

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 16th November, Starbank Inn

Minutes

Present: Alastair Robertson, Chair
Janet McArthur, Secretary
Liz Nicholson
Stan Dunlop
Vikki Floyd
Sandy Logan

1. *Apologies* were received from Graham Buckley.
2. *AGM*: The AGM will be held at Trinity Academy on 1st December at 7.30pm. The draft agenda was agreed with the proviso that item 5 will be "2014 AGM". A copy is attached. **Alastair** will lead on items 1, 2 and 5. **Janet** will lead on items 3 and 6a and the Chair will lead on all subsequent items. **Graham** will present the treasurer's report (item 3). **Alastair** and **Janet** will work together on items 2 and 3 to minimise overlap. The aerial video of the park will be shown during tea and coffee. Other pictures of the park will be shown. Alastair has notified all members by e-mail, hand delivery or post. The AGM has been announced on the website and the notice is displayed in the two park noticeboards, on the NE park gate, ASDA, the junction of Craighall Road and Stanley Road, Clark Road and Lennox Row, close to the 23 bus terminus. It was agreed previously to expand the committee. Alastair will ask Moyra if she is interested.
3. *Nature Trail*: Substantial progress in planning has been made by Alastair and Janet. A draft planting plan has been produced by Janet, this is being refined by Janet and Liz. Alastair has used this to draft a fund raising form for MyParkScotland. **Alastair** will circulate the draft by the 20th November. It is intended that the Nature Trail will be built around 6 Hans Christian Anderson fairy tales. Suitable plants will be selected around each tale and the aim is that the different tales will flower at different times of the year giving interest all years. It was agreed to incorporate 2 loops into the path. Janet will make contact with a professional children's trail designer. **Janet** will also look into the possibility of setting up a small library or book station in the trail. Other ideas were noted by Janet and Liz and will be incorporated as appropriate. There is a time limitation. We need to ensure that we get started in the early new year and aim to finish by June.
4. *Action Earth Grant*: Most wood for the bird boxes has been purchased around half is with Sinclair Campbell who is kindly doing the sawing. Alastair will purchase wood for the bat boxes and look into obtaining pallets, bricks and wood for the insect hotels. These will be camouflaged by plants after construction. Alastair will visit the Forth Youth Theatre workshop at Bangholm on 17th regarding using it as a place for assembling boxes and report to the committee by the 19th November. Alastair stressed the need for these boxes to be assembled by as many volunteers as possible.
5. *Events*
 - *Halloween*: This was a huge success with over 200 children and at least as many adults. Many adults had dressed up adding to the good atmosphere. The event made a profit of around £600. It was deemed good value. The decorations donated by Asda made a huge difference and the committee is grateful for the huge efforts of the volunteers. There are some improvements identified for future events.
 - The area used was too small: a larger area of the park should be set aside and more tables are needed.

- The parade required stewarding
 - The winners of any competition need to be recorded and the names, with parental consent, should be publicised on Facebook and the website
 - Good donations boxes should be available on each stall
 - Two medium sized urns should be bought (**Janet** will buy one for the AGM) to allow two cups to be served simultaneously. Pre-loaded tea and coffee cups should be considered.
 - The hunt needs to be more complex.
 - Forthcoming events are:
 - Wreath Making and Carol singing – 5th December
 - Christmas Lunch: 16th December, Old Chain Pier
 - 2016: plant sale and cherry blossom event, Easter egg hunt, wine and cheese evening, Halloween party.

Alastair and Janet will work together to ensure that appropriate permission is obtained and insurance cover is available.
6. *Bothies*: No progress since previous meeting, item carried over to next meeting.
 7. *The Park*: The park is pretty good shape for the time of year. We have collected large quantities of leaves and weeding and winter planting has continued. Janet noted that one member had pointed out that too much effort had gone into raking and piling up leaves on Wednesday 11th and not enough had gone into collecting and moving them. This is fair but four members and one non-member spent a couple of hours collecting leaves after 11.30 and moving them to the compost area. The park came 3rd in Scotland in the Green Flag People's Choice Awards. It also is now rated 5th equal best park in Edinburgh and "Excellent" in the Councils Park Quality Assessment Scheme.
 8. *Minutes and Actions from previous meetings*: The flag raising ceremony was overtaken by the announcement of the People's Choice awards and the flag raised when these came out. The remaining actions were undertaken or are in progress. Most are covered in specific items.
 9. *Treasure's report*: In the absence of the Treasurer Alastair noted the profit from the Halloween Party (£600) and that membership stood at almost 140.
 10. *AOB*
 - Janet has arranged a wreath making class for 5th December. There a 16 takers. This will be held in the bothy. **Janet** and **Stan** will arrange for the tools to be stored away from the bothy and clean it up. This is a substantial task. There is very little space in the East bothy. **Janet** will put up some decorations on the walls. Janet will describe the event and what it entails in a few lines so that Alastair can apply for approval.
 - It was agreed that a Christmas tree with lights would be a good idea. The lights would be battery powered and lit on the 5 December after the Carol Singing. We will need to seek permission from Ritchie Fraser (**Alastair**) once the exact position has been decided (**Stan, Janet**).
 - Design for Star: This will be largely as discussed. Ritchie and Julie will make arrangements. Julie and her team will plant the plants. The Friends will help as required.
 - TCV (The Conservation Volunteers) came again at short notice in October. They undertook a lot of work and appreciated the supply of cakes and coffee.
 - Christmas Lunch is arranged for 16th December. There are 13 takers so far. We will ask volunteers personally whenever possible.
 - Janet has around 50 Christmas cards. It was agreed to send these from the Committee to regular volunteers.
 11. *Next meeting*: Provisionally, Monday, 18th January, 7.30, Starbank Inn

AR, 17/11/2015