

FoRRP Steering Committee Meeting September 19th, 2013

In Attendance: Jill, Zac, Marco, Melana, Christine, Bob, Barbara Roston
With guests Mike Layton, Martin Balgavy, Aidan, Helen Mills, Wayee, Ann, Ben and Samantha, Zak,

Mike Layton – contraflow bike lane

- The plan to implement a contraflow bike lane along Shaw Street was conceived ten years ago. Shaw Street was selected because it is heavily used people already, it extends from Douro Street all the way to Davenport Road, and connects with many other east-west bike lanes along the way. The north bike lane will be on the east side and parking would be moved to the West side on a permanent basis. Because of Fred Hamilton Park, we would lose 22 parking spots if we were to continue to not allow parking beside it. This loss would be dramatic, but residents expressed displeasure with the aesthetic of having cars next to the park as well as concerns over the potential danger of having cars close to the park.
- Mike Layton's office developed a plan that would forbid parking between 9am to 9pm by the park and then allow permitted parking at night while leaving park entrances clear. This was generally supported by FoRRP as a suitable compromise that doesn't eliminate residential parking spots while maintaining the sightlines of the park.
- An idea was floated that placing a cap on the number of permits available may assist in preventing parking spots from being occupied by the influx of cars on weekend nights.
- This plan will be implemented in the Fall. There will also be a few extra stop sign along Shaw Street. There will also be a reduction in speed limits to 30km per hour all along Shaw.

Martin/Allan - Capital upgrades

- Plans for upgrading the paths and washroom building are being developed. Schematics were distributed at the meeting and we are to send feedback to Jill or Melana who will then pass it on to Marco.
- The proposed plan for the paths incorporate a more serpentine movement than the current "X" shape, while still following the desire lines of the paths. There will also be an increase in benches, and a more central area with seating. The northern path connecting Shaw and Roxton will have to remain a natural path as would be required to widen if we were to want to get it paved, which was undesirable. Some additions of benches that will be used from natural materials and resemble the curves of the paths. Two more benches are coming from donation of Fred Hamilton Jr. We should incorporate these into the plans somehow.
- Upgrades to the washroom building will include a large roof with awning and seating beneath as well as converting half the building to a kitchen area, which

can be used by the community. Looking at roof types. FoRRP likes a corrugated steel choice so that water could be collected for future uses. May also add a diaper changing station in the washroom section for parents. Need to discuss the type of seating beneath the awning. Further discussions on renovation of building to take place at the next revitalization meeting.

- Need a discussion about connecting water harvest plans with the path and washroom building plans. Further development of water harvest project to take place at next revitalization meeting.

Helen Mills and WAYEE – Lost River back alley project

- Lost Rivers wants to green our back alley and want to run a workshop to generate interest for their project. This would include creating container gardens or vertical plantings along walls, making use of downspouts for watering purposes, and maybe adding permeable paving at some point. We could promote this event and start gathering support for laneway upgrades within the neighbourhood. They want to do the workshop sometime in the spring.
- We should have future meetings with the Lost Rivers people because of their shared interests in greening and water usage. Need to discuss timetable. Helen Mills and Wayee should come to revitalization meeting for collaborative purposes.

Aidan – Community Canoe update

- Our canoe is being stored on Crawford Street and is ready to be moved over for the DSF park crawl. There will be soil and plants available for it from our garden.

Barbara – History Committee update

- The current focus for the calendar is on College Street and might incorporate some before and after photos. Running out of historical images of the parks is why content has been switched. We could incorporate images from the events committee in order to keep calendar relevant to the parks. We could also reprint the images from last years calendar. Asked the History committee to circulate a draft of the calendar to the steering committee soon and send Justine the budget info.
- It would be good if there were more digital elements emphasizing the history of the parks. We still want to upload more historical content to the website. It was suggested that we create a desktop photo series that could be used for fundraising purposes. Ben could be resource as he takes old photos and creates hi-definition prints of them. This could also be used for raising funds.

Bob – Event Committee update

- The Summer Block Party was a success. We raised approximately \$600 for FoRRP as well as money for the Woodshed Orchestra and the Community Canoe project.
- We will have a presence for the DSF park crawl, Bob will be handing out brochures and selling t-shirts, maybe selling coffee. The park crawl will have Mildred Pierce making food from the County General Store. There will be music. And the canoe planting with Aidan taking place on that day. We expect the crawl to reach Fred Hamilton park by
- The second annual Night of the Living Fred will be around October 19th. Date to be confirmed later. There will be many of the same activities for kids that were present last year. We will also be screening two movies. The first film will be kid friendly. The second one is still to be decided. We should do lots of promotion for this event. ACTION: Melana will contact Brendan Cronenberg about screening his film 'Antiviral' for the second movie. We could try the NFB for potential movies to show. Events committee will continue planning.

Jill – Tree Committee update

- Adam Vandermeij can no longer be active with FoRRP because he has moved too far away, but before he departed he suggested items 1 and 2 below to help our trees
 1. There is one tree on Roxton Rd/Fred Hamilton Park Side that could possibly be designated a Heritage Tree. There is a fence that is up against trunk and if not moved the tree will grow over the fence, so if possible have fence moved. ACTION: make contact with City department in charge of this.
 2. Younger trees in George Ben Park in particular have been damaged by weed-whacking so best preventative measure is to mulch at base of younger trees. There remains a pile of mulch in Fred Hamilton. ACTION: spread mulch is Sept 29th in association with the DSF park crawl. Zack Althrop agreed to lend a wheelbarrow and take the lead on this.
- 8 trees still need adopting, plus 2 further trees this fall. Samantha agreed to take one on. Spare parts still needed for water bundle buggies - Zack offered some hose. ACTION: Jill following up with City on one dead tree Balsam Fir, and one dying white oak.

Other business

- We have been working on a contribution recognition chart for those that support FoRRP. Jill distributed the chart and we are looking for feedback so that we can have an official structure for recognition. ACTION: steering committee members can send suggestions to Jill for the recognition chart.

- We are going to begin the process of becoming a not-for-profit organization. There is a \$155 fee. This was recommended by many of our partners and will be used for the grant application process. ACTION: Zac will begin the process to become a not-for-profit.
- Our partner the Parks and Trees Foundation is a charity so we can now give tax receipts for donations towards FoRRP.
- There will be another open house soon to talk about the upcoming capital upgrades. FoRRP can also use this as an opportunity to get some feedback on the Water harvest Project and other plans we have. The City will book library for the open house and it will likely take place mid October. ACTION: Christine will do a blog post to raise awareness for the open house. Capital upgrade projects could start this year if weather is favourable, or in the spring next year.