

FoRRP Meeting. March 20th, 2013. #17

In attendance: Adam, Marco, Melana, Martin Balgavy, Bob, Susan, Shani, Brian Green, Christine Leonard, Jayme Turney, Erika Tchonang, Zac, Jill,

City of Toronto Updates

With the coming of spring, there will be a remobilization of the construction on the ramp project. Will likely take place in the first couple weeks of April. There is four to six weeks left of work to be done on the ramp. The southern ramp will also be completed in this period.

The 2nd phase of upgrades to the park will take place after the ramps are finished. This includes work on the washroom building, pathways, and other projects. The City has issued a call for a landscape architect/contractor for the washroom building; it will take a month to find one. Martin Balgavy will be the project manager. Work on the washroom building will not start until after the summer season when it is no longer in use, which is usually on Labour Day, and will occur over the winter. Work on the pathways could begin this summer if we can define FoRRP priorities early enough. The Revitalization committee will discuss our goals and priorities for the 2nd phase and engage with the City and project manager around mid April making sure to identify FoRRP preferences.

The Revitalization committee will have to discuss how to implement a central water feature with Martin. The waterline going through the park does not have much pressure and is not drinkable limiting our options. External fountains on the washroom building are possible and should also be discussed in the Revitalization committee.

Events Committee

Environment Day will be held at Trinity Bellwoods Park in the northwest section of the park on Saturday April 13th because of the construction in Fred Hamilton Playground.

FoRRP will still be present at this event as it is a good opportunity to inform the public about what is going on in our parks. Susan has a tent that can be set up for FoRRP and the City will provide us with a table. Marco has an unmarked copy of the FoRRP calendar that we should bring to show people and maybe get preorders for next year's edition. We should try to sign up volunteers for the Adopt-a-tree program, the community garden, and whatever subcommittees need people. We should also have a display and/or a handout to show people the changes that are

coming to Fred Hamilton Park in the coming years ACTION: Shani to produce a handout. Bob, Adam, Melana, Jill and maybe Shani and Jayme will be present at this event. Others are welcome and encouraged to attend. Events committee will discuss and see if others are interested in helping out. We should also inform TPSI about what we are doing for the event.

We should contact Carolyn Wong about what the Trinity Bellwoods friends group will be doing for the event to make sure that we do not overlap any activities. Some ideas for the event:

Balloons with the FoRRP logo.

Face painting, costs \$90 an hour.

Handout tattoos with FoRRP logo. Susan can get 1000 for \$100.

Rent a popcorn machine.

Could hand out seedlings, or ask for a small donation in return for a seedling.

ACTION: Adam to see about acquiring seedlings.

Provide coffee. ACTION: Jill and Bob to talk to Rene about setting up coffee.

It would be great if with we could make a FoRRP banner for Environment Day that could also be used for future events.

Other information about the event: The Event will be from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The City will be closing the northbound section of Shaw Street for the event. Event will come back to Fred Hamilton Park next year.

There will be a compost drop in Fred Hamilton Park on Sunday May 19th and the Events committee will try to coincide this with our spring event and maybe the tree planting if the new trees come early enough.

A “Little Free Library” is being done at Trinity Bellwoods. So it would be good if we could contact the people in charge of it and maybe try to replicate or extend what they are doing. We should also talk to the people at Jean Sibelius Park on their experience with a library. ACTION: Marco to connect Justine with Trinity Bellwoods person to investigate further.

Of note, June 18, 1948 was the naming event for Fred Hamilton Park, so it might make a good post this year to mark the 65th Anniversary. ACTION: Susan to write post and send to Shani.

Community Garden Discussion

Compost Council wants to invest the time into the garden this year getting it into better shape and improving plantings, and direct efforts towards seed collecting initiatives and edible plantings.

Susan reviewed the history the garden and noted that Compost Council originally received a grant from Toronto Trees and Parks Foundation to help establish the garden.

