

**TATE MODERN MINUTES – COMMUNITY GARDEN STEERING GROUP MEETING**  
**Meeting held 18 January 2007, 6.00pm in the Meeting Room**

Present: Synthia Griffin (Chair) (SG), Peter Graal – BOST (PG), Edith Slee (ES), Joseph Bonner (JB), Colin Brewer (CB), Tam Giles (TG), Carole Wright (CW), Brenda Vel (BV), Donald Hyslop (DH)

Apologies: Laura Ivill (LI), Francois Tарisse (FT), Adam Bakkar (AB)

**1 INTRODUCTIONS**

Carole Wright (volunteer with BOST) was introduced to the group as a new member.

**2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

The minutes were agreed by the group.

**3 VOLUNTEERS POLICY**

PG referred to the policy he distributed to the group via email but mentioned that although ES had made contributions more comments, amendments any further feedback was welcomed. He discussed the format of the policy suggesting some supplementary information/photographs of weeds for example would also be beneficial to aid volunteers with their tasks. PG hoped the policy would be both functional and accessible and as brief as possible. The policy will be stored in a waterproof plastic folder and kept in the shed. PG to follow up.

PG

**4 PROGRESS UPDATE – MOSAIC DESIGN/BUILD/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

TG explained that pink fluorescent paint had been sprayed on the ground to mark out the mosaic and the pattern had been traced onto 6 ft pieces of mesh to enable the community to work with them.

TG presented two options for the mosaic and visual examples – a) sheets of mesh that have pebbles attached to them which need grouting b) stones, glass and other materials to put in the gaps (both methods require grouting). TG said that getting the balance right for the second option may take a while. ES wondered if the first option was more expensive.

CP wondered about the durability of both types of stones considering children

will be playing on the mosaic but TG assured the group that either option would be suitable. ES added that using some of the stones collected during foraging could be interesting as where they came from (in relation to the River Thames) would provide a history lesson.

TG stated she wanted to wait until the days were longer, there was more time and the sunlight was better before organising the community workshop to put the mosaic together. She said the second option definitely needed the time and dryer weather.

PG suggested that his volunteers at BOST could contribute by washing and drying the tiles after ES suggested they would need to be clean for the glue to stick. He also asked if extra pieces could be made available for children to take home to increase their enjoyment.

TG explained the feasibility of different grouts and it was suggested the Steering Group would have to do the grouting for logistical reasons but that the stones on mesh method may involve the community more.

SG suggested leaving both examples in the garden for the Steering Group members both present and absent to see it in situ which may aid the decision making. SG also mentioned once further artist feedback was received that TG, PG and ES should make the final decision. PG to follow up.

PG

## **5 FUTURE STRUCTURAL WORK**

PG suggested the bench should be fitted into the crescent for maximum aesthetic value. TG liked the idea of something to divide up the space and to reduce damage to the mosaic.

PG explained that the shelter should be aesthetically pleasing and functional and showed a photograph of one designed by Arthur De Moberay with a layered roof as an example. PG requested the apple tree to remain and for the shelter to fit in with the surroundings and the herb garden. Riverwood have been asked to come up with some ideas for this.

ES questioned the need for a shelter and worried about drug use. She requested to see examples of other shelters in BOST gardens. She also enquired about planning since the council asked the Globe to dismantle their shed.

SG said that the gated entrance would reduce unauthorised access and prevent the site being used as for drug taking. PG stated that the shelter was particularly useful to shield his volunteers from the rain. CW agreed. CB added that the shelter would protect children against sunshine. PG agreed to do some further work on potential shelters that could be used in the garden

and to present at the next meeting.

PG showed photographs of a low bench made from reclaimed wood for made to fit the corner. He stated that it would be surrounded by gravel.

PG said he was still not clear why the pond had been unsuccessful. He mentioned that some boulders found by the Thames may be used if permission was granted. The aim was to provide definition to this feature and the Steering Group would decide whether to use them. SG agreed that natural borders were more suitable compared to artificial ones.

PG

## **6 FUTURE EVENTS (PRE-OPENING, PARENTS & CHILDREN UNDER 5'S GARDENING CLUB)**

SG explained that a large group of preschool children part of the Sure Start group organised by Tina Worms had enjoyed the tree dressing activity and it had been a success. An under 5's gardening club will be trialled for 6 sessions. The aim of this programme is to connect with local families and compliment the work of BOST.

PG said that BOST volunteer groups including mental health volunteers & CONNECT group would regularly to volunteer in the garden and he assumed 5 individuals from each group would be regular helpers.

SG explained that there would be less Saturday events in the run up to the opening and grand preparations would take place on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May before the opening 3 weeks later. The volunteer policy should include brief health and safety and what can and cannot be done in the garden. The aim of volunteer induction is that once the training has been completed that person should be able to give another individual an induction.

SG suggested that the mosaic workshop take place in April and TG agreed this. PG/ES/TG to finalise the exact dates at a separate meeting.

## **7 FORMAL OPENING – JUNE 2007**

SG stated that since the date of the formal opening had been finalised, the Steering Group need to think about the format of the day and how to attract families. She suggested that early afternoon would be best for young children.

It was suggested that Nick Serota is invited from Tate and Chris Baines a trustee from BOST was suggested as a competent public speaker should also attend.

ES suggested that the opening event could involve games and activities related to gardens e.g insects, birds. SG added that the event will include the

results of the participatory art project currently being carried out by Michele Fuirer, mapping green spaces. SG to develop a proposed structure for the opening event and present at a future meeting.

**SG**

**8 AOB**

CB worried about the ugliness of the fence due to the unsuccessful attempt to grow ivy over it. PG said that wisteria or a rigorous vine that grows quickly would be suitable and CB suggested jasmine for the smell. PG agreed to look into the problem.

**PG**

ES mentioned that the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) were holding events that may be of interest to the garden. She highlighted the Mediterranean Plants workshop on 3 and 4 April and asked if anyone wanted to attend. PG took the flyer and said he would email everyone with the details.

**9 DONM**

Steering group meetings:

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Board Room Level 3

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March - Meeting Room Level 3

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April - Meeting Room Level 3

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May - Board Room Level 3