

**Minutes of “Friends of Dollar Park” Meeting
19th January 2010
Falkirk Municipal Chambers, Committee Room A**

Present: Robert Menzies, Ronnie Cresswell, Les Pryde, Morris Robb, Dennis Goldie, Chris Morris (Chair), Ian Gourlay, Isabel Hall, Susan Myles, Hazel Muirhead, Alan MacAllum, Ian Crozier, Jean Armstrong, Jessica Paterson, Alastair Smith, Mrs Smith, Margaret Dunlop.

Invited speakers: Pauline Barnaby & Chloe Hunter, Falkirk Council External Funding Unit

Apologies: C Martin, F McChord, C Christie

Item	Heading	Subject	Decision	Action	Timescale
1	Welcome & Introductions	Chris Morris extended introductions and welcomed guest speakers Chloe Hunter & Pauline Barnaby from Falkirk Council’s External Funding Unit.			
2	Apologies	Noted above.			
3	Minutes of Last Meeting	A McAllum queried how the committee had been selected. C Morris responded that the list of interested people recorded at the meeting of 29 th October 2009 had all been invited to form the committee. Further, Jessica Paterson had volunteered to assist S Myles in the role of Secretary. A McAllum requested to also be recorded as a member of the committee. This was accepted. Minutes of the previous meeting (171109) were accepted as an accurate record; proposed by I Crozier and seconded by J Armstrong.			

4	Grant Funding	<p>Pauline Barnaby & Chloe Hunter gave an overview of the role of the external funding unit and ways in which they could assist the group. They noted they could provide advice on targeting funding bodies and feedback on draft applications. They brought along materials on funding sources & recommended the funding event ‘Third Sector Convention’, scheduled for 18th February at Forth Valley College (1100-2000).Details to be found at www.cvsfalkirk.org.uk/convention.</p> <p>C Hunter noted that the decision on the allocation of a start-up grant to the group was imminent and that she expected to communicate this in the next week.</p> <p>A Smith suggested in discussion that the group should consider engaging commercial sponsors.</p> <p>D Goldie suggested that the group consider approaching the Council to access funds held in the ‘Common Good Fund’ which is reserved solely for use for projects within the burgh of Falkirk.</p> <p>A McCallum suggested that the group consider applying for ‘coal field monies’.</p>		<p>Committee members encouraged to attend the funding event on 18th February.</p> <p>Identify 1 or 2 funders to target and begin to compile applications.</p> <p>A potential application to the Common Good Fund to be considered once the priority list for the park agreed.</p>	
5	75K Play Area Monies	<p>C Morris summed up the group’s recent unsuccessful efforts to have a portion of the 75K funding approved to improve the play area in the park reallocated to other improvement activities.</p> <p>C Morris shared the detailed plans of the successful bid for the play area and noted that it is expected to be in</p>			

		<p>place by then end of March 2010.</p> <p>I Gourlay suggested that the group write to Council officers to express our disappointment at the play park expenditure progressing despite our protest and to note the explicit request that a fence is required to surround the new play area.</p> <p>J Armstrong asked if we could query with Council officers whether the hardwood materials to be used in the play area are ‘vandal/fire proof’?</p>		<p>Draft letter to Council officers as suggested.</p>	
6	<p>Litter Pick & Green Dog Walking Event (Sunday 31st January 1030-1200)</p>	<p>SM outlined the plans for the litter pick and green dog walking event & encouraged all members to attend and publicise the event. All equipment to be provided by the council litter team. SM has requested that Central FM advertise the event. Agreed also useful to contact the Falkirk Herald to advertise the event.</p> <p>J Paterson outlined the poster competition undertaken by the Bantaskine Primary. Poster prizes to announced on the day. Agreed to buy small gifts as prizes for the winning entries.</p> <p>J Paterson suggested that we canvass the views of those attending the litter pick, asking them to note their priorities for improving the park.</p> <p>L Pryde suggested it may be useful to get a copy of the</p>		<p>Contact ‘Falkirk Herald’ to advertise the litter pick event.</p> <p>Purchase prizes for the poster competition.</p> <p>Design a feedback form to distribute at the litter pick to elicit attendees’ priorities for the park development. Contact Council officers to request a copy of the</p>	

