

FoRRP Steering Committee Minutes - July 17th, 2013

In Attendance: Jill, Marco, Zac, Patricia, Susan, Christine, Justine, Melana, Tim, Aidan, Tony Nugech, Danielle

Regrets: Bob, Adam, Jayme

Introductions (Jill)

- We are seeking to engage the neighbourhood by encouraging them to submit potential agenda items for future meetings. People can respond to info@roxttonroadparks.com or leave a note in the FoRRP mailbox located on the fence by the back alley next to Fred Hamilton Park.

City Updates (Marco)

- A consultant Contractor has been awarded for the paths and washroom building upgrades. He will need clear instructions of what materials we want used. We will collaborate with him on the designs. Our first meeting with him could take place next month. The consultant will make suggestions and draw up schematic plans. FoRRP and the City will work with him through this process. FoRRP plans to meet with him twice. Then a public open house will take place.
- The central rocks have been rearranged. Not leaning against each other on their sides anymore.
- The Port-o-Potty is expected to be removed around July 22nd. It was for City park staff, but is no longer needed.

Events (Patricia)

- The 2nd Annual Block Party will be held on August 10th from 10:00am to 3:00pm. There will be musical performances including The Woodshed Orchestra. We also plan to feature a bake sale, garage sale, and BBQ to raise funds.
- We still need tables for renting out purposes. ACTION: Patricia will make contact with a local church to see if we can borrow some of their tables. Tim might have a couple tables. Susan might have some tables available. We plan to rent out the tables for \$20 so that people can set up for the garage sale in the park.
- We also need to search for some people that can provide baked goods for the bake sale. ACTION: Zac to contact Marguerett if her mother can contribute again. ACTION: Melana to talk to Flora about her participating again. If failing to acquire enough participation we can put it out to a larger group on the blog asking for donations.
- ACTION: Park Ranger Aidan to contact the Toronto beekeepers about participating in the event.

- Mike Layton will make a twitter post about the event to raise awareness.
- TPSI can provide volunteers for the Events committee if needed.
- Need to search for old FoRRP brochures to hand out during the event. Tim may have them.
- Pat also requested that people take photographs as possible images on our blog.
- Marco can no longer print copies for us from City Hall. We should find a more cost efficient alternative to mass printings now. Analyze what flyer production will cost and then re-evaluate options. It was also pointed out that the flyer should serve a broader purpose if we are investing in production and distribution.

History (Susan)

- The History committee is meeting next week
- The History committee is researching photographs from the Toronto Archives for calendar production. The goal is to sell 100 copies this year, but may try to expand goal due to success of last year. Funds in the FoRRP bank account have been reserved for this project. The History committee has set a goal of completing the calendars for the October event. Will use same design template as last year.
- The History committee is beginning the search for people to participate in the Living History videos. The goal is to add them to the website eventually. Should make contact with Fred Hamilton Jr for this project. Mike Sinopoli would also be an excellent resource. ACTION: FoRRP members to look for people that may be appropriate and same names/contact info to Kim Hume or Susan Antler.

Trees (Jill)

- Official Trinity Bellwoods Neighbourhood Urban Forest Management Plan is now posted in our Documents Folder and has been referenced in a recent post
- Neighbourhoods Tree Inventory Training occurred on May 31, June 1 & 2. Adam Vandermeij attended on behalf of FoRRP. Jennifer Gagne recruited another 8 summer interns who did the training and have started inventorying. A small number of people also came forward from Trinity Bellwoods Park
- Adam has trained 4 neighbour volunteers. Now it is important to:
 - Start doing actual inventory work - may partner with those already started
 - Garner further interest by spreading information
 - Recruit more people for training session by Adam in the Fall.

- 21 trees have been planted in our Parks. 15 trees adopted and 3 fostered, by 14 people and their families (6 as of last meeting). We have been getting lots of rain lately helping to assist with a strong start for the trees. We still need adopters for George Ben Park trees in particular. The City asked that several trees be replaced after one month because saplings were facing some issue like bugs or damaged during transit / planting process. Still working out better water supply. Difficult that no water available in George Ben Park. ACTION: all FoRRP asked to look for spare components for bundle buggies: buggies, empty 10 litre water jugs, hose, chain, combo locks.
- ACTION: sufficient concern about why some trees replaced and that replacements look in worse condition. Jill to followup with Uyen at City Hall about rationale.
- Fred Hamilton will be dedicating 2 Kentucky Coffee Trees in honour of his sister and his brother. These will be planted in the spring.
- Soil Testing is being delayed, but is still supported by FoRRP and will try to accomplish when possible. Estimated we need a maximum of 20 tests, but at the cost of \$30 each we may prioritize locations to save on funds.

