

MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDEN COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF MONDAY FEBRUARY 26TH 1990 AT 6.30 P.M.
AT 2 MONTPELIER SQUARE SW7****1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Lesley A. Mac Donagh was congratulated on the excellent work she has performed over the last year and on the quality of the report which she produced for the A.G.M.

2. FINANCIAL REPORT

David Eckhardt commented on the accounts and said that there was a net balance of £147.00. The accounts for 1989 were approved.

3. GARDEN REPORT

Lady Marshall commented on the work progress in the garden. She said that the gardeners under contract had done a good job of improving the garden overall. She was congratulated for the remarkable efforts she devoted to selecting and managing the new gardeners.

She commented on the work accomplished (repavement, installation of the urn, furniture maintenance, etc..) and described a project to bring a path along the chesnut tree rather than to restore the pavement area which is in the shade area behind that tree.

A question was asked about installing a center piece in the middle of the garden (in the form of a sun dial, statue, fountain, or flower bed). It was agreed by the assembly that the impression of green open space should be preserved. It was then decided not to set up a center piece.

It was also agreed to attempt to save the alanthus which is diseased (hollow) if at all possible and to postpone the time at which it should be felled.

4. SAFETY OF THE SWING

A question was asked by Mrs Eckhardt regarding the safety of the swing, since "as it goes back it touches the trees". It was noted that because the swing might be concreted in, the removal cost could be substantial (estimated at probably around £800). A rubberised surface could be put under the swing but would also be costly. It was agreed that the bark chips alternative was acceptable from a safety and an aesthetic point of view and that the swing would be re-aligned to prevent hitting the tree.

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5. INSURANCE COVERING LIABILITIES TO THIRD PARTIES

The treasurer noted that the amount for which the Garden Association is insured for injuries or damages caused to a third party had been increased to £2 million although the premium itself had not been increased.

Mention was made of a letter from a non resident who had damaged a leather jacket by getting too close to the broken wire mesh. No formal claim had yet been received.

6. REPLACEMENT OF RAILINGS

The main item of the agenda was about the railings.

In calculating the cost per resident, each particular case (i.e. second residence, Caiman Island base, Diplomatic Corps residence, etc...) had been taken into account.

Regarding the choice of a type of arrowhead for the railings, it was agreed to adopt the three dimensional arrow rather than the flat one.

Regarding the potential damage to the roots of the hedges while building the base of the railings, it was agreed to include the additional cost of preserving those hedges in the budget.

In response to the Garden Association obtaining a grant (for £20,000) on the condition that the garden would be open to the public, it was firmly decided that we would try and get an amended decision. The arguments which were agreed to be put forward regarded the residents maintenance duty (i.e. the obligation to employ someone to clean up), the legal objection (i.e. the powers of the Association in consideration of the constitution) and the fact that the residents pay out of their own pocket to maintain the garden for their own benefit.

We examined the worst case scenario in which the full amount of the work i.e. £65,000 was to be financed by the residents alone.

Every attendee, without exception, voted in favour of passing a precept to raise the necessary funds - i.e. £65,000 (over two years if necessary), or a cash sum of £45,000 to be applied to the railings and the equivalent of sufficient of the £20,000 gardening precept being applied to secure a loan for a further £20,000 if the Westminster grant was not forthcoming without the condition. The £20,000 borrowed would (if no grant was secured) be recovered in next year's precept if necessary. A precept of £20,000 for gardening and to include the loan potential was agreed. -i.e. a total of £45,000 + £20,000-.

On the question of the timing of the restoration of the railings, Lesley said that she would work on a time table.

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7. REELECTION FO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee was reelected as a whole. It was noted that the officers within the committee will have to be reelected in due time by the committee members.

8. CONSTITUTION

The constitution which had been circulated was adopted.

9. OTHERS MATTERSa) Rubbish:

It was suggested that each resident would help pick up leaves and branches cut off by the wind.

b) Cat feeding:

Regarding the "mysterious cat feeder" it was decided to send a letter to the lady residing on Montpelier Street who is bringing food daily in front of number 13. Besides the rubbish produced by the plastic trays left in front of the south gate, it appears that some cats have chosen to dwell in the basement of Mr and Mrs Goletka, therefore posing a potential health problem.

c) Irrigation system:

It was agreed to improve the irrigation system in order to save the efforts of bringing pails of water which Lady Marshall has been carrying herself last summer.

d) Discipline:

It was noted that a lady was observed leaning against the fence to cut an armful of green leaves. It was agreed that discipline should be enforced by each resident in each particular case.

Daniel Quirici, Secretary

APPENDIX I

DRAFT CONSTITUTION FOR THE 1990/1991
MONTPELIER SQUARE GARDENS COMMITTEE

1. The Committee shall in accordance with the governing legislation consist of not less than three and not more than nine inhabitants of the Square entitled to vote at the AGM.
2. One vote per house will be accepted at the AGM.
3. Proxys will not be accepted at the AGM unless the following conditions are satisfied:-
 - 3.1 Serious illness prevents a representative from the household attending and
 - 3.2 The householder unable to attend gives a proxy to another householder entitled to vote at the AGM who does not hold any other proxys, and is not a Committee Member or a member of a Committee Member's household.
4. Notice of the AGM, together with the Agenda shall be circulated at least eight weeks before the date of the proposed AGM and if practicable shall include a copy of the accounts with notes thereon.
5. If any householder wishes to raise an item of business at the AGM and/or to propose a motion in that connection then notice of that business, together with the specific wording of the proposed motion shall be given in writing to the Chairman at least four weeks before the proposed AGM and it shall be the responsibility of the Chairman to circulate notice of such business and the proposed motion as soon as practicable to the other householders.
6. The Rules for the operation of the garden may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting.
7. All householders shall be entitled to full access to a deposited copy of the accounts and any Minutes or other documents in the possession of the Committee and its officers and relating to the AGM and matters considered by the Committee.
8. The date of each AGM will be fixed (if practicable) at the preceding AGM and confirmed in writing when the Agenda for the relevant AGM is circulated.

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