



## **MINUTES**

### **for the meeting of Large Urban Parks Committee**

**21 Aug 2017**

#### **Attendants:**

Lillia Haula  
Mark Camley  
Peter Verdyck  
Richard Murray  
Hooshmand Alizadeh  
Martin van Jaarsveld  
Todd Reichardt  
Kevin Halpenny (co-opted for § 13)  
Digby Whyte  
Henrik Waldenström

#### **§ 1 Opening**

Richard Murray (RM) opened the meeting. Several attendants had difficulties in connecting, listening and making their voices heard during the meeting. This hampered the meeting considerably.

#### **§ 2 Chair of the meeting;**

Richard Murray was chosen to chair the meeting.

#### **§ 3 Secretary of the meeting:**

Henrik Waldenström was chosen to take notes.

#### **§ 4 Agenda confirmation**

The proposed agenda was adopted with two additional items proposed by RM: § 14 a Policy statement for Large Urban Parks and § 14b IT-support.

#### **§ 5 Minutes of Large Urban Parks Committee 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2017**

The minutes were accepted.

#### **§ 6 Committee membership**

As was noted at the previous meeting, the committee is fairly large, with some members hardly attending at all. At the same time the representation from Latin America, Africa and Asia is weak. RM is working on a letter directed to the present members, asking for their future engagement. The letter will be coordinated by Digby Whyte (DW) and DW will also help recruiting new members from

the above-mentioned continents. Alberto Ipas has informed PV that a reorganization of the Zaragoza Park del Agua Alberto Ipas is going on, but that he will nevertheless remain on the committee, the next couple of weeks perhaps less active. Sheldon David, also from Calgary, Canada, will replace Anne Charlton on the committee.

#### **§ 7 Report - Good practices working group**

Peter Verdyck (PV) told that the group is preparing a new questionnaire for registering parks in the database, which will simplify the registration and is also considering a survey on a new topic, vision statements for large urban parks. The results from the first questionnaire have been published on the LUP website. The group has posted a catalogue of subjects under which anyone is free to post an example of good practices. A number of documents have already been posted in the Good Practices data base. This is now administered by PV with the help of a colleague of his, Marinus Werner. The group is investigating ways to make the data-base searchable. The WG needs some more members that will take an active part in the work (to administer the Good Practices data-base, for example). On the website, a first register of large urban parks with just names of large parks, their size, webpage and email addresses has been made, based on the parks that filled in the questionnaire. With the next questionnaire, the group hopes to add more parks. After this we will contact parks just asking their basic data. The group suggests that the questionnaire be done in Joomla, rather than Google. This is connected with a small cost (\$59-69).

#### **§ 8 Report - Knowledge and research working group**

Hooshmand Alizadeh (HA) related that the workgroup had suggested that the data program Mandaley be used for references. This data program for references can be used for all WUP work groups and committees. HA strongly recommended that we use social networks, such as Facebook and LinkedIn for communication about journals and institutions. HA suggested that DW organize a meeting for some members of the Knowledge and Standards committee and the work group. To bring people and parks from the Middle East into the work on large urban parks, HA said he will start discussing a conference to take place, possibly, in the Iraqi part of Kurdistan.

#### **§ 9 Report - Advocacy and events working group**

RM had lectured at the International forum organized by WUP in cooperation with City Parks Alliance's conference Greater and Greener in Saint Paul 29<sup>th</sup> of July – 2<sup>nd</sup> of August together with representatives from Bogota and Toronto. In Bogota large areas bordering to the city are set aside for peri-urban parks. In Toronto a 60 sqkm large urban park is created in between Toronto and a neighboring city. RM and Henrik Waldenström (HW) had distributed a leaflet advocating for membership of the Large Urban Park Network. At the International Forum Gil Penalosa gave an overview of present trends and problems in relation to cities and parks. DW suggested that the Advocacy and events WG produce a power point/slide presentation of Large Urban Parks and the network to be used by all agents advocating for large urban parks.

