

Friends of Roxton Road Parks (FoRRP)
Notes from Meeting #10 held Tuesday May 22, 2012
Location: Fred Hamilton Park

Present: Melana, Shani, Jill, Bob, Susan, Justine, Christine, Stephen, Caroly, Marguerett, Barbara, Alda, Marco (joined later)

Introductions

Welcome new participants & intros: Christine Leonard, Caroly and Stephen Traub. Of particular note: Justine is connected to Dusk Dancers, Shani to Artscape on Shaw, and Caroly and Stephen are musicians.
Jill is still looking for someone to take minutes - Melana will provide backup notes to Jill for this meeting. Shani tracked questions for Marco.

Update from City Hall (Jill on behalf of Marco)

Work identified for 2012 includes ramp to replace stairs near washroom building. (Marco confirmed later that only one set of stairs will be replaced in 2012)
Work identified for 2013 is everything else, including all work using the park levy funds. Our proposal will need to go to City Hall by early August, 2012.
Breakdown of 3 parks for City planning, budget, tendering purposes is required as city considers them each separate entities, but group is encouraged to think about the 3 parks holistically and present proposals to City Hall ensuring the work in the 3 parks can be separated out clearly. Park levy money is meant for Fred Hamilton Playground (Park) only. If expenditures are under \$50,000 for each of two other parks, there may be a way to get work done in 2013. Otherwise it will need to wait until 2014.

Marco asked that the group review ramp proposal and provide feedback asap (Done following this meeting) to City Hall who will send it to Design Consultant because they are currently in Design Development stage. Feedback from FoRRP based on a review of the schematic drawing and onsite discussion at this meeting is as follows:

move the proposed ramp further north to either match the path into George Ben Park, or be situated north of the George Ben entrance so there is a logical connection between the two park entrances that correlates to how people move between the two parks. This also is more sympathetic with the natural grade of the land.

As we think this might be cheaper to accommodate if there is less landscaping/grading work to do and fewer guardrails required, could we consider achieving the second ramp at south end of park in 2012 as well? If other funding can be found can we achieve this in 2012?

Action: Marco to find out for us. We ask this knowing that the procurement process may preclude this.

We are concerned that people in wheelchairs are unable to access the

lower level playground. Could an opening in the fence be made where the park and sidewalk are at the same grade, or could the ramp include an arm that does a switchback (south of the washroom) down the hill to the playground?

Consider how cyclists and skateboarders use the path and ensure that it does not conflict with pedestrians, or people with limited mobility including those in wheelchairs. Are posts at entrance to ramp sufficient? Is width a consideration?

Is lighting on the ramp being considered for safe night-time use? Will it be considered this year? **Action: Marco to follow-up.**

We request that materials be compatible with the natural surroundings. We would like to incorporate something related to Garrison Creek since it would have been directly below this ramp. Great examples exist at Crawford/College and in Trinity Bellwoods with the bronze fish and the signposts.

And finally, we request an onsite meeting in Fred Hamilton Playground of the Steering Committee, the revitalization team plus a representative from Bellwoods House (Susan Andrew, or her delegate and or Scott who attended our community consultation) with the "Successful bidder" and the City's project manager to review schematic design.

Action: Jill to organize meeting.

Discussion about accessibility and that this remains a big priority for FoRRP especially given proximity of Bellwoods House. Are there any AODA funds available in 2012 for the Roxton Parkette or for other work in Fred Hamilton Playground? **Action: Marco to follow-up.**

Update from Environment Day

Bob/Marguerett reported T-shirts/BBQ raised \$438.37 in food sales and \$220.00 in T-shirt sales Enbridge did BBQ. **Action: Marguerett to reimburse Susan and Bob for their expenses. City to reimburse FoRRP.**

Action: Marguerett will set up a PayPal Account

Justine reported that there were 17 food surveys completed that day. By far, most people favoured community kitchen operated by local not-for-profit scenario. Justine proposed the survey go on the website so we can solicit additional feedback to same survey. **Action: Justine and Shani to connect on how to do this quickly, and inform broader mailing list to take the the time to complete the survey.** Two other suggestions came up from group:

food trucks....Marco said not possible due to City bylaws right now...only works on private land (Catholic school?) and, plan from 10+ years ago apparently had a fairly well developed concept for food service. This may be different or more indepth from Brown/

Storey proposal previously reviewed. **Action: Marguerett will try and track this down.**

Formation and structure for FoRRP and sub-committees was reviewed. A revised version is attached here. (Marco joined meeting at this point). Discussed that "Friends" would be the over-arching title of anyone interested in the park, and this would be run by the Steering Committee made up of: chair, treasurer, secretary, City Hall rep, plus chairs of sub-committees. Purpose of the meetings is to:

- get updates from City Hall and our sub-committees
- review and approve recommendations from City Hall and sub-committees
- address any urgent issues around the 3 parks.
- provide opportunity at end of each meeting for questions & broader community input

Everyone else is welcome to attend meetings, and their participation will be encouraged at the end of each meeting during the question period. Steering committee meetings must be minuted with some degree of formality. Sub-committees can operate a bit more casually but should still have some written record, even if only in a quick email. Sub-committees can pull in people as needed. Recommendation is to go to broader mailing list first.

Discussing early work for each sub-committee

Revitalization - Melana is the chair. **Action: Melana to call first meeting.**

There was discussion about providing hospitality (food /beverage service) in the park. What are all the restrictions on food in parks? (We covered pizza ovens, but what about firepits, BBQs, community kitchens, etc). **Action: Marco to clarify or provide us with a contact person at the city.**

History - Susan is the chair. Has meeting set up and has already shared interesting materials among smaller group. **Action: Susan to connect with Shani and see if any of the copyright free material can go on our website.**

Communication - Shani is chair. She is already working on changes to website (transition from Fred Hamilton to Roxton Roads), plus customizing format to better serve FoRRP. Contact names are currently being updated. Shani is also pursuing on our behalf Facebook and Twitter accounts as well as Pinterest. **Action: Shani and Jill to connect specifically on FoRRP Mailing List**

Playground - Justine agreed to be the chair. Everyone agreed "Playground" should be used as broadly as possible to apply to all age groups and should also include programming ideas. Appropriate cross-referencing with Revitalization Committee will be required. **Justine will call first meeting.**

Events Team - Bob agreed to be chair. Set date of Saturday August 11th for and event tentatively called a Block Party/Garage Sale. **Action: Bob to call first**

meeting and then start promoting Aug 11 event.

Setting regular date/time for upcoming bi-monthly meetings - everyone shared availability. **Action: Jill will follow up via email with proposed dates.**

Update from Parks People's 2nd Annual Summit. **Action: Jill or Shani to share update via email.**

Questions / Other business

Justine noted that a group called Young Urban Farmers may be interested in helping with our community garden or acting as a resource.

Sewer smell is notable in lower level playground....and might benefit from a solution. **Action: Revitalization Team add this to their list?**

Mini-schedule for Steering Committee

June	Launch of new website
June 6 or 13	Site visit to park to discuss Ramp
June 27 or July 4	Steering Committee meeting
end July or early Aug	Steering Committee meeting (last chance to review proposal prior to submission to city Hall)
early Aug	Submit proposal to City Hall
Aug 11	Block Party / Garage Sale