

FoRRP Revitalization Committee
Meeting #5 Minutes
July 15, 2013

Present: Melana (chair), Marco, Jill, Zac, Christine, Susan, Justine
Guests: F_RMLab (May, Rakshya, Miriam)

1. Assign a secretary

- Zac took minutes for this meeting, but Revitalization still needs to find a secretary.

2. City updates (Marco)

- The pathway, washroom building and central seating consultant contract has been awarded. Marco will keep us posted on the progress (particularly as Martin is just returning from vacation).
- Ramp curb cut will be done by transportation services. The North ramp will mirror the cut on the other side. The South ramp may or may not receive a curb cut (there are some safety issues). No one objected to the South ramp not receiving a curb cut.

3. Setting up 2 new Taskforce groups

- No one from revitalization expressed interest in taking on a leadership position for either the proposed Kitchen Taskforce or the proposed Garden/Allotment Taskforce
- There is a question about timing (particularly with the Garden/Allotment Taskforce – when is it appropriate to set up the taskforce – don't want to set it up too early and risk losing momentum; the city will vote on the 100K earmarked for gardens in our parks in a Jan 2014 council meeting (so there is time)
- The first thing that is needed is soil testing (are the gardens viable in the locations under consideration)
- The taskforces are still needed but will not yet launch – they will remain under the leadership of the Revitalization group in general

4. Discussion with F_RMLab

- F_RMLab is partnering with FoRRP to help research and design the Water Harvest Project. They are committed to strategies and systems that collect water through traditional and natural materials and using them to improve our urban ecosystem. They are also focused on creating paths and public spaces for people. They want to create interactive playscapes featuring water elements while reflecting the natural Garrison Creek geography. Following is a list of options F_RMLab is exploring:
 - A rain garden, acts as a sponge for the earth. Enables greater water retention that can be preserved in a cistern then used for irrigation or other purposes. Could pile snow on the rain gardens water would melt and filter into the cistern. Building a rain garden would require avoiding existing trees and City infrastructure beneath the ground. Building in a zig-zag pattern around existing objects should work fine.
 - Connecting downspouts to fill the cisterns. Can be harvested from residential houses and local schools, park structures, the metro building, and roadways.

Downspout design and material can be more creative and compatible with the environment. Road water could be collected and used as well.

1. build an infrastructure that people can later adopt individually.
2. community education and assistance to set up personal systems.

- Detention ponds are used for retaining rainwater during storms and releasing the water in the area over a longer period of time.
- A natural water filtration system for the wading pool similar to that of the Princess Diana Memorial Fountain. Pool is currently chlorinated, there might be another option such as converting it to salt water system, or using UV lights.
- Also adding multiple textures and patterns on the pool, visible shapes and materials.
- Switching hard concrete surfaces that increases water runoff, into superior water absorbing materials to reduce the negative effects of water runoff.
- A climbing structure that mimics trees in the way that they hold water. Such as collecting droplets and increase the visibility of water and the process it has in our ecosystem, Play structures will be made with industrial strength materials durable enough to withstand public usage and winter climate. Could be a textile knit material. It could also be a good inexpensive and communal way of building something in the community.
- Expanding the amount of community gardens or allotment gardens so that the water can be put to good use.
- We will have to present the research to the community at some point but should keep generating ideas and developing them until that point. The viability of a lot of the ideas may be dependent on cost. We should separate which ones are most plausible for us as a volunteer group to complete and which will need a greater level of assistance to move forward with. It will be easier to gain city assistance for ideas that already exist locally so that we can justify it to the City. If we want to create something that is distinct we may have to innovate and elaborate from an existing successful project nearby. Should also discuss the project with stakeholders for their input before project progresses too far. Seek out everyone's endorsement for grant writing process.
- Jill and Melana will create a document with information of what currently exists and what will be happening to the park so that it can be incorporated with F_RMLab designs.
- Developmental staging of these projects will be important to move forward with projects. Identify and define projects and what they bring to the community and what would be needed install them.
- Melana can collect the thoughts from everyone in the group after they have had more time to examine the drawings Melana sent before the meeting and think about some of these projects.
- We shouldn't assume that there will be City funds to finance any of these projects. Strictly call it research at the moment. F_RMLab may apply to Toronto Art Council Grant. The Toronto Arts Council grant is due to in August. We will apply to the Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant, and the Weston foundation grant. Ontario Trillium foundation is due November 1st. Jill will take the lead on the grant writing process

with input from Justine and others. Melana will lead the continued development of the proposals with F_RMLab. We could also look into a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds for a specific project.

- Temporary installations may be a good way to familiarize people and City with potential options that could later be adopted. Nuit Blanche would be a good opportunity to try out a temporary installation. May also be beneficial to avoid the play structure definition and instead call it an art project as it could turn into a play structure in the long term projections.

5. Other Business

- In terms of smaller additions to the park Brian Green is the contact person. Jill and Justine will compile lists of what is being offered by residents and take selected lists to Brian Green for approval.
- We could try to convince Metro and other retailers to contribute the 5cent bag fee to be donated to FoRRP for future fundraising.
- Melana will begin scheduling another revitalization meeting in August.