#### **§ 10 Report – Congress participation**

RM and HW have both participated in the conference Greater and Greener. A report by them has been distributed to the members of the LUP committee and will be included in a newsletter to the Large Urban Parks Network.

#### **§ 11 Upcoming Congress, participation**

The WUP European regional conference in Liverpool/Birkenhead, 16-21 October this year, will be attended by PV, Mark Camley, DW, Todd Reichardt and RM. PV and RM will give talks and RM will bring leaflets advocating for membership of the LUP Network.

### **§ 12 Follow up - Advocacy in international organizations, Habitat, Unesco etc**

RM related discussions during the International Forum at the Greater and Greener conference about the UN Habitat's New Urban Agenda (NUA). Several speakers had noted that the NUA does not contain any strong wording on parks and urban green. RM suggested that LUP committee find ways to influence UN Habitat to take a stronger position regarding this aspect of city planning. How this was to be done was left open. DW suggested that a policy statement (§ 15) could be distributed. Other suggestions are welcome.

There is a World Design Summit in Montreal 16-25 October 2017 (<https://worlddesignsummit.com/>). It is run by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (Ifla). WUP sent Jorge Perez-Jaramillo to the pre summit in Paris earlier this year and will send representatives to the Summit in Montreal. This may have potential to highlight large urban parks in the greenspace design. Also: London National Park City Foundation will in London on 2 October 2017 launch its concept and the foundation. There, Mark Camley, Elisabeth Fournier and DW will be speaking in favour of this initiative. This is a citizen initiative that is gaining prominence to have all relevant public and private entities and the general public cooperatively treat and promote London's greenspace as one system and entity. If they can pull that off in London it will inspire other cities. Effectively they are saying London could be one large urban park (the initiators claim that 50 per cent of London is in public or private/citizen green/blue space).

### **§ 13 European Large Urban Parks Award**

Kevin Halpenny had suggested that an award for Large Urban Parks should be instituted and also communicated a set of criteria. Several members of the committee agreed that this is a good idea. RM argued that it was too short a time to agree on criteria (e.g. how large is large?), determine if there should be more than one category and only one award level or more (gold, silver, bronze), nominate a jury, send out invitations, examine entries, not only on written applications but also in reality, and design an appropriate prize, medal or diploma, for a first round of awards already at the European WUP conference in Liverpool in October. Mark Camley proposed that the award is launched at the conference in Liverpool and that Birkenhead park is given the award at that time to mark the start of this Award for Large Urban Parks. RM seconded the motion and added that the time up to the conference should be used to work out answers to the questions he'd mentioned. The committee agreed to this proposal. RM will set the email process in motion.

### **§14a Policy/Statement of WUP regarding LUP**

Neil McCarthy has sent a draft for a World Urban Parks policy statement on Large Urban Parks. Similar policy statements are being prepared for other areas in the World Urban Parks portfolio. The committee agreed that it is a good idea to write up such a policy statement. RM and DW said the statement should be more specific and sharp on large urban parks rather than urban green in general. The committee agreed to a process by which RM and HW take the lead to formulate a statement. It will be communicated to all on the committee during the process.

### **§14b It-support**

A well-functioning web-site for LUP requires a webmaster. LUP network needs social media to communicate. RM said this is strategic for work on large urban park to go forward, since just about everything hinges on Internet communication the way World Urban Park is set up. At present Marinus Werner, a colleague of PV, can help out a little. DW promised to teach HW some basics concerning GoToMeeting – the communications platform that we use for our meetings. It was mentioned that Pascal Goubier might be able to help in setting up Facebook or LinkedIn groups. RM will contact Pascal. DW will direct the address [LUP@worldurbanparks.org](mailto:LUP@worldurbanparks.org) to HW.

**§ 15 Next meeting**

It was decided that the next meeting will take place in week 46 (13-17 November).

**§ 16 Closing of the meeting**

RM thanked the participants for taking part in the meeting, some having to get up very early in the morning, others to stay up very late. RM said he hoped the next meeting should run technically smoother.

*Notes: Henrik Waldenström*