

MINUTES

Friends of North Sheen Recreation Ground

Date | time Monday 7th July 7:30-8:40pm | *Meeting called to order by* Councillor David Linnette

In Attendance

Colin Cooper (South West London Environment Network), Dean Martin (The Pavilion Café and Clubhouse), Sue Burden, Dan Benham, Anna Gilbert, Pam Ibrahima, David Ferguson, Lynne Bryan, Erica Griffiths, David Sauerteig, Michael Fletcher, Rita Church, Anna Marshall, Katy Robins.

Approval of Minutes

N/A

Meeting Objective

David Linnette welcomed the attendees and outlined the objective of the meeting. The Friends group needed to become a constituted body in order to receive funding from the Council and grant providers. It was stressed that without a Friends group, it is difficult for the Council to work with the users of NSRG to make improvements.

NSRG User Survey

Sue Burden presented a summary of the main the results of the user survey from 2013. It was a robust survey with 97 replies. The results will be used to aid the Friend group in suggesting changes to the council and implementing changes themselves. The survey also demonstrated that there was a need for sub-groups to be formed, to focus on particular areas such as the environment and any redevelopment of the playground.

Potential Friends group activity

Sue Burden led a discussion on the role and potential of the Friends group if formed, with examples of:

- A WW1 Commemorative Event is in the pipeline to take place in September 2014 or June 2015 and requires a Friends group to plan the event.
- A Dog Show was proposed which would allow the group to promote responsible dog ownership whilst also raising funds.
- An environment sub-group could develop a nature trail for children, for example.
- A sports sub-group could look after the interests of the people using NSRG for sporting activities.
- A playground sub-group could develop a plan to upgrade the playground.

Colin Cooper, of the South West London Environment Network, or SWLEN, spoke to the attendees. The SWLEN is a charity which provides assistance to individuals and groups that wish to protect and enhance the environment. SWLEN are retained by Richmond Council to help set up Friends Groups for Richmond's parks. Colin noted that a network of volunteers, of different ages and interests, is required. This will ensure that the Friends Group act on behalf of the wide variety of users of NSRG. Colin added that is it useful for a Friends group to strengthen ties with other local bodies, to be organized and to engage with users in multiple ways. Colin offered to help with applying for grants. With regard to user engagement, Colin suggested:

- having a website and email address
- using social media
- updating and relocating the Friends Group's noticeboard
- using the survey results to propose new developments / activities
- holding events
- starting a membership scheme.

It was agreed that a website would be a good starting point and to take up Colin's offer that SWLEN could . All other suggestions will be considered at the next meeting.

Election of Officers

All attendees agreed that a constituted Friends Group should be formed. Two constitutions relating to the Group will be merged together and will be agreed at the next meeting. The following officers were elected, with no objections:

- Chair – Sue Burden
- Treasurer – Anna Gilbert
- Co-Secretaries – Katy Robins & Lynne Bryan

It was agreed that these positions would be up for re-election in 6 months time. In addition, the following attendees agreed to join the Committee.

- Dean Martin, Dan Benham, Michael Fletcher, David Linnette, Pam Ibrahima.

Jean-Francois Burford would be asked to join the Committee to ensure the interests of Kew Park Rangers Football Club are considered.

Topics for Further Discussion

- Noticeboards
- Byelaws
- Website/Social Media
- A Friends Group email address
- Path around the perimeter
- Purchasing a small public address system
- Plan to reduce dog mess
- Plan to chase the council to deal with the work currently taking place on the far corner of NSRG.
- The police coming more regularly.
- CCTV / security for the Pavillion.

Next Meeting

Monday 11th August, 7:30pm. The main aim will be to prepare for the WW1 Commemorative event planned for Sunday September 14th. If possible, an update on the website will also be available to the attendees.

A separate meeting will be arranged for Colin Cooper, Michael Fletcher and those interested in the Friends Constitution (Michael cannot make 11th August).