

NATIONAL PARK CITY FOUNDATION*

NATIONAL PARK CITY FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 21 JUNE 2020

Registered Charity number 1173267

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Registered Name: National Park City Foundation, also known as National Park City (NPC) and London National Park City (LNPC)

Contact details: Email hello@nationalparkcity.org or visit www.nationalparkcity.org

Registered Charity number 1173267

Trustees holding office during the year:

Alison Barnes

Emily Brennan (appointed 19 September 2019)

Beth Collier (resigned 31 May 2020)

David Cope (appointed 19 September 2019)

Paul de Zylva (Chair)

Mathew Frith (resigned 26 August 2019)

Eilish Kavanagh (appointed 19 September 2019)

Emily Hamilton (appointed 19 September 2019)

Angela McDermott (appointed 21 June 2019)

Alice Roberts (resigned 9 September 2020)

Ben Smith

Julian Tollast

Tim Webb

Registered office: c/o Geovation, Sutton Yard, 4th Floor, 65 Goswell Road, London EC1V 4EN

Bank: CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

STRUCTURE and GOVERNANCE

Governance and Management

The National Park City Foundation is registered as a charitable incorporated organisation, under a constitution which governs its activities.

Trustees met five times during the year to the June 2020 year end to review and plan work. Trustees also held weekly tele-conferences to expedite work. The effects of the COVID-19 virus, pandemic and lockdown required rapid adjustment to plans for the year, which the Board of Trustees oversaw.

During the year under review, Mathew Frith and Beth Collier stepped down as trustees. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to identify where additional Board skills are required. Where this is the case, the Board actively and transparently recruits new trustees, either through its own network or in appropriate journals and magazines. All new trustees receive induction.

Five new trustees, Angela McDermott, David Cope, Eilish Kavanagh, Emily Brennan and Emily Hamilton, were recruited during the year to strengthen and expand the skills of the Board. The charity is grateful to all its trustees, past and present, for their contribution and support.

This year, thanks to the support of Timberland, the charity recruited two part-time staff to serve as Coordinators of our National Park City Rangers programme, and to support the activity of our first intake of 54 volunteer Rangers. All other activity by the charity during the year has been undertaken by the trustees, volunteers and National Park City Champions.

Charitable Objectives

The objects of the Foundation are:

- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Greater London having aesthetic, architectural, historic, scientific or educational interest;
- To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Greater London;
- To advance the education of the public in the heritage and culture of Greater London;
- To promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants; and,
- To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of other cities and urban centres by promoting the National Park City learnings, practice and status to other cities.

Public benefit statement

The charity trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The Trustees also ensure that the programme of activities is always in line with our charitable objectives and aims.

Risk Statement

The trustees have, taking into account guidance available from the Charity Commission, reviewed the risks faced by the Foundation and have put in place policies and procedures to address and mitigate those risks to an acceptable level.

The Trustees consider, due to the pandemic and its impact on the UK economy, the main risk to the charity to be raising funds in order to develop its capacity and future activities. However, as a new charity that works virtually, it has no office and low infrastructure costs, and has put in place measures to manage costs whilst developing a donor network.

Governance Review

After the period under review, but before this report was approved, the constitution was amended to include the fifth charitable object (above) and to change the name of the charity to the National Park City Foundation, recognising the broader purpose as a result of successfully achieving the goal of London as the first National Park City earlier than expected. This change was approved by the Charity Commission.

Trustees' Report for the year ended 21 June 2020

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 21 June 2020.

Aims

The Foundation aims to bring the idea of National Park Cities (NPCs) to life, starting in London and with the ambition to extend this including internationally, by:

- Providing thought and practical leadership
- Coordinating and developing the vision of NPCs
- Galvanising the London National Park City movement
- Growing a partnership of organisations and interests in support of NPCs
- Leading inspiring campaigns
- Supporting activities that contribute towards National Park City aims
- Fundraising

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

During the year to 21 June 2020 the Foundation focused on: following through on London becoming the world's first National Park City in July 2019; launching the unique National Park City Rangers programme; continuing to develop its network and relationships with communities, business and decision makers in London; and, extending contact with other UK cities while also dealing with growing interest from around the world about cities joining the National Park City family.

