

Friends of Starbank Park

Committee Meeting

7.30 pm, Monday, 29th February, Starbank Inn

Minutes

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

1. Apologies were received from Christine Shepherd and Graham Buckley.
2. Alastair welcomed Rhona to her first committee meeting.
3. *Nature Trail*
 - a. Fund-raising: a total of almost £3,000 has now been collected. This comprises the £2890 noted in the MyParkScotland site plus £100 donated by members since the subscription notice was sent out. The MyParkScotland crowdfunding initiative has been disappointing to date. MyParkScotland is regularly referenced in the Friends Facebook and web pages. In addition, the crowdfunding opportunity has been raised by MyParkScotland and retweeted from that site and from the Friends website on around 20 occasions in February. This week's Facebook and Web page story will be about the plant selections for the ugly duckling and snow queen stories by the P2 Victoria pupils. Events look the most likely significant sources of funding for the nature trail. Permission had been received from the Council for the tea party but not yet for the Easter Egg Hunt. The applications were on a new Council form which had some disconcerting statements regarding fees. In addition, the permission letter requires us to contact the Council's licensing department. **Alastair** will clarify the situation and inform the Committee. **Janet** and **Alastair** will contact local businesses regarding advertising the crowdfunding site and possible direct funding. Sainsbury's are expected to open in Craighall Road in a few months. We will contact Sainsbury's in due course, taking care not offend Asda (**Alastair, Janet**).
 - b. Progress
 - i. Almost all the stepping stones have been laid. Four additional stones have been commissioned. These will include mention of the Friends of Starbank Park and Victoria Primary.
 - ii. Plants have been selected for two stories, see 3a. above.
 - iii. Noticeboards/statuary/sculptures/library: It would be excellent if we can afford the Wild Child Designs noticeboards and statues. Cost may be an issue. **Janet** will check prices and report back to the committee. Janet had spoken to Andrea Geile regarding statues. Andrea thinks that there is mileage in sculpture in the old Devlin Fountain. **Alastair** and **Janet** will discuss this with Ritchie Fraser as a possible longer term improvement. Andrea may also be able contribute to the development of the nature trail. **Janet** will progress as appropriate. A cheaper alternative may be small concrete statues available in

Costco and elsewhere at around £25. The library cupboard will be looked at after the next meeting.

- iv. Bird boxes etc.: Substantial progress has been made by **Sandy** with the bird boxes. Wood for larger bird boxes is likely to be sawn by Sinclair Campbell shortly. Bat boxes wood has been bought.
- v. Janet has arranged for other school involvement (Edinburgh Academy on 17 March) the Rainbows are coming on 9 March. Rainbows are donating £30 for plants and will plant these.

4. *Events*

- a. Easter Egg Hunt, 25 March: Permission for this event has been sought from the Council. This is expected shortly. **Janet** will put together a table plan and seek help from committee members and others, as appropriate. The tables required will include: reception, teas and coffees (2), seed planting, face painting, prize table – including egg checking, cake decoration, snacks and a craft table. Tables will be well spread out on the park paths. **Janet** will complete a poster themed as a fund raiser for the nature trail and arrange printing. **Rhona** agreed to print copies as necessary. **Janet** will arrange for the poster to be displayed and the event publicised in Victoria Primary school. All will assist with distribution of the poster. More trellis/banqueting tables will be purchased, at least another 3. **Alastair** will check web prices in comparison to the £38 Sandy saw at Costco. Asda and other supermarkets will be approached for donations (**Janet**). **Alastair** will confirm the licensing position of this and other events with the Council.
 - b. Cherry blossom Tea Party, 7 May: Permission for this event has been granted by the Council. **Alastair** will check the licensing situation with the Council. Further preparation will be delayed until after the Easter Egg Hunt.
 - c. Starbank Fair, 18 June: Alastair will meet Christine Shepherd to find out more about likely requirements (Christine ran the Trinity Fair in 2015). The event will be planned accordingly (**All**) and approval sought (**Alastair**). Alastair noted that he was away on holiday on 18th June.
5. *Park History*: **Alastair** and **Janet** will meet Moyra Forrest on the 1 March to discuss progress and the timing and nature of any display.
6. *Meeting with Ritchie Fraser, Jen Johnstone and Julie Milne*: Our next meeting is on 2nd March. Topics to discuss will include: Park Condition, Events, Grass, Nature trail, Star display, East herbaceous border, Walls, 2016 green flag, Noticeboard for nature trail, disabled access, plants round lavender on terrace, moss on path, grit boxes, waste recycle bins. It was noted that the Council re-organisation is continuing and remains disruptive.
7. *Minutes and Actions*: The draft minutes were accepted as a fair reflection of the previous meeting. All actions are covered above.
8. *Treasurer's report*: £100 was received in donations from members following the subscription reminder.
9. *AOB*: Janet reported that had won a small story telling grant.
10. *Next meeting, 21 March, 7.30, Starbank Inn*. The meeting will have only one agenda item, the Easter Egg Hunt.