

Monthly Meeting | 05 May 2012 Minutes

Present

Erwan Guillo-Lohan (Chair)	Jason Lennon
Ashley McCormick (Treasurer)	Nina Pope
Hamish Liddle	Russ Wiseman
Andreas Lang	Charlie Seber
Lydia Thornley (standing in for Secretary Fiona B)	Jen Currier

Topics

Charity Registration

- Trustees' meeting to review application: draft answers to Charity Commission questions have gone to Alison for checking and editing.
- Constitution also to go to Alison for consistency check.
- To be circulated for comments, agreed at next monthly meeting and sent to the Charity Commission.

Finance

- Ashley is still not able to access online banking: unanimous vote for shift to Co-op for better service and ethical banking in keeping with FOAG aims.
- Balance £7602.66; petty cash £198.20 from Spring event, £100 donation to come from visiting Suffolk group, event expenses £68.97.
- Agreed that we have the budget to buy supplies such as gloves: to be bought in one go and that there should be a breakdown of the materials figure in the budget.
- Receipt to come in from Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.
- Discussion that we should have more research trips after success of West Ham Park visit - suggestions costed including transport invited for next meeting.

Events

- Spring Event - reporting back:
 - Felt to be another high quality event
 - Event made just under £200
 - Attendance 91 - lower than usual, possibly because of school holiday
 - Suffolk community volunteer visitors happy, made donation of £100
- Summer Event 9 June and Open Garden Squares 9+10 June
 - We have a Get the Party Started grant for the event
 - Theme: gardening as part of a healthy lifestyle, healthy eating and activity
 - Ministry of Food interested in doing a demonstration at this or Harvest Festival - to be confirmed
 - Plan B for chefs: Gary; Plan C: young Japanese chefs at Chatsworth Road Market

- Community picnic rug design: Abbey Gardens colour patches containing circular ‘plates’ on which people can embroider, appliqué or fabric crayon favourite fruit or vegetable related foods. Ashley to help with patches, Lydia to distribute to anyone wanting to make some ready for the event. Paper also to be available for people who have ideas to be sewn by others.
- Gordon Joly will run a circular walk starting and ending at the garden
- Workshop for gardening with disabilities felt to be hard to do in a way that’s relevant to all needs; shelved
- Bug hotel workshop to be mini bug hotels to take away
- The Big Jubilee Lunch 3 June
 - Low-key event publicised to gardening list
 - Also prep workshop for picnic rug
- Summer evening event
 - Low-key movie night - feasibility to be researched by Jen
- Floating Cinema evening event 27 July with film screening
 - Nina to organize and check feasibility of event on opening night of the Games
- Charlie’s birthday party
 - Possible dates given as 19/26 Aug
- Planning ahead to Harvest Festival 22 Sept
 - Celebration of the talent in the garden
 - Chess with Charlie
 - Creative writing with Ollie
 - Wildlife photography with Tim
 - Garden design tour with Nina
 - Drawing with Fiona
 - Glutbusting table
 - Slide and film show of garden progress in the cabin
 - Ideas invited for any other activities

Outreach

- Age UK event 17 May FOAG offered stall: Charlie to do.
- Newham workshops, budget £700 - agreed as good for sustainability and outreach. Hamish to do with volunteers - Sunday 13 May Ashley and Lydia; Saturday 26 May Jen and Terri [12-4 both days].
- Lydia gave a talk at New Shoots on 30 April. Useful contacts made: East Thames older people’s project contact, Good Gym is looking for community tasks for its group runs and Alison Skeat is keen for Dirty Hands to coordinate with FOAG on events when opportunities arise.

English Heritage

- Meeting with English Heritage to discuss their concerns about weeds, membrane, litter.
- FOAG to offer two options: increase depth of gravel or plant grass. Liz Shearer to cover litter and street cleaning.
- Note by Hamish that weeds will continue to grow where ruin and membrane meet.
- Andreas or Nina to attend with Liz Shearer, date to be confirmed.

Infrastructure

- Andreas getting quote from steelworker for structures to complete outdoor kitchen area.
- Agreed that mushroom shed should be removed if no longer of use and space rethought.
- Design of station border to include Charlie’s planting in a way that doesn’t encourage flytipping.

Any Other Business

- Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens: Hamish met our liaison officer Nemone re events we can attend and Federation's encouragement of suggestions for what it can offer members.
- London in Bloom - liaising with Alison on date for inspection.
- London Friends' Group survey available from Erwan for anyone who would like to see it.

Next meeting 02 June 2012.