Highlights include:

- With the support of Timberland, recruiting our first intake of 54 National Park City Rangers in London and the charity's first part-time employees, Ed Santry and Floree Zama-Neagra, to serve as Ranger Coordinators. Despite the restrictions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the launch and induction of the Rangers was successfully done virtually.
- The charity's Trustees adjusted plans for the fledgling Rangers Programme and all other ideas and activities for the year to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring adherence to the UK government's rules and regulations by all staff and volunteers.
- But for the pandemic, 2020 would have been an election year in London, and the charity engaged with all mayoral candidates. A mayoral hustings event was held as part of our major Gathering on 29 February 2020. All candidates supported our main 'asks' of mayoral candidates about advising London's National Park City status.

- In place of physical Gatherings and events, planning and delivering a series of online events to help people and projects to meet and interact and to maintain creativity and positivity about enjoying and improving the great outdoors, in response to the conditions.
- Engaging with other cities in the UK and around the world about what would be involved in them joining London as a National Park City working especially with our partners at World Urban Parks and Salzburg Global Seminar.

Network, supporters and volunteers

Operating under COVID-19 restrictions challenged the charity's ability to champion the great outdoors and ways for people to enjoy, interact and improve their area either on their own or with others. Plans for the charity's Rangers programme had to be adjusted almost as soon as staff had been recruited and the first Volunteer Rangers announced.

In some ways, the restrictions have created new outlets for people to express their desire for more and better contact with open spaces and nature, and to get to know their local area, its spaces and heritage better.

New ways were found to reach and work with many new contacts from all walks of life who were interested in National Park City as an organising theme, either for their existing ideas and activities, or for ideas sparked by and during lockdown.

All this underlines how the idea and the energy behind National Park City and London National Park City comes from the charity's contacts with, and network of, grassroots communities.

We thank all new and existing volunteers, network members and supporters for adjusting to the realities of the pandemic and doing so safely.

Advancing National Park City status in London

The charity developed 5 'asks' of candidates to be the next London Mayor and held a mayoral hustings as part of its Gathering on 29 February 2020. The elections due in May 2020 were postponed to May 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

As part of plans to follow through on London becoming the world's first National Park City in July 2019, the charity launched the National Park City Rangers programme with the support of Timberland. As reported above, everything changes in March 2020 and our newly recruited staff and volunteer Rangers were required to adjust and develop new plans to make their work relevant to lockdown conditions.

Promoting National Park City status elsewhere

Since Greater London became the first National Park City in the world, other cities have contacted the charity to discuss how they can also become a National Park City. As a result, the charity found itself working with a growing list of contacts in other cities across the UK and internationally.

With cities expressing interest being very different from each other and without a readymade standard model to apply, the charity has worked to understand how best to support other cities and has developed its thinking about its role as guardian of the National Park City idea and ethos. This work in progress will be reported on more fully in the next annual report.

Events

Other than our Gathering and London Mayoral hustings event on 29 February 2020, COVID-19 lockdown and ongoing restrictions between March and June 2020 forced all of our events planned for the year to move online, including regular Trustees' Meetings and our Gatherings.

Ranger induction, meetings and events were also run to ensure COVID-compliance.

Influence

In October 2019 the UK government-commissioned review of landscapes acknowledged the National Park City idea, especially its potential to improve links and access between town and country.

In early 2020, the role of urban areas was also referred to by the Natural Capital Committee in its 2020 report, and in the UK2070 Commission's report on inequalities.