Communication (Christine)

- We are in the midst of the transition process from Shani to Christine. Wednesdays will be her typical workdays for FoRRP.
- Can begin looking for people for people to fill some of the needs on the committee. TPSI may be of assistance. OCAD job board may also have options.
- It was suggested that we put up a board for community messages. Susan has one available. Suggested location on the fence by the back alley in Fred Hamilton Park next to the mailbox and tree adoption equipment. The group supported this measure.

Revitalization (Melana)

- FORM Lab is generating ideas for our park and researching the merit of these potential upgrades. Melana will continue to develop potential projects with FORM Lab. Next meeting will be set for mid August.
- We will probably need extra funding for many of these projects. There are many useful grants we can apply for and Jill will begin this process with help from Justine and Melana. Justine thinks our Water Harvest project would be a good fit with Trillium Foundation. Justine has a conflict of interests due to her role with the trillium Foundation. She declared it and we will avoid taking advantage of her position in application process.

- We still need to partner with an organization that has charitable status or the City of Toronto to apply for these grants. Aidan suggested that the David Suzuki Foundation could play that role.
- Some people worth contacting would be the Head of Water at the City, and the Partnership Office Doug Bennet
- The neighbourhood would benefit if the green space next to the Metro could be better utilized. Perhaps it could be coordinated with the harvesting of rainwater from their roof.
- The Starbucks employee volunteer program could be a useful resource for both labour and funding. The local Starbucks has previously been keen to engage in community projects.
- Justine has discovered a crowd sourcing website called projexity.com that seems to be well suited to our group. ACTION: Justine will create an account and we can begin thinking about it as a resource for funding some projects in the future.

Budget (Justine)

- We now have a 2013 budget for FoRRP. This is a vital step for moving forward as an organization and should help to clarify what we can and cannot accomplish. The current list of revenue and expenses can be altered if a sub-committee chair contacts Justine and brings new information or corrections. ACTION: Sub-Committee Chairs
- A Paypal account exists for FoRRP to accept online donations.
- Justine wants to eventually set up a secure ledger online that would improve accessibility to budget details.
- We are budgeting everything as a monetary figure. That includes volunteer work and materials that are donated. This will create greater legitimacy for our organization as people will be able to see everything that is put into the organization.

Other Business

- Aidan updated us on the progress of the community Canoe Project. He has suggested some locations for our parks.
 1. North-west end of George Ben Park on either side of the fence potentially
 2. Along Shaw Street in the middle of Fred Hamilton Park
 3. South middle of the upper part on Fred Hamilton Park

4. North East or by the sign in Roxton Road Parkette.
- Aidan needs some people for adopting. There are a couple people by Roxton Road Parkette that could potentially adopt. Ask Tim. Zak and Ashley also previously showed interest and would be worth contacting. Will send Aidan contact info. Justine has volunteered to adopt a canoe if it was in Fred Hamilton Playground. Location can be discussed between them. Old Orchard Public School may also be interested in the project.
 - It was suggested that local people could supply local plants for this project. We can do a call out for plant donations in the future.
 - It would be useful if the canoes could be transportable. May have to shift locations in the future.
 - FoRRP could do a post about the project in the future if Aidan wants to write up something for the blog.
 - For those interested to see an example of this project a canoe was installed in Fort York on the 26th of June. There will also be a launch of another one in Little Norway Park in early September. Follow the project on social media if you wish to stay up to date on the expanding network of community canoe gardens.

Upcoming dates of interest:

July 23rd Bird and Bees Trinity Bellwoods

September 29th, Park Crawl

August date tbc, Pizza in the Pits at Christie Pits Pizza oven

August 10th, 2nd Annual Block Party at Fred Hamilton Park

September 18th, Next FoRRP Steering Committee meeting.

