

Minutes

Chester Square Garden Annual General Meeting

Date: 26 May 2010 - 5.00pm

Venue: St Michael's Church, Chester Square

Chair: Mrs T Sackler

Present: Mrs T Sackler (TS) Mr H Sassoon (HS) Lady Henrietta St George
 Mrs R Middleton Mrs S Pignatelli (SP) Mrs S Burns
 Mr Tarling Mrs Tarling
 Mrs Y Goldman Mrs H David

Grosvenor:
 Mr N Hughes (NAH) Miss F Giles (sec) Mr M Curry
 Mr A McGowan

Apologies: Mr J Herrman Mr and Mrs Pathak Mr R Conway
 Mrs A Colt Mr & Mrs Leech Mr R Michael
 Ms M de Haan Mr and Mrs Daniels Inputkey Ltd
 Rev and Mrs Marnham Mr G Short - Eccleston Properties Inc

Grosvenor:
 Kathryn Samuels (KS) Stephen Smith (SS)

		Action
1.0	Minutes of previous AGM - 16 April 2009	
1.1	The minutes of the 2009 AGM were accepted without alteration.	
2.0	Review of 2009	
2.1	<p>NAH apologised for KS's absence from the meeting due to illness. The summary of the gardens review is given below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2009 saw Tony Carthy looking after Chester Sq as an interim gardener after Lucy Turner left. Kathryn Samuels was appointed the new Charge Gardener this March. She has a diploma in Garden Design from Capel Manor and completed her practical training with Grosvenor ■ June 2009 was Chester Square's most successful Open Day yet. Chester Sq was open for a full day and received almost 500 visitors. Guests especially liked the tranquillity of the garden, especially the rose garden ■ 2010 - Ideas from the management plan have started to be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Border – west of rose garden (previously grassy border whose prairie style had not been in keeping with style of garden ■ Last month we erected towers – roses + clematis have been planted to climb up the towers. (This year annual sweet peas have also been planted to add some colour whilst the border 	



		Action
	<p>establishes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The border is fronted by lavender and herbaceous additions such as phlox will add colour and scent ■ 2011 will see a similar border developed on the opposite side of the rose garden, but with shade tolerant planting <p>■ The outside border to the NW of the dog garden had become overgrown. This has now been replanted with purple and pink flowering plants – roses / cistus / French lavender – framed with Bergenia</p> <p>This is part of the plan to improve the experience of pedestrians walking between the gardens on Eccleston Street and future enhancements are planned.</p> <p>■ Lawn - The island bed in the main garden was turfed over last month with a shade tolerant grass mix.</p> <p>The lawn in the dog garden has been top dressed and over seeded so we should see some improvement to the turf which does suffer from heavy dog use.</p> <p>Green Thumb – contractors have been recruited to seasonally manage the lawns. They have aerated both gardens and carried out a spring grass treatment, the first of a 4-part lawn treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ With 3 borders effectively regenerated in 2 months, Kathryn wants to focus on the established borders and carry out a pruning and weeding regime to raise the standard of the garden. A few shrubs have been marked for replacement on a walk with Mrs Sackler and this will be carried out in late summer. 	
2.2	<p>TS advised that she liaises regularly with Stephen Smith and KS on garden issues and had recently spent a morning in the garden with KS to review what needed doing and which plants needed to be replaced.</p> <p>It was requested by the committee that schemes be discussed with / shown to them, before the schemes are implemented.</p>	KS/SS
3.0	2009 Accounts & 2010 Budget	
3.1	2009 Accounts - NAH advised that the overspend had been due to extra tree surgery and the topdressing of paths with Coxwell gravel. There were no further comments and the accounts were accepted.	
3.2	<p>2010 Budget - NAH advised that the budget for this year is approx £7k less than 2009, due to the tree and path work that was carried out last year.</p> <p>TS asked if there would be students working in the garden again this year and NAH confirmed that there would be a student in the gardens from July, who would be spending one day a week in Chester Square Garden.</p> <p>There were no further comments and the budget was accepted.</p>	
4.0	Supervision of children in the Garden	
4.1	<p>TS confirmed that if children's parties took place in the garden, there needed to be adequate supervision for them.</p> <p>HS commented that there had been some minor sessions of football played</p>	



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	in the garden and the committee reiterated that if it was toddlers rather than teenagers, this could probably be tolerated.	
	TS asked if KS could report back on how much damage is caused to the garden by footballs.	KS
4.2	NAH advised that the committee of Belgrave Square Garden had asked if the Chester Square Garden committee would consider having a play area in their garden. The unanimous answer was that the garden was too small to consider this.	
	NAH commented that Eaton Square Garden are considering building one, together with an adult fitness trail.	
5.0	Election of Committee	
5.1	The committee resigned as a body and were re-elected by the meeting.	
	The committee members are therefore:	
	Mrs Sackler Mrs Conway Mrs David Mrs Goldman Mrs Marnham Lady St George Mrs S Pignatelli	
5.2	NAH thanked the committee for all their hard work and support.	
	TS asked for thanks to be passed to SS and the gardens team for all their work.	
	Mrs Sackler was thanked by the committee for all her hard work.	
6.0	Any other business	
6.1	SP asked if sculptures were still being considered for the garden. NAH confirmed that the relationship with the Cass Foundation has become dormant. The sculpture in Wilton Crescent Garden by Zadok Ben David was arranged directly through the artist, there is a piece by Jed Novat going into Brown Hart Gardens, and Eaton Square Garden have some pieces from Le Blanc Galleries.	
	NAH advised that planning consent has to be obtained to install sculptures.	