



**World Urban Parks - Large Urban Parks Meeting
(9:30 pm ACST) 12 November 2015, by Internet
MINUTES**

In attendance: Jon Carney, Chris Nolan, Ed Uhlir, Digby White, Mark Camley, Gil Penalosa, Amanda O'Rourke, Margaret Gormley, Mari Chichagova, Patricia O'Donnell, Richard Murray, Sakhile Maphumulo, Teresa Pastor, Todd Reichardt, Peter Verdyck, Alberto Ipas, Kenzo Oguchi

Minutes taken by: Amanda O'Rourke

Meeting start: 9:35pm ACST

1) Welcome and Apologies

- Gil (Chair of WUP) welcomed everyone to the first "Large Urban Parks" meeting
- Apologies: Daniel Boulens, Professor Cecil Konijnendijk, Henrik Waldenstrom, Allan Marsh

2) Presentation of the purpose of the meeting

- Gil gave a summary of the creation of WUP
- Richard talked about the September WWF conference "Large Parks in Large Cities" the purpose was to start to create a network for people working with large urban parks around the world.
- The focus has shifted from large parks in large cities to large urban parks in order to be consistent with World Urban Parks and to include various types of urban area and park systems.
- The idea for forming this network is due to the fact that large urban parks have specific design challenges, development pressures, management problems, and challenges in providing quality recreation experiences and ensuring protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services in urban environment.
- Since the conference there has been lots of interest- as a next step from the conference the idea was to combine efforts with WUP and create a standing committee and group that is part of WUP and dedicated to large urban parks. We are here today to discuss how that will take shape.

3) Presentation of participants

Digby asked everyone to refer to attached list of bios and participants.

4) Setting up a committee for large urban parks:

a) Terms of reference

- Gil and Richard asked for feedback on the TOR circulated to the group:
- Margaret asked that the word "historic" be included, this was supported by Patricia and Peter who both supported using the word "historic" or "heritage"
- Peter asked the meaning of "world class" as some large parks are not that exciting
- Patricia supported the idea of eliminating "world class"
- Digby noted this is meant as aspirational but can be eliminated
- Alberto asked what made and "urban" or a "large" park and it was agreed to remain flexible on this
- Some discussion from the group on whether to limit the size of the committee. The group agreed that it would be good to have a smaller "Executive/Steering Committee" that is less cumbersome and can take on

much of the initial work but to not limit membership to a larger committee or group. Many agreed it was important to have diverse geographical representation on the executive committee.

Patricia proposed **MOTION TO APPROVE TOR**

Seconded by Richard and carried unanimously with following conditions:

-add "historic and contemporary"

-include development of an executive board

b) Call for initial committee members –

-Digby asked for initial interest of people on the call in joining committee

-Richard, Margaret, Peter, Alberto, Todd (on behalf of Anne Charlton), Ed, and Sakhile all expressed initial interest and Digby noted Chris Hardman had expressed an interest.

-All agreed that geographical representation was important.

-Richard said that he could be Chair

-Gil also said that Richard could serve as interim Chair for the time

-Digby noted the possibility of having 2 Vice Chairs and that one be a director at WUP in order to ensure direct communication between the board and the Large Urban Parks Committee

ACTION: Digby will send an email to larger group (including those not present today) requesting expressions of interest in joining the executive, including serving as a vice chair.

ACTION: Gil, Richard, and Digby to work together to call the 1st executive meeting

5) Ideas for business plan key activities

-Gil asked if anyone had anything to add to Richard's list (included on agenda)

-Peter asked to add best practices in management

-Todd asked to add operational challenges, funding models, programming and homelessness challenges

-Patricia suggested an early task of the committee could be creating a list of topics for best practices and create a simple structure for people to share that information (links and a short text)

-Margaret also supported the idea of having a place to upload existing documents and share as there is much information that already exists

-Alberto supported the idea of sharing best practices outside one's country- this is a big reason many would be part of this committee

-Todd noted that the Best Practices and Standards Committee of WUP should be the repository for this information and there should be some collaboration between these two committees

6) Setting up working parties

-Some suggestions from Richard:

- Best practices-trying to find a format to gather and share these.

- Lobby planning and policy formulation

- Applied Research

-Gil mentioned that the list of topics and working groups should be one of the first things decided by the executive committee.

Todd noted that Benchmarking and Best Practice and Applied Research were recently formed working parties of the Knowledge and Standards Committee and that those links needed to be coordinated.

7) Time and place for a face-to-face meeting

-Richard suggested a potential face to face meeting in February or March of next year that could align with a similar plan by the Knowledge and Standards Committee to do so in Copenhagen.

-It was acknowledged that internet meetings would be the main method and that WUP Congresses provided the best face to face option for people to travel.

-Many agreed that there need to be some specific outcomes from the committee before there is a face to face meeting organized

-next step- likely another GoToMeeting in December or January to maintain momentum

MEETING CLOSED: 10:58pm