		by-laws relating to the park		park by-laws.	
7	Priority List for Park Development	<p>Insufficient time to discuss this issue at length. Instead, attendees noted their key priorities on a paper circulated around the meeting. Identified priorities included:</p> <p>Big ideas: refurbish Arnotdale House; replace toilet block and replace with a serviced portacabin; use walled garden as an allotment site; Arnotdale House used again; walled garden put to use again; development of a community orchard and allotments; tennis courts revamped with toilets & a changing area; establish a children’s farm beside the play area; orchard in the area beside the railway; refurbish the fountain; & revisit the George Forest plans previously prepared for the park.</p> <p>Small ideas: Toilets; signed walk around the grounds of the park; toilets; new benches; fountain relocated outside the entrance of Arnotdale.</p> <p>L Pryde suggested that we request the Dollar Park strategy documents, outlining the Council’s priorities for the park referred to at recent meetings. He also suggested that we obtain copies of the more general Parks Development Plan and Open Strategy Plan from the Council.</p> <p>I Crozier suggested that committee members wear a badge to identify themselves to those attending the litter pick event.</p>		<p>Canvass more widely to elicit user views on priorities for the park.</p> <p>Request relevant strategy document from Council officers (John Banks).</p> <p>Print badges/stickers for committee members to wear at the litter pick</p>	

		J Paterson outlined her idea of developing a community orchard in the park. She circulated a leaflet expanding on the idea and noted that John Hancock who has developed similar schemes will be visiting the Falkirk in February to discuss it with the local Friends of the Earth group. Further information can be obtained from JP.		event.	
8	Fundraising Events	Insufficient time to discuss this item. Deferred until the next meeting.			
9	AOCB	<p>FoDP logo: examples logos compiled by a Council officer were circulated. It was agreed that a sub-group would be formed to consider these, select and develop the logo. Volunteers for this group included: Jessica Paterson, Hazel Muirhead, Jean Armstrong & Isabel Hall.</p> <p>FoDP website: S Myles noted that she had a meeting with Keith Matheson the following evening to explore developing a simple website for the group.</p> <p>FoDP dissemination: S Myles reported that a small piece advertising the group is to appear in the March edition of the local community newsletter 'NewLeafNews'. In addition, there has been a request to disseminate the group through the CVS group. Further, the litter pick event to be advertised through Central FM.</p> <p>Braveheart link: S Myles contacted by Adam Donaldson to request a link up between FoDP & the Braveheart</p>		<p>Logo sub-group to meet to develop FoDP logo.</p> <p>S Myles to meet with Keith Matheson. Development of materials to put on the website e.g. background information, photos, application form for new members etc.</p> <p>Members asked to consider other routes to disseminate FoDP activities.</p> <p>S Myles to seek more information from</p>	

		<p>organization that undertakes led walks for those recovering from cardiac events.</p> <p>Friends of Kinneil: S Myles suggested inviting the Chairman of this group to come to talk to us to share experiences of their establishment and organisation.</p> <p>Friends of Callander Park: Steve Penn (Falkirk Council officer) asked S Myles to inform the group that they are seeking interest for potential members for the Friends of Callander Park group. Establishing this group is perceived as highly desirable as Callander works towards achieving 'Green Flag' status.</p> <p>Figurehead for FoDP: M Gibb suggested that it may be worthwhile to consider recruiting a prominent figurehead for the group e.g. Robert Dollar's grandson. D Goldie suggested that it may be worth approaching a member of the Royal Family e.g. Princess Anne.</p> <p>Meeting disruption: R Cresswell was cautioned re his conduct in the meeting and advised that should he continue to be disruptive he would be asked to leave.</p>		<p>Braveheart organization.</p> <p>Write to ask Bruce Henderson to attend a future meeting to give a brief overview of the Friends of Kinneil group.</p> <p>Group to consider recruiting a figurehead in the future.</p>	
10	DONM	<p>All future meeting will be held from 7-830pm on: Tue 23rd March: venue Falkirk Bowling Club Tue 22nd June: venue Lintriggs Tue 28th September: venue TBC Tue 23rd November: venue TBC</p>		<p>I Crozier to confirm details of venues and inform group.</p>	

