

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD

HELD AT 5.34 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2017

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Amina Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Youth)

Apologies:

Councillor Rachel Blake	(Cabinet Member for Strategic Development & Waste)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Cabinet Member for Work & Economic Growth)
Councillor Amy Whitelock Gibbs	(Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)

Officers Present:

Paul Greeno	(Senior Corporate and Governance Lawyer, Legal Services)
Stephen Murray	(Head of Arts and Events)
Joel West	(Senior Democratic Services Officer)

1. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

That the unrestricted minutes of the Board meeting held on 27 June 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

3. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Updates on Mile End Park

Stephen Murray, Head of Parks and Events, introduced the report.

The Mayor noted that there had been a submission to the Board by the Friends of Mile End Park (FOMEPE) in relation to several of the matters discussed in the report and he invited Mr John White, Chair of FOMEPE, to address the meeting. Mr White advised:

- i. An informal arrangement is in place to provide FOMEPE with occasional free access of Park facilities. He believed that an arrangement had previously been discussed which would provide the Friends with six days free use each year, but this was not always honoured. Officers advised this arrangement has not been formally agreed by the Board. The Board agreed the six days free use proposal in principle, subject to legal advice. It understood a community lettings policy may have been proposed in the past and would welcome revisiting this idea.
- ii. FOMEPE is concerned with the report pertaining to the repairs at the lakes as it feels there may be alternative options available to solve this issue that are not presented in it. The Board also felt that the report lacks sufficient detail on which to base a decision and asked that a more comprehensive analysis of this matter is brought to a future meeting.
- iii. FOMEPE would welcome an arrangement for the annual Park Life event to be organised by FOMEPE but funded by the Park. He estimated the costs of the event at around £5,000-£6,000. Officers expressed some concern as to the legal ramifications of such a proposal. The Board asked that a meeting be arranged between FOMEPE, officers, Councillor Denise Jones and Councillor Abdul Mukit to discuss this proposal.

The Board felt the requests by FOMEPE had exposed some of the distinctions between Board members' roles as both Councillors and trustees of the charities, so asked for a note to help them manage this dual role.

The Board noted the guidance for applying to place statues, plaques etc and indicated it would welcome its application to lands managed by the King George's Field charities. Regarding the proposal to erect a statue of Swami Vivekananda in Mile End Park, the Board discussed the new information that had been provided by applicants since this proposal was last discussed. Members noted the application did not evidence a direct link between Swami Vivekananda to the proposed site. The Board therefore determined that the application did not fulfil the guidance criteria and so should be refused.

The Board asked that future updates include greater financial information such as management accounts, projected income and comparisons to previous years.

RESOLVED:

That the King George's Field Charity Board:

1. Notes the information update on free to access activities in Mile End Park
2. Agrees in principle that the Friends of Mile End Park be allowed up to six free days' hire of park facilities each year, subject to legal advice.
3. Notes the summary of commercial activity in Mile End Park
4. Notes the update on the lakes by the Arts and Eco Pavilions and asks that officers prepare a more comprehensive analysis of the issues, options and projected costs regarding the water loss and methods to rectify it.
5. Rejects the proposal to erect a statue of Swami Vivekananda in Mile End Park, primarily on the grounds that the application does not evidence a direct link of the subject to the site.
6. Agrees that the proposed guidance for applying to place statues, plaques etc as presented at Appendix 5 of the report should also apply to lands managed by the King George's Field Charity Trust, but asks that a tailored version of the guidance is submitted to a future meeting of the Board for formal approval.
7. Asks that guidance is prepared to inform the Board of their powers and duties as Trustees of the King George's Field charities and how this differs from their role as Members of the Council.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

None.

The meeting ended at 6.23 p.m.

Chair, Mayor John Biggs
King George's Field Charity Board