

Friends of Braidburn Valley Park AGM, 27th February 2022

Attendees: Margaret Bruce, Alastair Bruce, Claire Jellema, Richard Bush, Andrew Swann, Paul Bailey, Alan Fleming, Steve Ambler, Alice Nelson, Lucy Frankel, Brian and Penny Barron, Val Cox, Hugh Cowan

Apologies: Arthur Trew

Treasurer's report: Paul Bailey

Edinburgh Council have been very helpful filling potholes on walkway, having it done professionally.

FOBVP have just under £10k in the bank, for which the Treasurer welcomes proposals for spending. We now have £9,362 in bank, with all debts cleared. Cherry tree £5k is not included in this sum, nor the donation from the church.

Auditor Margaret Walsh has been very helpful and remains happy to be involved with the park.

Trees and Wildflower meadow report: Alan Fleming

The Chair thanked Alan for his tireless expert work in the park, making a real difference.

Several flower species blossomed last year, so we are hopeful more species will come up this year. Willow sculpture pruning has been done once per year for last 3 years, but now it is more established that could be twice annually if there is energy. Wild flower meadow has been mowed with a scythe. The Friends thanks Andrew Swann for maintaining and work on stakes and tree cages. Some students have helped plant trees. Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust is assisting with cherry tree replacement. Alan has also been involved in tree planting in Cockmylane.

Coming up: Greenbank Church Eco Group's kind donation will bring more fruit trees to the orchard. Pears, plums, cherry and apple trees will be added to the David Wright Memorial Orchard. Sunday 6th March at 11:45am there will be a community planting session.

SMPS P7 tree planting will take place on Monday and Tuesday 7-8th March. The species are: grey and goat willow, oak, rowan, alder.

Action: Alan to send overview text to Alasdair and Lucy for sharing with membership via email and Facebook.

Membership secretary's report: Alastair Bruce

The Chair thanked the Membership secretary for his work. 30 new members joined. A similar number lapsed. We now have roughly 200 members. Standing Order subscriptions and email permissions have increased, which is good.

Mural Project update: Andrew Swann

Artist Chris Rutterford created a design concept which was given to 26 P6 students at Firrhill High. This extra-curricular work helps students with applications for art school. The work is complete and boards are being varnished by Community Service contacts. The team are now awaiting a sunny day in next few weeks, in order to do the final installation in the park. Andrew thanked Tom Kenrick for finding the Substation's owner, and Paul for his fundraising.

Election of the Committee

Two vacancies are left on the Committee. The Chair thanked Richard Bush for his time and contribution over the years in shared paths, tea in the park, clean ups, dog mess control and much more.

Local residents and long-time members Arthur Trew and Steve Ambler were welcomed to the Committee.

The Committee is still seeking a School Representative, ideally someone with children at South Morningside Primary School. **Action: Alice to ask around.**

Claire Jellema and Margaret Bruce both stood down as Co-Chairs but both remain on the Committee. The Committee warmly thanked Margaret and Claire for their dedication and organisation.

The Committee welcomed Paul Bailey as the new Chair, and Steve Ambler as Treasurer.

Looking Forward

1. The Committee looks forward to arranging park events when possible in line with Council advice, such as clear-ups and walk-arounds. The first possible event will be a park walk-around once the mural is installed, with Chris Rutterford talking about the project.
2. Edinburgh City Council's Million Trees project – the park see some trees planted. The Council has kindly taken on the Committee's feedback to avoid Scots pines from lining the path up from the willow tree bridge to the pavilion, as they would block lighting and views.
3. Demolition of the pavilion is imminent, Council capacity depending. This will then be a flat area which the Committee can develop ideas for.
4. Many bird and bat boxes are overdue maintenance. Andrew Swann suggested an audit and a plan for the whole park. Margaret believes the local Scouts have some links, and that we would need guidance from the Council / Ranger. **Action: Margaret to seek advice.**
5. Andrew Swann raised the question of reducing encroaching brambles, especially between bridges 3 and 4. **Action: He will ask the Council for possible support.**
6. Bringing volunteers together – the Committee aims to recruit a regular group of volunteers who can be invited to work on certain tasks.

Margaret thanked all participants and the meeting closed.