

Red House Park Friends Group

10th March 2005

Meeting Notes

Sarah Carter, Chair, opened the meeting at 7.15pm.

Present

Sarah Carter, Chair William Gunn, Vice-Chair Jenny Hale, Secretary Kay Clash Jean Jones Jason Cross Carole Calloway Paul D Moore	Sonia Vaughan Ken Sutton Cllr Mary Wilson Sadie Smith Martyn Smith Christine Horton Tony Potter
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Apologies

Dawn & Glen Williams Jill Fisher, Treasurer Walter Barber Steve West	Oliver Franklin Cllr Keith Davies Richard Young Marie Taylor
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1. Fun Day

- Group confirmed that the date for the **Fun Day would be Sunday 3rd July 2005**. Although Birmingham City Council has arranged for a 2 week 'extravaganza' for Great Barr, starting on 3rd July at Aldridge Rd Recreation Ground, with Booths Farm Neighbourhood Watch Fun Day, the group did not feel that this would have an impact on our day.
- CC confirmed that there would be no cricket played in the park on 3/7/05. Therefore, we have the freedom to use all areas of the park. Also confirmed that Brass Band has been booked for us.
- We have no grant for this year's event and will have to make the day pay for itself. Therefore, we need many **more stalls for the Friends** (plants, cakes, tombola).
- CC to check on the insurance cover needed – this may be covered by SMBC.
- OF had advised that due to excessive fees being charged this year, the group will not be able to have the climbing wall (£60 set up + £30 per hour). Country Dancers are also unavailable.
- MW advised that the Girl Guides have noted an interest. JH to contact.
- Group agreed to hold a **Car Boot Sale on Fun Day**. As there will be no sports fixtures taking place, the football pitches can be used for the Sale and also for parking (preventing the same problems that took place last year with complaints from the local residents). This will all be dependent on the weather, as a certain pitch standard has to be maintained by SMBC.
- Tony Potter, Events Manager, SMBC, was introduced and asked for his suggestions: Bouncy Castle, Bill Wittaker, Bunji Jumps, Giant Sumo's, Fun Fair Rides (Bill Twiddle), Charles Hickman for burger/hot dog stalls.
- CC suggested speaking to West Brom Town Team to check whether they had anything for the group. **Next Town Team meeting 24/3/05**. Also contact Darren Smith, Tipton Community Association (TCA) as they have a resource centre.

- Lynn Foord will be providing a display of information for the public about the restoration of the lakes. CC to confirm date to LF.
- It was asked whether there would be power on site to run amplifiers for bands/ music. Unfortunately, after last years experience (the generator was louder than the music and a steward had to guard it for the whole day for safety reasons) it was decided that music would either have to be battery operated or played from acoustic instruments.
- West Mids Pipe Band was suggested, however, this may be too costly.
- **We need activities for teenagers** – they were the only age group not to be well catered for last year.
- KC mentioned that the Rotary Club should be able to help out again with the stewarding.

Raising Money on the Day:

- ❖ Balloon release – this is possible but we need to have specific people to man the activity. Last year we had the balloons and the air but not enough people on the day to man it and money was wasted.
 - ❖ Selling programmes with lucky numbers was suggested but the group would have to fund and arrange the printing of them. Decided it was probably too costly.
 - ❖ The Friends need to have their own Tombola this year (Swan Watch to have theirs separately), so **members need to start collecting prizes.**
 - ❖ Cakes, plants, and drinks need to be sold by Friends. Members need to start collecting / organising now with friends and relatives.
 - ❖ Donations and sponsorships from local stores are needed. It was suggested that if we are going to ask the local businesses for help maybe GW could put a package together to show them what the Friends are about and what success we had last year. JH to contact GW.
 - ❖ Car Boot Sale - £5 per car if pre-booked, £7 on the day. Need license for Car Boot.
 - ❖ **Any food stalls, e.g. hot-dogs, curry, will be charged £50.**
- Need **free activities**. Many of the comments from last year were how good it was to have an event that didn't cost a fortune for the family to attend. Therefore, the group needs to subsidise certain activities: face painting, henna tattoos, Punch and Judy, Organ Music. Also suggested were tug-of-war, Crufts (scruffiest dogs, etc), penalty shoot out, storyteller (JH to contact Rosemary Bailey, Great Barr Library), reading corner, Teddy Bears Picnic. The brass band has been booked by CC and is free from SMBC. Ask the Fire Brigade and Police to attend again, as last year.
 - Charity stalls go Free of Charge.
 - JH to contact local schools to take part in any displays.
 - PDM suggested that a local resident maybe interested in displaying his Army vehicles to the public. PDM to enquire.
- We need chairs and tables for public to use on the day. Last year there was nowhere to sit apart from the band area. MS said he might have some chairs available. Alternatively, we could ask the neighbouring schools for help. JH to contact B & Q to enquire about their 'Better Neighbour Grants' – these offer up to £500 in support of local community projects – may be able to get chairs, tables, gazebos and paint for railings. Need storage – JH to check on possibility of using Hill Lane.
 - Need St John's Ambulance or First Aiders on site. TP to do an assessment for us. Looking at anything from £70 upwards.
 - Need to advertise our Fun Day: - posters/flyers (GW has offered previously, also MS offered to print), Newsletter (to be done after 5/5/95 General Election), B43 web site (JH to contact), local newspapers.
 - The problem issue of toilets was raised again. Port-a-loos are very expensive but last year we had complaints that wheelchair users could not get through the entrance to the changing rooms,

therefore we may have to find an alternative. Whichever choice we make, the toilets will have to be manned – again this was a problem last year as there were not enough stewards. **Those who left their details on the questionnaires need to be contacted and asked for help on the day.** Direct contact is needed to persuade them.

2. Any Other Business

- Several more benches have been dismantled, with just the metal being taken away. The benches have still not been secured despite previous assurances by the council that they had been. CC to arrange for someone from council to look at replacing them before the end of the financial year. JC offered to secure any future benches himself, free of charge, if SMBC would make a donation to the Friends. CC asked JC to put his offer in writing and it would be considered.
- Carole Calloway is leaving her present role for 12 months to work with the Tipton groups and therefore, will not be on hand to assist us during that time. On behalf of the Friends of Red House Park, SC thanked CC for all her hard work and expertise and offered our best wishes for the future.
- The wood for the bird boxes had been bought at half price from Great Barr Sawmills by the Rotary Club and delivered to Dartmouth High School on Friday 4th March. Once they have been completed JH will arrange for publicity in local papers, including all those involved in the project.
- Funding for the security gates had been secured and the gates ordered by Lynn Foord on 1/3/05.
- JH received confirmation from D Brown that the B106 funding for new flats on Newton Road (next to P.O.) will not be received until the 1st flat has been sold. Some of the money will go towards the lakes and the rest in consultation with the Friends.
- B & Q grants were discussed. Decided to go for Better Neighbour Grants (up to £500) rather than 'You Can Do It Awards' (up to £5000). JH to deal.

3. Next Meeting

Agreed to meet once a month leading up to the Fun Day. The next meeting will be held on Thursday 14th April 2005, 7.15pm at Hill Lane. Please bring any details of stalls / activity bookings to the meeting.