

Red House Park Friends Group

17th July 2006

Meeting Notes

Jenny Hale, Secretary, opened the meeting at 7.00p.m.

1. Present

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| William Gunn, Vice-Chair | Christine Horton |
| Jenny Hale, Secretary | Beryl McGibbon |
| Guy Hale, Treasurer | Camilla Gorton |
| Steve West, SMBC | Doris Dodge |
| Tony Potter, SMBC | Kay Clash |
| Ray Wheatley | Sue Willets |
| Stephanie Page | Jean Jones |
| Elysha Poolton | Denise Crump |
| Michael Steele | Beryl Crump |
| Jackie Ward | Phil Jones |
| Mary Wilson | Margaret Macklin |
| Glen Williams | Frances Paisley |
| Dawn Williams | Philip Paisley |

2. Apologies

Sarah Carter, Chair
Jason Cross
Helga Lutz, SMBC Urban Parks Manager

3. Fun Day Review

- The general feeling was that the 5pm finish made the day too long – 4pm would be preferred for next year.
- The Friends stall needed to be in a more prominent position, nearer the pathway by the Newton Road entrance. Most people were entering the park, going straight to Swan Watch and walking away.
- Should have insisted that stall holders moved their vehicles off site on to the designated parking area before 11am. Not doing so caused problems later in the day when some of them decided they wanted to leave early and drive across the park whilst the public was still there.
- Car Boot situation was a nightmare as many of them wanted to leave early but were supposed to stay until 5pm. Movement of cars caused serious H & S issue, with many cars having to be escorted out of the park by Council staff and Friends. It also caused a ripple effect, with everyone else thinking that the event had finished and that they could also pack up and leave. JH suggested not having Car Boot at next year's Fun Day but holding a separate event instead. JJ and GW said it brought people into the park.
- Band wasn't missed. There will be a separate **Band Day on Sunday 17th September 2006, 2.30pm to 5pm.**
- Only 1 type of poster necessary in future, with just a few separate ones for the dog show/display timetable and many more laminated. Having 4 types this year meant extra work and expense all round, with many dog show posters going to waste.
- St. John Ambulance wants to have a display/promotion/recruitment tent next year. We will therefore ask for a reduced fee for their services.
- Dog Show area and PA system was a great success. Sandwell MBC was thanked for the PA system and Tim Nightingale for controlling it. Use the area for all displays next year, either side of the Dog Show timetable.

- Face Painting was a disaster as there were 3 different stalls doing it. Need stricter guide lines and monitoring next year. There were also 3 vendors of burgers but they were advised that there would be other food stalls selling a variety on the day. The Ice-cream van also set up a separate table for drinks. This had not been discussed or agreed to. JH reminded group that the ice-cream vendor would not be invited into the park again due to dishonest behaviour leading up to the day.
- Programmes were excellent and priced correctly at #1.
- CH wanted to thank all those who donated cakes for the Friends stall. Every last one was sold.
- Some of the portable bins were put in the wrong places which left the permanent ones overflowing. SP had to keep emptying one of the bins herself as it was such an eyesore and source of embarrassment right next to the Friends table by the Red House.
- Approx. #2,000 profit was made on the day
- Walkie-talkies didn't work therefore, Friends had to resort to using own mobiles throughout the day.
- RW thought Scouts used for parking duties were too small for the purpose. Need more members to help out. Could do with 2 more council staff for next year.
- Need better signs on Newton Road – further down, before people reach the main gates.
- Could do with a better PA system – one that can be heard around the park, not just within the immediate vicinity of the Display Area.
- GW had tried to send photos to SMBC via email on 3 separate occasions but all had been returned as unsuccessful and none had been used in newspapers after the event. JH advised that SC had tried in vain for 4 weeks prior to Day to get newspapers to advertise but none had bothered until the last minute. There were no local newspapers there on the day to cover the event despite every effort.
- Public all used Disabled Toilets. Changing Room block too far out and in too poor condition. Disabled Toilets however, had no running water, no paper towels and no bins.

4. Skate Park

- Cllr MM advised that there was money available under the Fair Share Deal but she didn't think it would come to the park. She had recently been to a meeting with the council regarding a Skate Park for the area.
- SW advised that there will be a consultation undertaken by the Town Tasking Group, Sandwell MBC, to find the best location in the West Bromwich/Great Barr area, to ensure the widest use possible. There should be one Skate Park per town. There is a small one in Charlemont and a main one in Tipton. The Sandwell authority had been granted 1.8 mil pounds for a number of projects, with 180k going to West Bromwich. Based on the Friends own Consultation the MUGA was chosen for Red House Park.
- CHorton had received comments from some local residents advising that they were raising a petition against having a Skate Park in Red House Park. SPage said it shouldn't be a battle between residents. JH pointed out that the Friends is a community group and needs to hear from everyone to gain a general consensus. Unfortunately, none of the residents against Skate Park had come to the meeting to air their views or discuss the matter.
- EPoolton and MSteele, local skaters, were present and very keen to see something in Red House Park. They advised that the Skate Park didn't need to be huge, just enough to keep skaters interested. They took more forms away with them to gather the comments of as many skaters as possible to forward on to the Consultation process.
- Cllr MW advised that the council had money available for the Detached Youth Service in the area this year, which could play a role in the process.

5. Any Other Business

- JJ asked SW if anything more had happened with a change in the By-laws. SW advised that once the new Good Clean Neighbourhood Act comes into action the by-laws will be rescinded.
- SW advised that the situation with the slabs being used as a ramp in the top lake had been inspected again and deemed not to be dangerous. The group advised SW that the slabs had recently been pushed

down into the lake to lie flat. Although they were no longer dangerous they could also not be classed as a ramp and held no purpose other than to litter the lake which had cost 94 mil pounds to clean.

- There were complaints about graffiti on the House. SW advised that graffiti would not be cleaned away unless it was of a sexual or racist manner.
- The official opening of the new 4-8 year olds Play Area would be held on Thursday 27th July and opened by Tom Watson MP.
- The Tan House Community Centre Family Day would take place on 19th August. WGunn agreed to be there to represent the Friends.
- The **Band Day** had been arranged for **Sunday 17th September** (the band had not been available for the 10th) from 2.30pm till 5pm. DW advised that due to the change from the 10th, her son's band could not make it.
- The leaflets produced by the Friends for Litterwatch and placed all around the park had a telephone number for the council which should not have been given to us. SW provided a new batch to us to be circulated.

6. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the **Annual General Meeting**. It was set for Monday 4th September, 7 p.m. at the Training Centre, Hill Lane, Great Barr.