



Large Urban Parks Standing Committee Minutes

When: Thursday, 3 March 2016 7:00amEST

Where: Internet web conference (GoToMeeting)

Attendees: Richard Murray (Co-Chair), Gil Penalosa (Co-Chair) Alberto Ipas, Lilia Haa, Dave Hutch, Kim Ellis, Mark Camley, Margaret Gormley, Mark Camley, Patricia O'Donnell, Richard Murray, Peter Verdyck, Kenzo Oguchi, Hooshmand Alizadeh, Digby Whyte (CEO), Amanda O'Rourke (EO), Henrik Waldenström

Apologies: Ed Uhler, Anna Steidle, Cecilia Herzog, Chris Nolan

Minutes:

- Meeting started at 7:10am EST
- Gil asked Lilia to give an update on Chapultepec while we wait for everyone to join
- Lilia talked about the large capital investment they are making in Chapultepec Park (Mexico City, Mexico)
- New attendees introduced themselves and their organisations to the group:
 - Kim Ellis- Executive Director of Centennial Parklands (Melbourne, Australia)
 - Dave Hutch – Manager of Research and Planning Parks and Recreation (Vancouver, Canada)
- Gil asked if everyone approves the agenda. Proposed Patricia: **AGENDA APPROVED**
- Amanda asked if everyone approves the minutes of the last meeting (Feb 2, 2016) **MINUTES APPROVED**
- Richard introduced Henrik Waldenström (WWF Sweden) who was joining him for the meeting. Henrik and Richard worked together on organizing the original conference “Large Parks in Large Cities” in Stockholm which generated this committee. Richard said he will be recommending Henrik for the Advocacy & Events working group (see below).
- Digby gave an update on WUP:
 - The new membership year begins in April. They currently have a good influx of members from South America, Central America and some in North America. The Large Urban Parks Committee has helped to create more interest in WUP.
 - WUP website had been hacked and is now almost fully rebuilt. Online membership forms and functionality are rebuilt so it is easy to renew or sign up as members.

- He spoke about upcoming events September WUP World Congress in Cape Town South Africa, and October WUP European Congress. Both congresses would be pleased to see the outputs of the LUP working groups.
- Gil spoke about the recent talks with WUP members in Japan. They are working on the 2016 G7 meeting potentially advocating an entity focused on city parks at the United Nations. Gil also mentioned if anyone on the committee has any advice or can offer support on how WUP can become more engaged with other global organizations such as the World Health Organization and UN Habitat, that it is most welcome.
- Richard gave a summary of where the LUP standing committee now stands: we have endorsed a terms of reference, we have full committee membership, three working parties and chairs of working parties have been approved, we also have a webpage on the World Urban Parks website which will be added to as we create more outputs from the working parties
- Richard put forward a proposal to the committee to have Henrik become co-chair of Advocacy and Events working group. Richard also said that he spoke with the current chair Chris Hardman who has endorsed Henrik as Co-chair.
- Henrik spoke about his experience in lobbying and advocacy efforts through WWF.
- **Patricia moved to approve Henrik as Co-Chair of Advocacy & Events working party, Margaret seconded**

- MOTION APPROVED

- Peter and Lilia (co-chairs) gave an update on the Good Practice working group.
 - Will meet (online via GoTo meeting) on the 16th of March.
 - Key agenda item is to determine how they will organize the good practice database and what format it will be.
 - Digby mentioned that there is also interest to have an online “forum” where members of LUP can discuss and answer questions. Some have suggested a Facebook group.
 - Richard added that it may be good to try to find someone with IT skills to help out. Perhaps on the WUP website.
- Patricia (co chair) gave an update on the Knowledge and Research working group
 - Patricia and Hooshmand have spoken and agreed to focus on “low hanging fruit.” They will try to get some of the great research that is already out there up online and more accessible.
 - Their first step will be gathering data. They hope to be able to post short abstracts based on different topics.
 - Patricia noted that there was not as many people interested in this working group and they could use some help with gathering data. Amanda mentioned that there could be people that are not on the committee but that are part of the network that could be interested in helping out. Richard also mentioned that there would likely be some participants in the Stockholm conference that may be interested in this group/topic.

- Patricia mentioned that she and Hooshmand also spoke about “how do we define large parks” as Hooshmand made the point that in Iran there are not really any “large parks” like in other countries. She also posed the question on what the LUP committee’s relationship might be with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and whether we include preserved lands in “large parks” category
 - Hoosmand joined the call (connection was poor and difficult to hear) and also asked about how to define large parks.
 - Peter asked that we (committee) not worry too much about the size of parks but more about their significance to the community. If people and community sees parks or parklands as significant then they should be included as “large” parks.
 - Richard agreed with Peter. He also supported Patricia and Hoosmand’s focus on quick wins. He would also be happy to help connect them with others interested in applied research that he has met through the Stockholm conference and beyond.
- Richard gave an update on the Advocacy & Events working group (in absence of Chris)
 - Richard spoke about the pre-Habitat event happening in Barcelona in April. The group is looking to participate and present on Large Urban Parks.
 - He also spoke about the fact that the group will be looking at how it can tie into existing international efforts such as UN Habitat, and the UN Millenium Development Goals.
 - Richard mentioned that the group will also work on developing a brochure, inviting people to the network. There has also been talk of a Facebook group.
 - Digby added that WUP’s Knowledge and Standards Committee is developing a “think tank” and that there could be good links there with advocacy.
 - Richard asked if members approve the “invitation to join working groups” document that was distributed before the meeting. If approved Digby and Amanda can distribute it to WUP members and LUP network.
 - Patricia asked that 1 sentence be added that summarizes what we spoke of today, as the first steps have become more defined. Patricia also recommended taking the date off the Stockholm Congress picture on the invitation to join network. Richard said he will make those changes.
 - **Richard moved to approve “invitation to working parties” and “invitation to join network” documents.** Approved by consensus.
- MOTION APPROVED**
- Amanda asked that members of the committee send her pictures of large urban parks as they are needed for the development of communication materials.
 - Richard and Digby also noted that they are looking for features on LUP from the World Park News publication

- Richard asked Peter if the current format that he circulated to collect information on large parks was fine. Peter said that the format would be decided at the March 16th meeting but that he thinks it is a very good start (almost 95% complete).
- Gil added that it is important that the format be flexible so that even if not filled out completely, it can still be collected. Richard mentioned there is currently an ABC priority structure that allows for flexibility.
- After some discussion about upcoming conferences (e.g. European Regional Conference in Albi, France) Lilia suggested that there should be a calendar that members could access that lists all of the upcoming events.
- Digby said that he and Richard would work on how to organize a common calendar for the group.
- Kenzo gave an update on the G7 Environment Ministers meeting in Toyama, Japan. Richard asked if they needed a paper on Large Urban Parks. Currently they (WUP) have already sent a letter to the Japanese Prime Minister and are waiting to see if they need a further information. WUP is advocating for more recognition of parks as a critical factor in reaching sustainable development goals and addressing global environmental issues.
- Next meeting is set for May 26th, 2016. 7am EST Digby will send out the link.
- Meeting ended: 8:27am EST.