

Friends of Starbank Park

Third Committee Meeting

7.30pm, Tuesday 8th April, Old Chain Pier

Draft Minutes

Present: Alastair Robertson (Chair)
 Janet McArthur (Secretary)
 Sandy Logan
 Liz Nicholson
 Stuart Gardiner

1.	Apologies were received from Graham Buckley (Treasurer) and Richard Scott.
2.	<p>Where we are now, a summary of Friends of Starbank Park's gardening activities since October 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Planting:</i> the Friends of Starbank Park have sourced and planted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 plum trees 2 cherry trees 1 fig tree 1 magnolia tree 3 yew trees 2 witch hazel 2 clematis approximately 20 assorted shrubs approximately 25 herbaceous plants over 100 bedding plants around 50 daffodils 10 fritillaries 300 snowdrops have been planted by the 4th and 4A Brownie Packs based at St Serfs b. <i>Weeding:</i> To date, the following areas have been weeded at least once and some of these areas have been weeded on several occasions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All perimeter borders on the top level All rose beds The terrace border All borders containing bedding plants c. <i>Grass Edging:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All grass edges adjacent to borders have been cut and, in many instances, returned to their original shape.

	<p><i>d. Other work:</i></p> <p>Preparation of a new border at the north wall of the Park</p> <p>Rose pruning and removal of dead roses</p> <p>Leaf collection across the park</p> <p>Re-defining path edges on the top level</p> <p>Clearing of debris from several areas.</p>
3.	<p>Planning</p> <p><i>a. Short term</i></p> <p>Alastair circulated a short note on a cycle of routine maintenance around the park (attached). It was agreed that individuals should be given freedom to undertake work as they wished but to try to guide them within the plan (All). It was also agreed that the work should be as varied as possible and that the routine maintenance should be split between Wednesday and Saturday groups should the Saturday group be launched successfully (see item 5 below).</p> <p>It was agreed that a log should be kept of the work undertaken during each volunteer session (Alastair).</p> <p>The thistles are coming up at a great rate in the terrace border and it urgently needs edging and hoeing.</p> <p>Alastair and Janet will discuss with Jen and/or Ritchie whether the grass can be revived and cut in the areas adjacent to the east and west walls.</p> <p><i>b. Long term</i></p> <p>The long term aims and plan circulated by Alastair in March were discussed. Further comments will be made by Friday 18th April. The plan will be submitted to Edinburgh Council once account has been taken for the comments.</p>
4.	<p>Grants</p> <p>a. CSV Action Earth Grants for 2014/5 will be available shortly. It was agreed to apply as soon as possible. Possible projects include the construction of a children's "woodland trail" at the top end of the park, planting for the boats and redevelopment of some areas of the park.</p> <p>b. It was agreed to put following up on the possibility of a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant on the back burner.</p> <p>c. Martin Curry have agreed to have an away day at the park on Wednesday 30th April. Details remain to be sorted out.</p> <p>d. There is a "Meet the Funders Day" at the Assembly Rooms on 1st May. Alastair and Janet will attend.</p>
5.	<p>Saturdays</p> <p>It was agreed to:</p> <p>a. Saturday morning volunteering should be start on 26th April</p> <p>b. Sessions will be weekly form 10.30 to 12.00</p> <p>c. the draft letter, with minor changes, should be sent out just before Easter</p>

	<p>(Sandy)</p> <p>d. Alastair and Janet will supply their best membership lists which Sandy will consolidate. E-mails will be sent as appropriate.</p> <p>e. Alastair will formally notify the Council.</p> <p>The initiative will be supported by posters in the park, businesses, schools and lamp posts (Alastair, Janet).</p> <p>Stan Dunlop has agreed to assist with the co-ordination of the two volunteer groups.</p>
6.	<p>Finances</p> <p>The treasurer reported in advance of the meeting that the bank balance stood at £213</p>
7.	<p>Minutes and Actions</p> <p>a. The minutes of the March meeting were approved.</p> <p>b. The Council are supplying a range of additional tools and plants but obelisks and trellises are not available.</p> <p>c. Alastair asked about the potential for planting rare trees from the Botanics in Starbank Park with Ritchie Fraser. It is only happening at present in Princes Street Gardens. It may be extended to other parks but, at this stage, it seems unlikely that it will be done to replace occasional fallen trees at parks like Starbank.</p> <p>d. Ritchie Fraser is looking into Nemaslug in Council Parks. He feels it is unlikely that slugs will be an issue in Starbank. Alastair had not found any reference to Nemaslug in the HSE or DEFRA websites where he was expecting to find a pesticide approval number. Janet will check the label.</p> <p>e. Alastair will approach Newhaven Church regarding possible youth work in the park.</p> <p>f. Applications for assistance in 2015 from Beechgrove Garden are not yet being accepted.</p> <p>g. Janet will find out about setting up a Google calendar for use by the Friends.</p>
8.	<p>Other Business</p> <p>a. It was agreed to ask Stan Dunlop to join the committee. (Alastair)</p> <p>b. Alastair is going to an Environmental Volunteering reception at the Scottish parliament on 28th April.</p> <p>c. The Council has been in writing and verbally for mulch to reduce the weeding pressures.</p> <p>d. Friends of Starbank Park will produce a pamphlet advertising the friends and to get volunteers.</p>
9.	<p>Next Meeting: 7.30, 6th May, Starbank Inn</p>

Outline Plan for Routine Maintenance

Aim: to weed every border every four weeks and trim every grass edge every four weeks.

Assumptions:

1. A team of four could hoe all the top perimeter borders in four sessions.
2. Three people could hoe all the flower borders in the middle of the park in four sessions.
3. Lawn edges could be trimmed by three people in four sessions.

The Plan: This aim and these assumptions would lead to a plan for routine maintenance on a four week cycle looking a bit like this:

Week	Activity	Location
1	hoeing	Perimeter borders, East wall
	hoeing	North wall border, terrace border
	edging	All borders south of the magnolia plus the two other herb borders
2	hoeing	Perimeter borders, South wall
	hoeing	Bedding borders, star, crescent and on top level
	edging	Borders between the magnolia and main path
3	hoeing	Perimeter borders, West wall SW corner to dwarf conifer
	hoeing	Borders between the magnolia and main path
	edging	Bedding borders, star, crescent and on top level
4	hoeing	Perimeter borders, West wall, dwarf conifer to top of hill
	hoeing	All borders south of the magnolia plus the two other herb borders
	edging	North wall border, terrace border