

FRIENDS OF SELLY OAK PARK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22 November 2009

Present

Andrew Schofield (Chair)
Anne-Marie McCarthy (Vice Chair)
Allan Green (Secretary)
Jeff Barflett
Tracey Hewitt (Neighborhood Manager)
Nicola Little (Quadron Service Ltd.)
Robert Wright,, Alistair Dow (Birmingham City Council)
(11 people attended.)

Apologies:

Dave Barker (Treasurer)

		Action
	AS welcomed all present to the meeting, and introduced committee members to the meeting	
	Correction to previous minutes	
	Alistair Dow's surname missing from Attendance List.	AG
	matters arising	
	none	
	Business	
	AS presented Chair's Report	
	AG has resigned post of	

	Secretary but will continue in caretaker role pending his replacement or forthcoming house move.	
	New member Michael Chu accepted onto committee	
	Comments from floor: NL asked whether last year's AGM was better attended? AS confirmed that it was. RW suggested that we might move the AGM to September (benefiting from the lighter evenings.) The Scout Hut was proposed as a more accessible venue.	
	Festival: AD wondered whether TH could liaise with other community groups in the Ward, and that maybe duplicate their activities in Selly Oak Park (e.g. involvement of police, fire brigade local schools.) AS agreed. It was suggested that we may be able to get the Boys Brigade involved. NL asked whether scouts could get involved. AS replied that this year's festival clashed with other events. AD suggested that neighborhood forum might focus minds. AS described funding coming into the park via funfair, could be spent on events.	

	AS presented treasurers report. £1700 to be spent on park furniture.	
	TH suggests need to build relationships with local schools. NL suggested that we write to schools as soon as dates for activities are known, even if we don't yet know exactly what activities will be organized. AD suggested that retail park could provide competition prizes.	
	TH is setting up nature trail, currently got £3k funding from Community Chest, looking for matching funding from Grass Roots. This would include nature/arts trail, (school involvement) sculptures along front of the park, (which would stop cars driving onto park.) Should incorporate park history. Millennium Wood strong nature asset. NL suggested that we organize a "bat walk." AS would be interested to know whether bat boxes have been occupied. Large crowd turned out to a similar walk at another park. JB wondered whether local artists should produce sculptures at reduced costs. TH agreed, and wondered whether local schools could be involved. Sculptures would need to be vandal	

	proof.	
--	--------	--

Meeting closed at 15 48.

Chairman's report

Friends of Selly Oak Park Chairman's report November 2009

It has been another good year for Selly Oak Park and for us as a Friends group.

We were pleased at the selection of the new contract holders Quadron especially as the new contract includes a dedicated Park Keeper for the park. Early signs are that the general park upkeep is better than it has been in previous years. We understand however that the post of Park Keeper is currently vacant and we look forward to a new appointment being made soon.

We were very pleased that the Council were able to provide a set of goal posts for the park. These posts have been a great success and are a great resource for local young people. Provision of the post has also moved the focus of kick-about ball games away from the play area, which we think is better for all concerned. We were dismayed to note that the posts were recently vandalised and had to be removed although we understand that it may be possible to reinstate them at some point in the future.

The park was once again host to Robert Wilkinson's Fun Fair in June. As a result the Friends received £1300 in rent on behalf of the park. Some of this money was put towards the community events that ran alongside the fair. The remainder has been pooled with last year's fair income and will be used to purchase new park furniture. A new seat for the play area, a new picnic table and an additional litter bin are now on order. Our event this year comprised a highly successful junior football tournament followed in the afternoon by displays from local groups. Four teams competed in the football: St Mary's Boy's Brigade, CLC Youth, and two teams from Northfield Manor School. The boys certainly seemed to enjoy themselves. They each received two free rides at the fair courtesy of Robert Wilkinson and the winning team (Northfield Manor Year 6) received £50 from us to put towards school funds. We thank St Mary's School and St Mary's Boys Brigade for providing the equipment and staff/volunteers from all the groups for acting as referees. At the afternoon community event we were happy to welcome displays from the Northfield Eco Centre and Northfield Manor School PTA.

Other good news for the park includes a £3000 award from the Ward Committee / Community Chest fund for a nature trail. We are currently seeking additional funds to support this project

which should be completed by March 2010. The Council have also set aside some money for improvements to the path network in the park.

One area of regret this year is that we were unable to organise the planned mini dog-show. Initial plans to run this along side the fair were dropped with the show postponed until September. However, it was not possible to submit an event request in good time and with worries about the availability of insurance for the event we took the difficult decision to cancel it outright.

The committee met 5 times during the year and gathered together at the Fair event. We were well supported the ex-officio members: Cllrs Dow and Wright, Tracey Hewitt (Neighbourhood Manager), Simon Cooper (Parks Manager), and Nicola Little (Quadron). Tracey's input in particular has been a great help. We are a small committee and really need to increase the membership of the executive committee towards the full 10 allowed in our constitution.

For 2010 we should once again concentrate our efforts on the Fun Fair event. We hope to stage another football tournament with more teams and to involve more local groups. One suggestion is that the whole event should start on the Saturday morning prior to the fair opening so that we are not in such direct competition with the attractions. Evidence from last year suggests that the football will attract family groups who may also be interested in fete like stalls. We hope to forge closer links with local groups and schools in the hope that they will support the event more fully.

Andrew Schofield, 22 November 2009