Susan recommends regularizing Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 8:00pm when people can show up for food and drink and help work on the garden. Other things that could help the garden would be
a consistent source of water,
leave gardening materials in the shed nearby, and
if we added more seating with some back support to the garden area.

Could do a blog post about the garden with some pictures and the history when it starts. ACTION: Susan to connect with Shani.

Volunteers will be needed to start gardening in April. Call for Garden volunteers is part of the larger request for various volunteers. ACTION: Jill to send revised volunteer post for FoRRP for final comment prior to posting.

Susan noted that Toronto Public Library will be doing some community events to teach people about gardening.

ACTION: Brian, Melana and Susan to further discuss what can be done for the garden.

Revitalization Committee

Kitchen task force will be created to focus on the washroom/kitchen project. TPSI is going to do some research on park kitchens.

Melana is drafting a letter for the FRM lab people that Revitalization committee will approve and then send.

Melana is also going to invite Sam to the next Revitalization meeting because of his experience with food services and allotment gardens.

Martin noted that Taddle Creek at Bedford & St. George has a cistern to collect water from the fountain. ACTION: Martin will send Melana the specs for this

History Committee

Susan met with Fred Hamilton (junior) and will share some of the images they collected from his albums. Could post these on the blog at some point. ACTION: Susan to email to Shani.

Two people have volunteered to film the Living Histories interviews. Naomi Wise and Joel Roff. Could begin project, and allocate funds from the FoRRP bank account if needed.

All of the calendars have been sold and will start working on next year's in order to complete at an earlier date and boost sales.

Brian Green noted an interesting historical walk on April 27th. From Friends of Fort York website...**Walking in their Footsteps:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., near Toronto Canoe Club, western waterfront, close to the Jameson Av. pedestrian bridge. Beginning at 10 a.m. when the disembarked Americans began their advance (on the western waterfront near the Toronto Canoe Club), the general public (including the First Nations) will be led by historical interpreters and various celebrities along the axis of advance, stopping at several significant points, arriving at Fort York by 12:30 p.m.

Mouth of the Creek event at West Highland Park also being held this summer. Info available on Toronto.ca.

It would be nice to add some information to the Fred Hamilton and George Ben page on Wikipedia and the FoRRP blog. ACTION: tbd.

Tree Committee

The orchard location will need to be reevaluated as it can't go into the Roxton Road Parkette due to there being too many trees. Will get soil test for George Ben Park and could be a potential location for orchard or some other type of trees. Adam can collect samples and then it will cost \$30 for each sample tested. The group was in favour of going this route and approves funds to be taken from the FoRRP account in order to proceed with this project.

Tree planting should take place in the spring to give them the best chance of surviving. Apricot, pear, and apple trees would be the most successful. Fruit trees need to be healthy in order to bear fruit, in which case we will need the soil to be of high quality and for these trees to be cared for.

Neighbourwoods is the U of T recommended protocol for tree inventory. They will teach us how to do a tree inventory and incorporate our data into a larger system. ACTION: Adam to talk to Jennifer Gagne about Neighbourwoods. Could be a good mid-summer event. It will give us a lot of statistics about the trees in our parks.

The David Suzuki Foundation is focusing on spaces between parks to try and get residents to plant trees on their properties. Adam could provide information to residents about what trees are best and how to care for them. DSF will likely stay away from the parks themselves though as they are already heavily tree covered.

The Tree committee could also steward the small green space by the Metro by planting and caring for trees in that area.

Tree planting event to launch the adopt-a-tree program. We want to be present at the planting. City has no problem. Digging will be hard so contractors will use backhoes to dig holes and then drop good soil into the holes so that we can dig it up and plant trees for the event. Should have a blog post for the end of May as that is when contractors will likely do it. Might coincide with the compost drop date, which is May 19th. ACTION: Adam to coordinate.

The City's Forestry Department has made another proposal for additional trees in Fred Hamilton and George Ben parks. ACTION: Adam and Jill to review, and bring in Melana re: Revitalization, and respond to City.

Next meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15th. Location and timing details to follow.