Thanks to:

- Timberland for its support of the National Park City Rangers Programme.
- Each of the 54 first ever National Park City Rangers.
- We particularly thank our new staff, Ed Santry and Floree Zama-Neagra, who coped with the changed circumstances almost as soon as they started in their roles, helping volunteer Rangers and the Board of Trustees to do the same.
- Grace Chao for design assistance with the Mayoral manifesto / 99 What If's document.
- London Mayor *Sadiq Khan*, Deputy Mayor *Shirley Rodrigues*, and *Andrew Jones*, *Peter Massini*, *Ben Connor*, *Katrina Ramsey* and *Pete Nichols* at the GLA for ongoing advice, support and encouragement.
- Elected members of London local authorities and of the London Assembly.
- Our growing list of international contacts including World Urban Parks, Salzburg Global Seminar, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability and the IUCN.
- Time Out, the National Trust, *Charlie Peel* at Urban Good.
- Daniel Raven-Ellison, founder of the National Park City idea, and Steve Pocock, our pivotal super volunteer, who have been at the heart of the Foundation's work.
- Everyone who acts to advance National Park City ideas and activities as a National Park City Maker.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Foundation's financial report for the year to 21 June 2020 is on Page 10. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements and the requirements of the Constitution.

Funding Sources

This year we received £75,000 from Timberland to fund the first year of our new Ranger Programme in London, and £1,670 in general donations, totalling £76,670, an increase in funds of 56% on last year (£49,083).

In this continually difficult economic environment, the trustees are extremely grateful to all funders, donors and volunteers who freely give their time to the National Park City Foundation.

Expenditure

During the year, we spent donations which had been raised in 2018-19, mainly through a crowdfunder, on events during June and July 2019 across London for the launch of London as the first National Park City.

In addition, we began to spend the grant received from Timberland in February 2020 with the recruitment of staff and the launch of the Ranger Programme.

Total expenditure in the year was £43,446 (2019: £15,605).

Unfortunately, due to the impact of COVID, in July 2020, Timberland withdrew their financial support for the second year of the Ranger Programme but continue to support it in non-financial ways and hope to resume their financial support when they can. Expenditure has been lower than planned on the programme due to the restrictions on face to face events and activities, and so the existing funding will be sufficient until early 2021. Trustees are confident that the other sources of funding will be found to continue the programme uninterrupted.

Restatement of accounts to 21 June 2019

We have restated the accounts for last year due to a cash balance of £520 held in a PayPal account which was not included. This balance has increased the income in the year by £860 and the expenditure by £339.

Reserves

The Trustees have not yet set a reserves policy. The cash balance at 21 June 2020 was £67,853, with no other assets or liabilities.

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of the National Park City Foundation

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 21 June 2020.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of National Park City Foundation, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of National Park City Foundation are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the National Park City Foundation gross income is more than £25,000 your examiner needs to be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the National Park City Foundation as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Sarah Welsh, ACA

10 December 2020

National Park City Foundation

Receipts and Payments for the 12 months to 21 June 2020			
			Restated
	21 June 2020		21 June 2019
	Total		Total
	£		£
Receipts:			
Grant from Timberland	75,000		0
Donations	1,670		49,083
	76,670		49,083
Payments:			
Salary costs	11,414		0
Project costs	22,410		0
Events & materials	8,717		11,359
Admin & IT costs	584		3,536
Volunteer expenses	14		709
Trustee expenses	306		0
	43,446		15,605
Net Receipts/(Payments)	33,225		33,479
B/Fwd funds	34,628		1,150
C/Fwd funds	67,853		34,628

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 21 June 2020			
	21 June 2020		21 June 2019
	Total		Restated
	£		£
Cash Funds:			
CAF Bank	66,178		34,108
PayPal	1,675		520
Total cash	67,853		34,628
Total Assets	67,853		34,628
Total Liabilities:	0		0

The trustees declare that they approved the Trustees Report above on the 10th December 2020.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Paul de Zylva

Chair



Elizabeth Kavanagh

Treasurer