

BLSC Meeting 27th April 2023

Present: Michael Boyle, Susy Hogarth (SHO), Stephen Trowell, Ben Longman, Giles Gibson, Martin Pask (Fusion), Simon Harris (SH) (Lambeth Council)

Apologies: Guy Wickett, Sophia Marsh, Jason DaPonte, Tara Fisher-Harris, Noreen Stewart

- 1) Review of accounts that Fusion have submitted.
 - a. The accounts presented are high level expenditure with five years of income and costs. MP explained that the accounts have been presented in a different way.
 - b. ST asked for the accounts to be presented in the form they have been previously so BLSC can make like for like comparisons.
 - c. The committee raised questions about costs, including high equipment leasing costs, which appear to have trebled in cost. MP has advised that the lease costs will end from 2024.
 - d. ST has also noted that the central overhead cost % has been increased and that it appears as if this higher central overhead cost has applied retrospectively. The committee believes that these arbitrary costs look like they have been implemented in such a way as to generate a loss.
 - e. ST requested a breakdown of central costing to account for this figure and the committee noted that there is no explanation why centralised costs have risen so much. GG questioned whether central costs were being double costed, as several centralised costs had previously been included in operational expenses.
 - f. The committee has reiterated its concern that Fusion is not investing in the site and that it strongly appears that despite strong revenues from the site it is suffering from underinvestment. ST notes that capex as a % of revenues or contribution is tiny.

- 2) Accounts that Fusion will provide
 - a. MP has requested to finalise the template of accounts that BLSC wants to request quarterly.
 - b. GG has noted that the list of accounting requirements that BLSC is asking for is a standardised list of accounts that BLSC used to consistently receive.
 - c. ST has complained that the BLSC has not received the updated, standardised accounts and that there is no detail around centralised costs. The committee has formally asked to see what the centralised cost % has been in previous years.
 - d. GG has reiterated that the committee would like have standardised accounts going back to pre-pandemic, 2018, and emphasised that the BLSC needs to see a like for like set of accounts – what used to be called the Brockwell Lido Contribution Report. He also offered to liaise directly with Fusion's accounts department.
 - e. MP has committed to make this request to Fusion's Finance Director.

3) Repairs

- a. MP has warned that the pool will be closed for a period of weeks over the winter season 2023/4 to repair the leak.

4) Lambeth Council's remedial actions

- a. SH introduced himself. He is the Leisure Services Manager, 4 weeks in post.
- b. SH has met with Brockwell Lido Management and asked for a monthly report and will feed back to the BLSC quarterly.
- c. Lambeth Council will be working much more closely with Fusion's management to ensure recurring issues are dealt with, communications improve, for the next six months. Fusion have agreed that SH will work with them as the Contracts Manager.
- d. SH has conducted an extensive site visit and will submit a request for actions that it will require of Fusion and Lambeth Parks.
- e. ST has requested a copy of the criteria that it will use to hold Fusion to account so that the committee can contribute. SH has proposed that this will be ready in May 2023. He has also suggested an on-site 2 hour long meeting to go through this.
- f. The Committee has agreed to hold this meeting at 12pm on Saturday 27th May. The committee has requested for the updated financials 2 weeks beforehand.
- g. ST has also raised the committee's concern about structural issues at the site, for example, the recurring problems with the steam room, plant quality. There are also large areas, e.g. wet side changing rooms, that look like they may be suffering from damp and therefore a detailed survey will be required.
- h. SH has discussed options internally for a survey and is looking into it.
- i. MP has proposed that next quarter he will present back the BLSC the outcome of remedial conversations with Lambeth Council / Simon Harris, with draft 1 ready by end May 2023.
- j. SH has made clear that Fusion have full repair and maintenance lease for Brockwell Lido and it will enforce this.

5) Prices

- a. MP has confirmed that swimming season ticket prices have been frozen for 2023.
- b. GG has made clear that he believes that marginalised and low income group usage of the lido has fallen and remedial action is needed.