



GROSVENOR

Notes of a Meeting

Belgrave Square Garden Committee
5 April 2011 – 4.30pm – 5.45pm
Seaford House, 37 Belgrave Square, London, SW1X

Present:

Committee: Lawton Fage (Chair) (LF)
Mary Regnier-Leigh (MRL)
Amanda Bond-Elliott (ABE)
Andrew Gordon-Lennox (AGL)
Stacey Kivel (SK)

Grosvenor: Nigel Hughes (NAH)
Stephen Smith (SS)
Kathryn Samuels (Sec) (KS)

Guests: Yan Le Bihan Daubigny (YB)
Mrs Eastwood (DE)

Apologies: Caroline Lister (CL)
Lady Cleaver (JC)
Helen Oratore (HO)
Olga Kennedy (OK)
Martin Hutchinson (MH)

Notes copied to: All attendees and apologies
Belgrave Square Garden website
Belgrave Square Garden noticeboard

Action

1.0 Introductions

1.1 Stacey Kivel was welcomed as a new Committee Member and Yan Le Bihan Daubigny and Mrs Eastwood were welcomed as guests

2.0 Notes of the previous meeting / AGM

2.1 The notes of the meeting and the minutes of the AGM, both held on 15th March 2011, were accepted without correction

3.0 Chairman's report

3.1 The Chairman commented that the garden was looking magnificent and thanked all concerned

4.0 Landscape Manager's report

4.1 The In-house wardens Sonny Gambin and Danny Murphy have begun warden duties in BSG. With a warden budget of £4000.00, cover is limited. They have been focussing on the after school slot from 3pm to 5pm on weekdays. An advantage of using In-house staff

has been the option to cancel cover when the weather has been dull and the garden less busy. In addition, Chris Gates covered the garden on Wednesday between 6am and 8am to monitor dog walkers and Terry Partridge has been using the garden as a short cut and calling in as part of his rounds. SS is meeting the wardens every Thursday morning for a briefing and feedback session.

ABE asked about weekend cover and mentioned that the garden is now very busy between 1pm and 5pm. SS to look into weekend cover. There are two options, using Grosvenor staff or employing Gallowglass security. SS

LF suggested that if the budget is used up, the success of the warden system should be reviewed to see if more money should be made available. He pointed out that it was not possible to implement a system that would immediately cover all peak periods and that the initial roster would be very much one of trial and error.

SS reported that children had pulled down the tape around the newly laid turf and advised that a cautious approach was needed to enforcing the rules to avoid a war with residents.

LF read out a letter of support that he had received for the warden system.

4.2 New planting is continuing in the garden. SS advised DE that he had taken up her suggestion to diversify planting in shady areas and had planted some Magnolias.

4.3 The marquees were checked yesterday. SS to email ABE with the final details SS

5.0 Review of the Constitution of the Belgrave Square Garden Committee

5.1 MRL proposed enforcing a maximum length of continual service that Committee can serve. ABE saw no problem with length of service if people are willing to serve. AGL proposed listing the length of service next to each Committee members name at the AGM. If someone new wants to step in and there are no vacant spaces on the Committee, then the longest serving member should step down. This was accepted.

6.0 Review of membership numbers, wait listing and over crowding

6.1 It was the view of the Committee that the garden does not have too many members but rather that it is overcrowded on sunny days, and that enforcing the rules would resolve many of the problems. The Committee voted unanimously to open the waitlists as follows: SS

- All residents on the membership waiting list to be offered 2011 garden membership with immediate effect. All new applicants to be offered 2011 membership.
- All dogs on the dog waiting list to be offered registration and all new dog applications to be accepted with immediate effect.
- All garden members on the tennis court waiting list to be offered places with immediate effect. All new garden membership applicants including those on the current garden membership waiting list for 2011 will have to join a 2011 tennis court waiting list to ensure that the tennis court does not become overcrowded. Those on the 2011 tennis court waiting list to be offered winter tennis membership in autumn.

7.0 Summer barbecue update

7.1 ABE reported that no final decision had been made on sponsorship. She has been approached by Harrods and is waiting for them to come through with an offer.

7.2 There are two months left to sell tickets. So far 120 people have bought tickets bringing in £7000.00. The ticket sale target is 350 – 400.

7.3 There have been no ticket sales yet to outside members. This suggests that this group need targeting. Suggestions to market to outside members were: ABE

- Contact the other Garden Committees and local Residents Associations
- Send invitations to new members
- Letters to local Boards and Members Clubs
- Flyer the better local bars and restaurants

7.4 Budget and ticket sales to be reviewed at the next meeting along with ideas for raffle. ABE

8.0 Incidents

- 8.1 Following on from the incident reported on 21st March LF reported that he had given a copy of the garden rules to Toffee's dog walker. KS to check whether they have applied for dog membership. If not, this is an ongoing problem.
- 8.2 The Committee voted to uphold the one month ban on the family whose children had been reported damaging flowers on 19th March.
- 8.3 NAH said he had received a complaint from one garden member who was not happy that the rules were being enforced. NAH read out his response to the complaint which gave the reasons for enforcement, including taking action to deal with unfortunate incidents involving teenage children and overcrowding due to nannies inviting their friends to use the garden.
- 8.4 ABE reported that she had received a telephone call from a garden member complaining about police coming into the garden. AGL pointed out that they have a job to do and it was the general feeling of the Committee that this should not be hindered by the Committee or Residents.
- 8.5 SK reported challenging three young people involved in a protest at one of the embassies. She caught them climbing over the fence to get out of the garden.
- 8.6 KS commented that LF's system of tagging the gate after a garden user had exited for identification purposes was a useful tool

KS

9.0 Parties

- 9.1 The Committee approved a children's party on Saturday 7th May from 3pm to 5pm
- 9.2 The Committee approved a children's party on Saturday 14th May 11am to 1pm (Post meeting note: this party has now been cancelled).

10.0 AOB

- 10.1 The next Committee Meeting will be on Thursday 5th May at 5pm at Seaford House.
- 10.2 SS advised that the tennis court would be closed for two days for respraying
- 10.3 LF commented that the garden gates were frequently being left open and suggested putting a spring system like that on the west gate on all the gates. SS to price up.

SS