL reported to the committee that there were no surprises and that there had been a very good response. *(NAH note – further replies have been received and an update will be attached to the final minutes. We need to let all respondents know the results of the survey and what, if any, action Grosvenor and the committee are proposing to take as a result)*

5.2 Sculptures prompted a large number of comments which along with other information was summarised in the evaluation and comments section of the resulting document .

5.3 A good proportion of respondents were positive about the use of the garden by dog owners, however there are illegal dogs in the garden and this needs to be addressed.

5.4 KM wants to increase the number of legal dogs in the garden – it was agreed for this to go ahead providing untagged dogs were challenged. KM to action. **KM**

5.5 JW said if we were to increase the number of dog then preventing them from entering the children’s play area should be a priority. SS to install mesh near Sand Pit. **SS**

5.6 JB agreed with the committee that we must have photographs before any tags are issued. KM to action. **KM**

5.7 It was agreed that KM would write to all key holders saying ensure photographs are done otherwise no keys will be issued if no photograph and give 30 days to respond. KM to action. **KM**

6.0 Rules

6.1 JB and committee agreed to review the Rules of the Garden. JB to draft an update of rules and circulate for approval. **JB**

6.2 JB asked if we should allow Ball Games. Jose agreed no ball games because of the damage.

6.3 AGL put forward that we have a separate area in the outer part of the garden where it is dark and nothing grows were ball games could be allowed – All agreed. AGL to liaise with SS. **AGL/SS**

6.4 AGL - No problems foreseen at present for Seaford House the college for dates for the next meeting. These are:

Tuesday 15/9/09 at 5.00pm

Wednesday 16/12/09 at 8.30am

Tuesday 26/1/2010 at 5.00pm

7.0 Any other business

7.1 There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10.15.

8.0 Date of next meeting

8.1 15 September 2009 @ 5.00pm

Distribution: All present/absentees
Noticeboard
BSG Website

Enc: Updated summary of questionnaire responses