

Montpelier Square Garden Committee

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Date: 23 September 2010

Location: 8 Montpelier Square, 6:30 PM

Committee Members present:

Mr Daniel Quirici
Lady Marshall
Mr. Yoshi Nishio
Mr. David Eckhardt
Mrs. Jane Bradbury
Mr. Christopher Didizian
Mr. Ali Malek
Mr. Nicholas Davie-Thornhill

In attendance: Charles Willis and Neil Carthy, residents and potential new members.

The Committee appointed Daniel Quirici to be Meeting Chairman.

1. Apologies: Received from: A. Cox, S. Davenport and H. Covington. As Mr. Covington and Mr. Davenport have not attended committee meetings, it was suggested that the Secretary write to them.

2. Minutes of the 21st June Committee Meeting: David Eckhardt felt that paragraphs 4 and 5 were written ambiguously. It was resolved that the Minutes be redrafted and reconsidered at the next Committee Meeting.

3. Members' reports:

- Janet Marshall (Garden Chairman) reported that our current gardener, Spike Jackson, plans to resign at the end of March 2011. A new tender for the gardening contract is being launched. Joseph Jones has already responded with a budget similar to that of Spike's.

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David Eckhardt will obtain further quotes from other experienced contractors amongst the gardeners who take care of central London square gardens. It was felt that experience and the quality of the relationship with the new gardener were key criteria for selection.

It was unanimously agreed to abandon the bird-feeding project.

In accordance with the annual pruning budget agreed by Janet Marshall and Yoshi Nishio last year, Tree Care has submitted a proposal for tree pruning for the sum of £2,500. David Eckhardt proposed to put this tree surgery to tender and will approach potential contractors with the same selection criteria in mind.

- Yoshi Nishio (Treasurer) It was reported that the budget projection is £25,000 for the next year. The proposed precept remains at £950 per household, as agreed at the last AGM. This will enable us to restore the reserve fund to £25000, after which the precept should be reduced. Yoshi will resign as Treasurer at the end of the financial year. He proposed that Neil Carthy assist him with his responsibilities with the view to being his replacement. It was further agreed that book keeping is part of the Treasurer's responsibilities, and the accounts would continue to be produced by Roger Hayward, whose re-appointment David was instructed to confirm together with clarification of any indemnification requirement.
- Ali Malek (Legal Advisor) proposed that there were several policies involved in the current insurance contract that needed to be clarified. It was agreed that he will look at these policies, contact our broker and recommend a proper level of protection, for both the committee members⁴

4. Garden rules: The new rules, entitled "Committee Guidelines for Garden," as passed at the previous meeting, were discussed briefly and it was suggested that they should be reviewed. The discussion was not conclusive and will be resumed at a future meeting. David Eckhardt said he would distribute these "Committee Guidelines for Garden" to the residents.

5. Responsibilities for Bookkeeping: see treasurer's report above

6. Voting procedure at AGM: There was insufficient time to discuss this matter.

7. Christmas party: The date of 9 December was not confirmed as time had run out.

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8. AGM and next Committee meeting dates: The chairman proposed that Yoshi Nishio considers and then reports to the committee about an appropriate date for the AGM, taking into account the deadline when Westminster Council must be informed of the Precept and the new accounting year end that has been changed to the 31st March 2010.

9. Any Other Business: Due to lack of time, the other items on the agenda were not discussed.

10. Confirmation of resolutions: There was no time left to review the resolutions, and the meeting was not formally adjourned. It ended at about 8:10 PM.

Minutes by Jane Bradbury, Secretary, with input from Daniel Quirici, and David Eckhardt

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