

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
May 15th, 2013

In Attendance: Jill, Marco, Melana, Bob, Justine, Zac, Barbara Roston, Danielle, Bernd Baldus (Garrison Creek), Park Rangers: Aidan Dahlin Nolan; Andrea McGavin; Lindsey Bennett, FRM lab: Rakshya Gauchan, TPSI: Erika Tchonga; Melissa, and guests: George Cuthbertson, Zack, and Ashley

City of Toronto Updates

- \$100,000 in funds is allocated for 2014 for the design and initial plantings of allotment gardens and potentially an orchard to be located in George Ben and Roxton Road Parkette. These funds are s.42 funds (from various small local developments) and have been approved by Mike Layton's office and the City, but have not yet been voted on at council. The allotment gardens will need a city designer, but they will work FoRRP to achieve the best product. Proposals should come to Revitalization sub-committee and then FoRRP. Zack and Ashley want to be kept informed about when this happens to provide input.
- Upgrading of paths will begin in 2013.
- Upgrading of washroom building will begin by 2014. Contractor still not hired.
- Seeking more capital for future projects.
- The contraflow bike lane plan has parking on the west side of Shaw St. next to the Fred Hamilton Park. ACTION: FoRRP to contact Christina and cc Mike Layton's office to advocate switching parking to the east side of Shaw Street.

The Garrison Creek Linkage Plan

- Bernd Baldus came to speak about the Garrison Creek Linkage Project. The plan started in 1992 with designs from Storey and Brown to connect the parks making up the remnants of the Garrison Creek. He shared two documents with us: a. A brief history of Garrison Creek and b. Renewing: a lost resource.
- ACTION: FoRRP to get digital version of the Garrison Creek map from Bernd
- Project comprised of adding art pieces, more greenery, narrowing roads, and adding viewable historical objects and plaques for public awareness.
- Approved by City Hall, but the plan wasn't enacted. FoRRP is in favour of rebooting the plan. ACTION: Contact/lobby with Mike Layton and other groups about revitalizing the Garrison Creek Linkage plan. Subscribe to their blog once it is active again.
- Reestablishing the Garrison Creek Linkage Plan website soon, Marco will share with FoRRP copy of document to be posted.

Homegrown National Park Rangers

- The David Suzuki Foundation has initiated the Homegrown National Park program in an effort to increase the green spaces and the green programs in the ward. There are now 25 park rangers in the program launching projects across the ward and reaching out to the neighbourhood.
- One project discussed was the “Get Growing Competition” focusing on increasing the greenery on private property. Want to engage community participation and create rewards for various green accomplishments.
- Another project discussed was the “Community Canoe” project making Toronto more canoe friendly. Phase one will be park ranger Aidan portaging from Fort York to St. Clair raising awareness and money. Phase two will be installing small native wetland gardens in decorative canoes across the riding. Aims to place approximately 12 canoes with local plants inside in highly visible locations around the ward. Phase 3 will consist of creating a system similar to Bixi bikes in which canoes can be rented along the Don and Humber River and on the lakefront. Aidan is contacting canoe clubs and looking for canoes that can be used in the project. Any connections? Justine suggested FoRRP add a canoe as part of play structure in lower level playground. Melana suggested seeds from community garden could be used.
- Some concern about ongoing maintenance and toxicity of paint if canoes are painted.
- FoRRP wants to follow and assist in the progress of these projects. ACTION: Follow on Facebook and Tumblr and Twitter. If FoRRP wants one of these canoes we should let Aidan know where.
- There is going to be a “Park Crawl” ranger event on Sunday August 11th. ACTION: try and coordinate with our Block party event, which is on the 10th of August.

Contact: Getgrowing.gardens@gmail.com

Trees

- 22 new trees have been planted in Fred Hamilton Playground and George Ben Park. There are some slight variations to the plan, including one extra tree and one missing, everything else is in place. All species are native from the Carolinian Forest.
- The Adopt-a-Tree program launch took place May 19th on compost day with the community planting three trees, and numerous people signing on to adopt. ACTION: Keep soliciting volunteers to adopt a tree. St. Lukes Catholic School may also be interested in helping out and creating some form of educational

- programming around adopting a tree. ACTION: Jill to contact Old Orchard Public School about possible programming and adoption as well.
- Jill and Adam know where the water sources are in the park and will share information with volunteers so that they can water their trees. Still scrounging supplies. Does anyone have plastic water jugs, bundle buggies, water hose, chain, or combination locks?
 - The Adopt-a-Tree system is being borrowed from the Trinity Bellwoods system, which has proven effective for them. Adam coming up with some form of recognition and sharing of information for our tree adopters.
 - The U of T tree inventory program will be starting soon. Their 3-day training session takes place on May 31st, June 1st, and June 2nd and will cost \$50 to enroll. Afterwards you will be qualified to take part in the tree inventory and upload data that will be compiled and used to protect and improve our ward tree coverage. They expect the inventory will take 5 years to complete as work primarily takes place during the summer. Our current tree coverage is 7%, far below the 2005 City goal of 30-40%. Adam will also be running an informal training session later that will only take one day on June 8th for free. ACTION: Contact Adam about this program if you have questions.

Revitalization

- The next project will be on the playground area and what should be done with it. Still in early idea generation stage. The original map drawn up by the playground committee needs to be adjusted as many features have changed in the playground landscape. TPSI will help move this project forward as well as Revitalization sub-committee.
- The water harvest project is starting to move to the next stage of development. Visuals will be created by the U of Waterloo FRM lab incorporating the water harvest project with our existing layout. More details to follow after next Revitalization meeting, a date of which will be posted.
- Removal of fencing along Fred Hamilton will be examined next Revitalization meeting.

Communications

Postponed. Jill noted that Roles and Responsibilities document draft by Shani has been shared, and any comments should go directly to Shani.

Events

- FoRRP has been present for the compost drop in Trinity Bellwoods and our own in Fred Hamilton Park on May 19th. We sold coffee, lemonade, shrubs, and T-

- shirts to raise money for future projects. We also launched our adopt-a-tree program and had a ribbon cutting for our new ramps featuring Councillor Mike Layton.
- Enbridge has confirmed for the August 10th event and will be barbequing for us. The Events committee will continue to plan our second annual block party and try to bring out even more people. The park rangers are organizing a park crawl on the 11th of August. ACTION: Try to coordinate with our event.

History

- Beginning the calendar process by discussing themes for next year.
- The “Living history project” is also a priority for this year.
- ACTION: Digitize photos of Bernd Baldus and Fred Hamilton then upload them to the FoRRP blog.
- ACTION: Jill will write something about Arnie Achman (dedicated tree) for the blog.

Budget

- Justine shared a hard copy of proposed budget. ACTION: Steering Committee members to send their comments to Justine via email.
- Bob asked if the Events Committee could be allocated \$100 per event for Seed money, which they will use as Petty Cash, and rectify with Justine after each event.

Steering Committee

- Jill asked for Chairs of Sub-committees to finalize their selection of the org chart and 2013 priorities. ACTION: Contact Jill directly with updates.
- Melana will share some revisions to Principles online for steering committee input, prior to being posted.

Next meeting is Wednesday July 17th.