



Minutes of WaCoCo Networking Meeting
Wed 4th October 2017

Attendees

R Bridge – Chaplin Close Residents' Association, WaCoCo Chair

D Clarson – The Bridge at Waterloo

S Coyte – Lambeth Council

K Hamilton – Waterloo Community Development Group, WaCoCo Treasurer

R Leech – Oasis UK

E Elkington – WaCoCo administrator

Apologies:

G Goddard – St John's, Waterloo

T Inman – Jubilee Gardens Trust

J Rushbridger – St John's, Waterloo

B Stephenson – Southbank & Waterloo Neighbours

A Valenzuela – Southbank Employers' Group and London Eye Visitor Management Group

2. Conflicts of interest: No conflicts of interest were reported.

3. Minutes of Networking Meeting of Wed 6 September and matters arising: Minutes of the WaCoCo Networking Meeting of 3 May 2017 were agreed. There were no matters arising.

4. Update on London Eye grant programme

The Chair reported that the four award-winners who were in receipt of awards of over £5,000 (Waterloo Community Theatre, Waterloo Sports & Football Club, Friends of Archbishop's Park and Bankside Open Spaces Trust) had been reminded that their interim reports were due in by 13 October. It was noted that one other award recipient – Southbank Mosaics – had completed its project and submitted its final report.

5. Finance

The financial statement for the period ending 30 September was tabled. It showed a balance of just over £3,600 in unrestricted funds and an overall balance of £9,758. WaCoCo's unrestricted funds would be augmented before the end of the financial year by the final instalment of its London Eye community chest award administration fee from the Visitor Management Group (VMG). DC remarked that the Board needed to consider how WaCoCo would disburse its savings – expected to about £2,500 if it was wound up. Was there some way that that money could benefit the local community?

commented that in disbursing or using the funds that the Board would need to ensure that it complied with charity law.

It was agreed that EE would draft an invoice to SBEG for the final 20% - £13,000 - for the London Eye community chest administration fee within the next couple of days.

6. Future of WaCoCo

The Chair reported that he had been contacted by representatives of several WaCoCo members, all thanking him for his years of service to the group – but none expressing a desire to take on the role after his departure.

The Chair added that he had spoken to Alex Valenzuela and reassured her that whatever happened with WaCoCo's future, it would not affect the current community chest Round's administration. They discussed how the community chest might be administered in future, with three options all being considered. They were: the VMG might bring the work in-house; the work could be put out to tender or, third, the funding decisions could be made via participatory funding – a mixture of all. In any event it would provide the VMG with a good opportunity to review the programme and ensure it was fit for purpose in the changing environment. WaCoCo and the Chair would be happy to support this process.

SC enquired if, should WaCoCo be wound up, any discussion had taken place about future funding arrangements for the South Bank Forum, given that WaCoCo currently funded it from its Lambeth Forum Network grant.

DC replied – in answer to this, and more generally - that KH and he had met John Langley, Chair of SoWN, to discuss the possibility of SoWN taking over a number of WaCoCo's functions, which might include supporting the Lambeth Forum Network financially. He reported that JL had expressed some interest in this. It was agreed that another meeting would take place to discuss this further before the next WaCoCo networking meeting. It was noted that SoWN would not know for several months, until after a referendum, whether its draft neighbourhood plan would be adopted and that it would only be at this stage after the plan had been approved that the future plans for SoWN would be clarified. It was agreed that this would not be a problem: steps could be taken to keep WaCoCo ticking over until SoWN was in a position to take over its work. The Chair explained that there was no time limit on how soon WaCoCo would need to be wound up once a resolution by the members empowering the board to do so had been passed.

RL circulated a draft public statement that she had prepared advising of the intention to wind up WaCoCo should no new personnel volunteer to take on the management of it. The Chair suggested releasing it as soon as practically possible. It was agreed to not have a November networking meeting, to instigate ad hoc discussions about the succession and bring their outcomes to a December networking meeting. SC asked whether there would be any merit in changing the timing of this meeting to make it more conveniently-timed for more possible attendees. It was agreed, though, that this would not be necessary: anyone feeling strongly enough about the issues on the agenda would have to make the effort to attend at 8.30am.

7. Any other business: There was no other business.

8. Next meeting: Wed 6 December. 8.30am, New Cut Housing Cooperative.