**Trustee Role – Finsbury Park Trust**

Are you interested in making a positive difference in Finsbury Park? Do you have a passion for the local area and a drive to help us support the community? Could you bring additional diversity to our board so that we better reflect the community in which we work? We want to hear from you!

The Finsbury Park Trust is a charity which supports and responds to community need in order to improve the lives of all people in Finsbury Park, a very diverse area of North London on the edge of three boroughs – Islington, Haringey and Hackney.

We provide activities and work with partners to promote wellbeing. We also offer low-cost office space in our buildings on Seven Sisters Road, right next to Finsbury Park station. Our shared building is home to a variety of community organisations and we hire out meeting rooms.

We help local people get their voice heard to promote improvements to the local environment, and bring together the three borough councils of Hackney, Haringey and Islington to share solutions with local residents and businesses.

We are seeking new Trustees to join our board.

**What we are looking for**

Our trustees play a vital role in making sure that Finsbury Park Trust achieves its core purpose. They oversee the overall governance and vision of the charity. They also ensure that Finsbury Park Trust has a clear strategy and that our work and goals are in line with our vision. Just as importantly, they support and challenge the executive team to enable Finsbury Park Trust to grow, thrive, and achieve social impact.

We are looking for people willing to bring time, energy, enthusiasm, expertise and commitment to the role, and who will broaden the breadth of thinking and experience on our board. There is opportunity for more activities and partnerships to be running from our building, and we are very happy to support people who have creative ideas to bring.

We would like our board to reflect the diversity of Finsbury Park, and we welcome applications from everyone regardless of age, class, sexuality, gender, race, nationality, disability or religion. If you need any additional support to enable you to make an application, please let us know.

Previous experience in charity governance is desirable but not essential. We will provide a full induction and training as required.

In particular we are seeking people with professional experience in the following areas:

* Fundraising
* Communications
* Business Growth
* Legal - in particularly charity and property law

**Personal skills and qualities**

* Willingness and ability to understand and accept their responsibilities and liabilities as trustees and to act in the best interests of the organisation.
* Ability to think creatively and strategically, exercise good, independent judgement and work effectively as a board member.
* Effective communication skills and willingness to participate actively in discussion.
* A strong personal commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
* Enthusiasm for our vision and mission.

**Duties**

* Support and provide advice on Finsbury Park Trust’s purpose, vision, goals and activities.
* Approve operational strategies and policies, and monitor and evaluate their implementation.
* Oversee Finsbury Park Trust’s financial plans and budgets and monitor and evaluate progress.
* Ensure the effective and efficient administration of the organisation.
* Ensure that key risks are being identified, monitored and controlled effectively.
* Review and approve Finsbury Park Trust’s financial statements.
* Provide support and challenge to Finsbury Park Trust’s CEO in the exercise of their delegated authority and affairs.
* Keep abreast of changes in Finsbury Park Trust’s operating environment.
* Contribute to regular reviews of Finsbury Park Trust’s own governance.
* Attend Board meetings, adequately prepared to contribute to discussions.
* Use independent judgement, acting legally and in good faith to promote and protect Finsbury Park Trust’s interests, to the exclusion of their own personal and/or any third-party interests.
* Contribute to the broader promotion of Finsbury Park Trust’s objects, aims and reputation by applying your skills, expertise, knowledge and contacts.

**The governance structure**

Finsbury Park Trust aims to promote tri-borough cooperation between Hackney, Islington and Haringey (the three boroughs that meet in Finsbury Park). Our governance structure therefore pulls representatives from each borough. We have one councillor from each borough and representatives from local businesses, local residents and the local VCS, up to a maximum of 12 people. In addition to these core seats on the board, we also seek people who have a knowledge of and connection to the Finsbury Park area, and/or who have the skills and interest to support the charity.

As well as quarterly board meetings, plus an AGM, the ‘Executive’ - Treasurer, Chair, Vice-Chair and Company Secretary (currently same as CEO) - meets regularly for operational decisions.

**Terms of appointment**

Terms of office

* Trustees are appointed for a three-year term of office, renewal for one further term to a maximum of 6 years.
* This is a voluntary position, but reasonable expenses are reimbursed.

Time commitment

* Attending 4 Board meetings and 1 AGM annually. Currently meetings are held in person at the Finsbury Park Trust
* Attending 1 strategy day annually
* Spending an average of 1-2 hours per month, ad hoc, on projects with the Executive team and other board members.

**Application process**

If you would like to discuss this role before applying, please get in touch with felicity.ford@finsburyparktrust.org

To apply, please write to us, in no more than 300 words or a single page of A4, telling us about yourself, your motivation for applying, and your relevant experience. It would be helpful to attach a CV, though this is not mandatory.

Potential new trustees are initially nominated by the executive board and invited to attend a Board meeting. Successful candidates are co-opted to the Board and confirmed at the AGM.