



Friends of Finchley Youth Theatre

Members' Meeting

**Tuesday 27th November 2012 7.30pm
at Finchley Youth Theatre, 142 High Road, London N2 9ED**

Minutes of meeting (Revision 1)

Present

Andrew Harrod, Catherine Atkinson, Cecilia Holmes, Christine Marchesi, Emma Hardy, Ken Osborne (minutes), Laura Davitt, Liz Sacre, Marian Stratton, Robina Spinks, Roger Chapman (~~Chairman~~), Ruth Mulandi (~~outgoing chair~~), Sarah Marchesi, Stan Spinks, Zoe Newell

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cheryl Ferner-Reeves, Julia Bramson, Peggy Sharp, Ruth Brown, Sam White, Sarah Cohen and Shelley Gibbons.

1. Introduction and Welcome

Ruth Mulandi, ~~outgoing chair~~ of the FoFYT, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. She said that the trustees had met just before this meeting and she ~~had was~~ now ~~resigned-resigning~~ as ~~chairman~~ ~~chair~~ of the FoFYT and ~~been-would be~~ replaced by Roger Chapman. The secretary was now Ken Osborne and the treasurer was now Marian Stratton.

There was then a round the table introduction of attendees.

2. Minutes of the EGM held on 6th November 2012

There were no comments on the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 6th November 2012 (issued by Liz Sacre on 13/11/12 - file 121106 FoFYT EGM Minutes.doc) which were approved.

3. Discussion - What should FoFYT actually do

Ruth recalled that at the last meeting attendees brainstormed on what the FoFYT could do in general. She said that it was now time to agree what specific things should be done during the next few weeks and months.

Roger handed round a list of ideas which Cecilia Holmes had collated from ideas sent to her after the last meeting. Andrew Harrod, Cecilia Holmes, Julia Bramson, Ken Osborne, Ruth Mulandi, Stan Spinks, Tess Glenday had responded with the following items:

- for FYT to continue to serve the community
- to maintain the balance of activities for young people
- to archive and preserve the history of the theatre
- publicity, advertising, networking and promotions to increase awareness of what the FYT does among the wider community
- networking with other arts organisations
- further discussions, ongoing appraisal of group aims
- fundraising
- support for props and maintenance of the theatre
- create a website for the FoFYT and FYT activities
- to make FYT more accessible to the community.
- to ensure that the theatre and facilities are fully utilised.
- to attend/support as many performances and events as we can
- develop a wider use for the FYT facilities
- ongoing support for classes, plays and activities
- performances that include local talent

- incentives and business links.

4. Future of FYT

Liz said that of the two approaches to the Council under the Community Right to Challenge act one was pushing quite hard, asking for more details of activities and budgets.

Roger thought that FoFYT had the right to see what is being proposed by the bidder. Ruth said that although some aspects may be confidential FoFYT should approach the Council to ask for details to ensure that the needs of the local community would still be met. Roger suggested arranging a meeting with councillor Andrew Harper.

–Liz said that Flo Armstrong (the Council's Divisional Head of Services - Liz's line manager's boss) had said that FYT is not just an arts centre but one of two places in Barnet which provided arts facilities for young people and she was keen to expand the facilities at FYT (for example, making the foyer more of a multi-purpose space). However, Liz mentioned that it was uncertain whether Flo would continue in that post since it had now been advertised as a permanent appointment and interviews would be held in early December.

Ruth suggested that as soon as the post had been filled FoFYT should arrange a meeting with the new (or existing) Divisional Head of Services.

Liz said that the Council wished to change the name of FYT to become the "Finchley Youth Centre" - partly to highlight the fact that it is more than just an arts centre. It was felt that this issue should also be raised at a meeting with the Council to understand exactly why the name change was being proposed.

It was agreed that the Board should arrange a meeting with the Council to inform them of the re-activation of FoFYT and to discuss the various issues mentioned above.

Action 1/121127 - [FoFYT Board](#) to arrange meeting with Barnet Council to inform them of the re-activation of FoFYT and discuss issues

5. FoFYT member issues

Roger said that the relationship between FoFYT members and the Board may need to be clarified. Marian thought that FoFYT should have representatives from the young people who actually attend the FYT activities, noting that none had attended either of the meetings so far.

Ruth pointed out that anyone over the age of 18 could be a trustee.

There was a discussion about the lack of attractiveness of attending meetings to young people due partly to time constraints and what they would get out of it. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and the Youth on Board scheme were mentioned as possible motivators.

Ruth said that regarding expanding the membership of FoFYT in general we needed to be clear what the attraction was to new members. She said that membership of any organisation fell into the category of either a supporter scheme (where members simply support the organisation for altruistic reasons) and benefit schemes (where members get a specific benefit such as access to facilities or reduced fees, etc.).

6. Promotion of FYT at East Finchley Festival

It was agreed that FoFYT should promote itself and FYT at the forthcoming East Finchley festival on 8th December.

Marian agreed to produce a leaflet which could be handed out to passers by outside FYT. Copies could also be placed in the Community Tent. The leaflet would explain briefly what FoFYT and FYT is and what it does. Several hundred leaflets would be produced, A5 size black & white, with members assisting in printing them if necessary [Secretary's note - Stan Spinks subsequently discovered a printer who will print the leaflets for no charge]. Marian would send the draft to the Board for approval.

Action 2/121127 - [Marian Stratton](#) to draft leaflet for handing out at East Finchley festival on 8th December and send to the FoFYT Board members for approval

Volunteers to hand out the leaflets included Catherine Atkinson, Cecilia Holmes, Christine Marchesi, Marian Stratton, Sarah Marchesi. They would liaise between themselves to arrange a rota of times for attendance

Action 3/121127 - [Catherine Atkinson, Cecilia Holmes, Christine Marchesi, Marian Stratton & Sarah Marchesi](#) to liaise and agree times of attendance to hand out leaflets on 8th December

Email addresses of anyone wanting more information would also be collected by the leaflet distributors.

Escorted visits to see inside FYT could be arranged, noting that activities would be taking place inside so may need to be restricted.

7. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed at next FoFYT Board Meeting and advised to Members.