

Community Garden Steering Group Meeting: 21 September 2005

Present: Edith Slee, Colin Brewer, Chris Bateman, Joyce Bellamy – Secretary Metropolitan Public Garden Association, Michele Fuirer – Tate, Donald Hyslop – Tate, Synthia Griffin – Tate, Peter Graal - BOST

1. Apologises: Leah McNally

Introductions: Joyce Bellamy, Secretary - Metropolitan Public Garden Association and Michele Fuirer, Artist Educator was introduced to the Steering group.

2. Minutes of last Meeting/Matters Arising – Security and Access

The issue of Security and Access was raised and continues to be a priority for future meetings.

3. Wetland Area/Pond

PG has met with ISS Waterers to discuss the development of the pond. It has been decided that a shallow wetland area with a curved bridge, surrounded by bog plants will be created. This will be a supportive environment for wildlife and will not pose a health and safety risk. PG to submit specification drawing to ISS Waterers so that a costing can be developed.

4. Proposal – Michele Fuirer

MF was introduced to the steering group and a copy of her proposal was presented to the group. She is a local resident and currently works on a freelance basis for Tate Modern on the Schools and Community programme and would like to develop a participatory art project based on documenting the development of the garden space in dialogue with the steering group. The project would be about process and collaboration, rather than making a product or an artwork in the traditional sense. The purpose of this project would be to raise awareness of the interconnectedness between people, plants, natural cycles, and the immediate environment, Find out what the garden means from multiple perspectives, make ownership of the space visible in subtle ways, place a value on overlooked aspects of people's relationship to green spaces in the city and celebrate the creativity involved in making a 'sense of place'. CB & PG mentioned that they had photographs of the area before the development of Tate Modern. The group agreed that the proposal should go ahead. MF to firm up her proposal and do further research on the project outcome which will be presented at the next meeting.

Joyce Bellamy, Secretary Metropolitan Public Garden Association, was introduced to the group, small grant aid is given to organisations and community groups for community garden spaces. Grant aid is normally given for permanent fixtures such as a shed, structure plants or benches. JB suggested contacting Oliver Sutton (Southwark Council) for specialist advice

on the type of trees to plant. There is no deadline and applications for items are done in a consultative basis and the items do not have to be claimed by a specific time. PG to email suggestions during 2006 to JB.

5. Red Cross Garden – Educational Activities

SG mentioned that there could be some opportunities for future collaboration with Red Cross Garden which is currently managed by BOST.

6. Regular Planting Days

ES has organised a meeting to select the trees and shrubs that will be planted in the garden on 22/08/05. The selected trees and shrubs will be planted on the next planting day on 19 November 2005 (and will be paid for by the £750 donated by Better Bankside). PG will plant some samplings to replace the ones that were destroyed when the hard landscaping for the garden took place earlier in the year.

PG to contact the City Farm to get soil treatment.

7. DONM

The next tree planting day has been arranged for Saturday 19 November 2005 from 10.30am onwards. The next Community Steering Group meeting has been arranged for **22 November at 6.00pm in the meeting Room Tate Modern.**