

## **BLU / BLSC AGM, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**10.30am - 12.30pm, Whippersnappers**

### **Present**

Mark Rogers - Fusion Lifestyle  
Simon Harris - Lambeth Council  
Richard Allan – Fusion Lifestyle  
Scarlett Haywood – Fusion Lifestyle  
Steven Trowell - Chair of BLSC  
Ben Longman - Chair of BLU

Helen Hayes MP for Dulwich and West Norwood  
Jim Dickson - Lambeth Councillor  
Donatus Anyanwu - Lambeth Councillor

### **Agenda**

- Minutes 2022
- Lido report
- BLU Chair report
- BLSC Chair report
- Lambeth Council
- Questions ( Users)
- BLU Financial Report
- BLU elections
- BLSC Appointments
- A.O.B

### **Minutes**

Tim Sutton raised an issue requesting changes to minutes. 2022 Minutes were approved.

### **Lido report from Fusion Lifestyle**

Mark Rogers (MR) spoke about the Social Value, £5million generated from this site, equivalent of £107.p/p in terms of social benefit (i.e. reduction in health issues, crime, etc).

MR confirmed that booking was no longer necessary for the site. Outlined improvements planed in community engagement, contact with Lambeth Council and wanting to hear from marginalized groups.

Fusion Lifestyle planned improvements in areas including cleaning, maintenance, booking, programming, staffing, increase community partnerships. Fusion would keep price fixed but raise other prices.

## **BLU Chair Report**

Ben Longman (BL) outlined the context of the situation of ongoing issues raised by BLU and lido users over several years, despite interventions from BLU, MP Helen Hayes and Lambeth Council. BLU's concerns are with the maintenance of the site, lack of timelines for improvement and broken promises.

BL outlined BLU's opinion is that the risk of the declines of a valuable community asset, that Fusion Lifestyle was not meeting its obligations under the terms of its lease. In order to get accountability, BLU had asked Lambeth Council for support.

## **BLSC Chair Report**

Steven Trowell (ST) talked about the committee's aim to ensure the lido worked for all and its difficulties getting Fusion to engage and share financial information about the lido. He also noted that the problems outlined by the committee had no date for resolution and that as a committee it had decided to engage Lambeth Council to become more involved.

He noted that frustration from users and the committee was aimed at the management, not the on-site staff and that the local staff should be given the investment and the power to deal with the problems that had been identified.

## **Helen Hayes, Jim Dickson and Donatus Anyanwu**

Local MP Helen Hayes and councillors Jim Dickson and Donatus Anyanwu reiterated the need to recognize the scale of the problems at the site and the urgent need to fix them – issues raised include cleaning, maintenance, equity of ticket and exclusions, and Fusion had not met commitments it had given. All stressed the need and willingness to hold Fusion to account and for a concrete plan for improvement.

## **Simon Harris, Lambeth Council**

Simon Harris (SH) reported that communication and feedback from Fusion had been poor. He stressed that accountability needs to improve but that he could Fusion were now making efforts to address the issues. He said there would be 6 month review with Fusion and that there was a contract management system in place.

## **Questions**

Questions from members at the meeting included:

Question about the steam room not working. Richard Allan (RA) responded that the steam room was being repaired, the spa pool was being tested and there were plans to refurbish the gym. Fusion would also recruit an in house technician for maintenance.

MR talked about Fusion's financial issues including a drop in turnover. MR confirmed that Fusion had secured refinancing and would ringfence £150k of spend over the following 3 months to for improvements at Brockwell Lido.

Members raised issues about services for older members – lack of classes, discounts and the weekend provision.

A question was asked why BLU was not proposing that Lambeth Council take over the management of the lido. ST stressed that there was a contract in place and therefore removing Fusion would be subject to a legal process to do so. Jim Dickson added that he would welcome feedback on this issue.

Members raised concerns about the safety of the showers.

Members asked about refunds – which Fusion responded could be issued locally on a case by case basis.

Members stressed the need for better communications.

Members asked about access for younger members. Fusion responded that it would run some free sessions for younger members in the summer.

Members asked about the booking system. Fusion responded that in the summer 20% of places would be kept back for walkins.

### **BLU Elections**

BLU members Ben Longman, Stephen Trowell, Carole Stagg, Guy Wickett, Martin Duncan, Marc Meryon, Margie Patrick and Mike Warde were elected.

### **BLSC Appointments**

BLSC appointments were confirmed.