

TATE MODERN MINUTES – COMMUNITY GARDEN STEERING GROUP MEETING
Meeting held 27 June 2006, at 6.00pm in the meeting room

Present: Synthia Griffin –Tate Modern (SG), Colin Brewer – local resident (CB), Joseph Bonner – local resident (JDB), Joyce Bellamy – Metropolitan Gardens Association (JB), Francois Tarris – local resident (FT), Michele Fuirer – local resident & Artist Educator – Tate Modern, Michael Osbourne – local resident (MO).

Apologises: Peter Graal – Bankside Open Spaces Trust (PG), Brenda Vel – local resident (BV), Edith Slee – local resident (ES), Adam Bakkar – local resident (AB), Laura Ivill – local resident (LI), Chris Bateman – Better Bankside (CB).

1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

The group agreed the minutes. FT suggested that we should arrange to fix the current dip near in the entrance to the garden, as large pools of water appeared when it rains & the add wire to the espaliers which are currently held in place canes. JB suggested arranging for organic matter to spread and asked whether any provision was being made to recycle organic matter through composting. A combination lock needs to be installed on the shed to allow the steering group access. PG to follow up.

PG

SG to organise the design/print of a banner promoting the garden in advance of any activities & to capitalise on any PR & marketing opportunities at other community related events such as Thames Festival etc.

SG

2 FEEDBACK ON RECENT COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/EVENTS IN THE GARDEN

SG reported to the group that although the previous evening event (11 June) there was very poor attendance this was dramatically improved at the Pond dipping event on Saturday 24 June 2006 with a good representation of local families form the Peabody estate and other local residents. JDB suggested a laminated version of the H&S guidelines could be displayed throughout the duration of future activities. SG to follow up with BOST to discuss the current H&S/public liability protocols necessary for public events such as these.

SG

3 PARTICIPATORY ART PROJECT UPDATE

SG introduced the context and importance of the participatory art project being led by MF. Stressing the importance of developing a record of the steering group and other volunteer's relationship to the garden and more broadly to green spaces. This would help to cultivate a stronger sense of ownership and empowerment, and develop confidence in use of the space.

MF reported to the group that she was continuing to map people's experiences and global connections to green spaces primarily through face-to-face contact and informal conversation as this is one of the most inclusive and effective ways to reach the group. The outcomes of the project will be presented as part of the formal opening event in Spring 2007. JDB suggested that the river facing end wall could be used as a

temporary space for art installations to give that part of the garden a focus.

4 FUTURE STRUCTURAL WORK IN THE GARDEN

PG to report back to the group in advance of the next Steering group meeting with on updates the pond definition/raised beds (ensure they are accessible).

PG

5 PROGRESS UPDATE

Security & Trial Opening - SG reported to the group that a formal letter had been sent to the immediate residents outlining the security measures that had been put in place, as well as the systems to allow entry in to the space that would be tested during the trial opening of the garden which will take place on 20th September 2006. The entry system as previously discussed would encourage people to register their details first they would then be issued with a password, which they would need to quote to gain entry to the space.

Mosaic - SG reported to the group that she hadn't heard back from the Mosaic artist – Tam Giles or Fiona Haughy – the archaeologist who had previously accompanied the group on forage to collect materials for the mosaic despite leaving several messages. In order to ensure that progress was made on this part of the project, it was agreed that some preparatory work could take place on the mosaic site. SG to follow up with Tam Giles to see if this is possible. It was agreed that some of the materials that are collected whilst foraging could be put in situ.

6 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Following a meeting with SG, JDB presented three strands that could be developed as part of a communications framework for the garden (which will be led by JDB, MO & Liz Justice – community garden volunteer), this would include regular reporting to SG & the steering group:

- Stakeholder Mapping
- Development of a local media contacts database
- Collation and archiving images that have been taken of the space.

JDB to present a document summarising the above, at the next meeting. MO will report back at the next meeting about potential web based systems and social networking (Yahoo groups) that could be used. SG agreed that online networks were a very good way of sharing information with other volunteers but could not be relied on exclusively to promote the garden, as many harder to reach groups may not have the means or confidence to use this technology. SG mentioned that feedback from a local parent confirmed this and that we should be looking for more inclusive means to reach these groups, particularly given the current priorities of the Community programme at

Tate Modern.

7 ACCESS/TRIAL OPENING

SG reported to the group that a trial opening will take place from 20th September and a password system will be tested.

8 AOB/DONM

Suggestions as to who should open the Community Garden should be circulated to SG in advance of the next meeting.

Provisional Date: Wednesday 6 September 2006, at 6.00pm in the Meeting Room, Tate Modern.

ALL