Friends of Selly Oak Park

Minutes of the committee meeting held at 7pm on 23/04/2024 via Microsoft Teams

Present: Andrew Schofield (Chair), Ann-Marie McCarthy (Vice-Chair), Marian Evans, Helen Murie, Annette Lawson, Louise Francis-Taylor

1. Apologies:

Bob Curry (Treasurer)

2. Previous Minutes

Minutes accepted and no corrections noted.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Five year plan to go to Sue Amy to discuss.

3.2 Bill's memorial bench has been ordered and communication to install a bench. Louise is organizing a plaque for Bill and to be reimbursed for the plaque. Tree to be planted later in the year for Bill. Sue Amy has agreed a location near the central feature for the bench.

Funding also for memorial trees for Trevor Dyde. Discussion re: type of trees, query, small cherry trees. Small trees may pose a risk of vandalism.

4. Festival

Entertainment:

- Some communication between Andrew Schofield and Handel re: singers for festival. Suggestion of choir also discussed.
- Festival to start at 11.00am and finish at 3.30pm.
- Football starts at 11.00pm.
- First Aid organized.
- Circus skills to start later.
- Dog show 11.30am-1.00pm.

Stalls:

- Committee members to make contact with possible stall holders suggestions included. Patchwork Meadow, Love Weoley (UOB Lapworth/Winterbourne) etc.

5. Birmingham City Council financial cuts and how they will have an impact on Selly Oak Park

- Some statutory services will continue, for example emptying of bins located in all areas of Selly Oak Park.
- However flower beds in the park will be impacted. The likelihood is the flower beds will not be maintained at all by BCC in the short term. What can FOSOP do to maintain beds, is it possible for FOSOP to have low maintenance beds with annual flower mix etc. Gardening group limited in numbers to take on too many areas in park.
- Green Flag scheme: BCC will not be continuing with this scheme for Parks in Birmingham, mainly due to cost in time terms for management plans for this scheme. Discussion regrading how this will affect Selly Oak Park eg how to maintain this award and what to do re: annual flag raising.

6. Gardening group report by Marian Evans

- Friday 19th April - Community Bed maintained, small group met to work on this area. Also gardening group on this date met/networked with neighborhood watch who continue to patrol the park intermittently and were patrolling park on this date.
- . Next date 5th May for gardening group at Corisande Road Entrance. Suggestions of taking out some verbena/forget me nots, particularly if it has mildew etc plus weeding. Students may be able to help with this date.
- Andrew and other committee members go to Kings Heath to obtain tools for the gardening group.

7. Litter Picking Group

- KFC to carry on litter picking. It has been noticed that litter has been particularly bad around the park. It is thought this may be due to squirrels and other wildlife removing rubbish and food debris from bins.
- . Louise has reported there is increased dog mess noticeable around the park.

8. Nature Conservation and Heritage group.

- Bob and Paul continue to meet

9. Any other business

- Louise discussed car parking is difficult for dog walkers. Cars parked in Selly Oak Park Car Park seem to be used by non park users, could be people parked there for work etc. It was noted that on a Sunday the car park is usually empty.
- Also an incident occurred where XL Bully dog was tied up in the park and the police and dog warden were contacted. Took a considerable amount of time before this incident could be rectified for the dog and the people who found the dog.
- Also noted is some garden grass clipping disposed of near the entrance of the park. We may see more fly tipping in the park with temporary closure of Kings Norton Rubbish & Recycling Centre in the near future.
- On some positive notes, a gold crest bird was spotted near the car park and a family of ducks are inhabiting the park. Finally, the blossoms are looking beautiful at the moment.

10. Next Park Committee Meeting

- 21st May via teams.