

**Tate Community Garden
Steering Group Meeting Minutes
22nd November 2005**

Present:

Synthia Griffin (Tate), Donald Hyslop (Tate), David Marshall (Globe), Peter Graal (BOST), Leah McNally (BOST), Joyce Bellamy (Metropolitan Public Gardens Associations), Francois Terrisse (Local Resident), Colin Brewer (Local Resident), Edith Slee (Local Resident), Joseph Bonner (Local Resident)

Apologies: Laura Ivill

Agenda Items

1. Feedback from Tree Planting Event held on 19/11/05

Thank you to all of those who participated in this event. The event was extremely well attended with a variety of people and age groups (estimated number of participants:30). Ten different varieties of fruit bearing trees were planted. SG recorded details of new participants at the event; these will be used to keep participants informed and to invite them to future community events at the garden. It was suggested that a thank you poster should be put up on the garden gates and a thank you letter should be sent to participants.

It was suggested that some tree ID cards and a handout about how to plant a tree would have been useful for newcomers without gardening experience. Given the numbers of people who attended this event, it would have been good to have extra members of staff on hand.

It was noted that BOST has Indemnity cover and the Tate has Public Liability Insurance for these events and that risk assessments are carried out prior to these events taking place. A key lesson learnt for future planting days are; to give clear guidance to all participants on how to plant.

2. Funding and Progress

The Tate has had agreement from EDF Energy that they will fund the pond, bridge and security measures for the garden totalling £23K. These will be the three main priorities for the end of this financial year. There is also funding for the shed from Community Initiatives, Tate Modern.

J.B said that her organisation would be willing to fund a permanent feature in the landscape. Once the garden infrastructure is in place, she suggested putting together a wish list to be considered in March 2006.

3. Security and Access

It was acknowledged in previous meetings that in order for the development of the garden to continue and to ensure that it becomes a space for members of the community to enjoy, adequate security measures need to be put in place to address concerns about antisocial behaviour and the security risks to the residential housing surrounding the space.

Three possible solutions to security issues were brought forward by SG to be discussed by the group:

- A) A radio controlled security gate connected to the main Tate security team operating with a buzzer system. Community members could have a password to enter the garden.
- B) CCTV video camera on the garden perimeter fence linked to 24hrs Tate security system.
- C) Movement activated lighting for darkness hours.

D.M suggested that the first two options were good ideas but that the last might attract people to the garden and annoy neighbours. He also suggested that the shed should not be an obvious feature in the garden in case it attracted rough sleepers. F.T and P.G stated that the shed would be hidden by its location in the corner alcove of the garden. It would not be obvious.

E.S very much liked the proposal of a security gate and CCTV . The idea of a buzzer system could also work as an alarm should the gate be left open. J.B agreed that the first two options were a good idea but noted that children at the event could climb the perimeter fence even though it was supposedly unclimbable. F.T. said that the garden would be the safest place in London with all these security measures!

D.M said that there had been minor security problems at the Globe with late night drunks, people scaling the hoardings and bike theft in the past. He said that there had not been huge amounts of crime and did not foresee many future security problems with the garden. It was noted that the ecological cost of the security measures should be considered. It was suggested that weather proof signage boards rather than laminated plant ID cards should be used in the garden.

It was generally agreed that first two security measures were good ideas to take forward and that SG would get a schedule from ISS and put together a timetable to keep the steering group informed. P.G is getting a separate quote for the bridge using re-claimed wood. D.H is to put out a press release about the development of the garden.

4. Future Community Activities

A mailing list and SE1 website should be used to further promote future activities to the wider community i.e. to outreach beyond the existing steering group members. The following suggestions for events were made:

- Bird watch event
- Seasonal planting days for spring, summer, autumn and winter.
- Forage on the Foreshore
- Pond Planting Day
- An event involving Michelle Furer from Tate community education team as she will be documenting the development of the space with the community.

E.S said that she wanted to coordinate wildlife activities, S.G stated that it would be better to work together rather than individually.

5. Unplanted Areas

Ideas for these areas will be discussed in the next steering group meeting and a planting plan will be created. Also the idea of artworks for the garden. P.G stated that we should be aiming for London In Bloom awards, 2007.

6. AOB

E.S said that she strongly objected to the way that the minutes from the last Steering group meeting were written. In particular that 'the public should be prohibited from entering the space' considering that she had been involved in making this a garden for the local community. This was noted and the minutes were amended to reflect this and will be circulated to the group.

7. DONM

Tuesday 7th February 2006. 6pm