



Notes from the meeting of Large Urban Parks Committee

8/9 March 2017

Participants

Hoosmand Alizadeh
Anne Charlton
Bob Doyle
Kim Ellis
Chris Hardman
Lilia Haa
Martin van Jaarsveld
Richard Murray
Patricia O'Donnell
Digby Whyte
Ed Uhler
Peter Verdyck

Regrets

Margaret Gormley
Henrik Waldenstrom

§ 1 Opening

Richard greeted everyone, especially the two new committee members Bob Doyle and Martin van Jaarsveld, welcome to the meeting and noted the good participation.

§ 2 Agenda

The agenda that Digby had sent out was adopted.

Proposed AGENDA

1. Committee membership; Executive Officer
2. Work group reporting
3. Congress participation
 - Greater and Greener Congress; at Minneapolis/St. Paul, USA, 29 July – 2 August (International Day) partnered with WUP (includes national parks in cities)
 - WUP Europe Region Congress at Birkenhead Park (Wirral Council/Liverpool metro area) UK, Monday 16 October (Congress meetings and workshops), 17-19 Congress
 - Potential 2nd Large Parks in Large Cities Conference in Stockholm, Sweden
3. Draft Committee strategy, activity and meetings for 2017/18
4. Draft LUP webpage

§ 3 Committee membership

Over the past year participation at the committee meetings had varied, some members had not participated much. It was suggested and decided that Digby and Richard send a letter inquiring of these members about their interest in further participation.

§ 4 Executive officer

Richard reported that efforts to find an executive officer replacing Amanda O'Rourke had not yet met with success. He urged members of the committee to help out in finding a suitable person for this job, amounting to a couple of hours per week.

§ 5 Good practices working group

- Peter related that in a short time the list of parks that have registered and answered the questionnaire will be posted on the WUP/LUP webpage. Today they number 21. The results from the questionnaire will be published along with an account of the seminar held in Albi last October. Also, the list of topics for the Good Practice data base will be posted on the website.
- Richard raised the possibility to register large urban parks with just names of large parks, their size, webpage and email addresses, without having to fill in the questionnaire, in order to enlarge the data-base. Peter agreed to handle this idea. Email contributions were likely, to reduce the number of online forms that may provide access to site hackers.
- Lilia suggested that we take a look at other park organizations, such as CPA, to see what services they provide their members, such as job opportunities, taking into account that some such service may require employed staff to be carried out.
- Lilia also suggested that we encourage members of the Large Urban Parks Network to write up study cases that could be posted on the website. Peter commented that such study cases could be posted under relevant topics in the good practice database. Patricia said there are study cases being produced within UNESCO and that they follow a template. It was noted that templates might create a threshold. Lilia agreed to write a study case as an example. Ed indicated that he could write up a study case about the Millennium Park in Chicago.
- There was general agreement that the LUP committee must improve communication with the network.

§ 6 Knowledge and research working group

- Patricia and Hoosmand have had a work group meeting .
- They have also started contacting the Knowledge and Standards Standing Committee's Applied Research Working Group chair Prof Giovanni Sanesi in order to coordinate assembly and storage of research and knowledge about large urban parks.
- Hoosmand said a long-term vision could be to create a journal for large urban parks issues.
- Patricia and Hoosmand are investigating the possibility of using programs such as Mandalay as platforms for a bibliography, list of research institutes, journals etc.
- Digby told the meeting that there is a LinkedIn group for WUP members [here](#). A subgroup could be created for large urban parks issues.

§ 7 Advocacy and events working group

- Henrik Waldenström has communicated an outline for a "red book" on large urban parks. Chris has commented on it and both are now starting to find authors for the various chapters. Chris was urged to send the outline to members of the LUP committee in search of contributors.
- A Parks Benefits handbook has also been drafted by Chris and sent to Henrik.
- Patricia suggested that instead of a printed book it should be a report posted on the website, that could easily be up-dated.

- Patricia also suggested that the “book” should recognize the UN sustainable development goals (SDG) and relate its recommendations to those goals, relieving poverty being the most important. Richard seconded that recommendation stressing the importance of addressing life in megacities in the south.
- Patricia, Ed and others mentioned various reports on park benefits that might be useful, e.g. an article for UNESCO on cultural values that Patricia had written. Anne noted the “Trust for public lands” by Peter Harnek, and a report on the economic benefits of parks of Chicago (attached)
- Chris told about an up-coming seminar event arranged by Neil McCarthy in Melbourne with British Peter Neil having recently written a report “Rethinking parks”.
- Chris and others in Australia have already started to plan for the World Urban Parks congress in 2018.

§ 8 Greater and Greener Congress; at Minneapolis/St. Paul, USA, 29 July – 2 August

- Digby showed the draft program for August 2nd (attached). That is the international day of the conference held in cooperation between WUP and the US organization City Parks Alliance that runs Greater and Greener.
- A special session related to LUP can be part of the program on the 2nd of August.
- Members of the LUP committee that intend to participate in the congress should contact Richard and Digby for the planning of a LUP program on this day. Kim noted he would be happy to speak on self-funding parks.
- Ed suggested he may be able to organize a pre- or post-congress technical tour of the parks in Chicago if there is sufficient interest. This could be a one-day compact visit or two days with an overnight stay. Patricia suggested this might be for WUP members only to keep numbers manageable.

§ 9 WUP Europe Region Congress at Birkenhead Park, Monday 16 October (Congress meetings and workshops), 17-19 Congress

- This can have a LUP component as Birkenhead is celebrating its 175th anniversary as the original municipally funded park. Richard will contact the organizers to find out what possibilities there are of a program on LUP at the congress.
- Members of the LUP committee that intend to participate in the congress are urged to contact Richard for the planning of a LUP program.
- Chris suggested that a theme for LUP could be the broadening of the concept of accessibility for various groups and activities in relation to “the monoculture of city parks”.

§ 10 Advocacy in international organizations

- Richard raised the question of participating in UN Habitat World Urban Campaign.
- Patricia mentioned ongoing discussions within UNESCO.
- All members of the LUP committee were urged to participate wherever possible advocating the benefits of LUP.

§ 11 Closing of the meeting

- Richard thanked all the participants of the meeting. A new meeting will be coordinated by Digby and Richard end of May/beginning of June.