

Friends of Roxton Road Parks

Minutes from a meeting held March 19, 2014

1. Update from City Hall

1. Brian Green hopefully back by summer. In mean time Danny Vala is replacing him.
2. There are apparently already five permitted events for 2014 in Fred Hamilton Park. Action: Marco to determine who they are, and set up system so FoRRP is copied on applications, and can reach out to the organizers, as happens at other parks
3. Snow dumping from roadway into Fred Hamilton Park often between trees. Residents have an issue with aesthetics of this, but also road salt and garbage from curbs cannot be good for the grass/trees. Action: Marco
4. Rogers installed a cable during winter running north from end of lane way in Fred Hamilton Park - as snow is melting there is obvious damage including sunken depressions that need to be fixed. Action: Marco.
5. Some residents concerned about number of dogs in park running off leash and a few who aren't stooping & scooping. Signage is a bit too discrete now (small icons on main park signs only). Marco thinks this is fairly common over winter as neighbours use park less, but come spring, dog owners will be more mindful of the bylaws. FoRRP agrees best approach is to let responsible dog owners self-regulate so that this doesn't turn into a huge issue like it has at other parks. No action needed at this time.
6. Broken tree from ice storm still requires pruning. Action: Marco.

2. Revitalization

2.1. Update on 75% completion drawings for washroom building and paths. Architect is doing drawings for tender. Melana shared the two big issues we've requested be changed including i. permeable paving for paths instead of asphalt and ii. intermediary layer of wood under the corrugated metal roofing, with smaller gauge metal to soften the look which is a bit too industrial for this setting. Project coordinator is going to give us written feedback on feasibility and cost of making these changes. Action: Aidan will share information about permeable paving products with Marco, to forward to project coordinator. Marco confirmed the costs are likely to increase sufficiently. The 2014 for George Ben Park and Roxton Road Parkette is still undesignated and so a portion could be used to support getting the best building possible. If we need to fundraise, could use Parks and Trees Foundation. Marco mentioned the "parking meter" style donation kiosk that is being prototyped and could be installed in our parks. Action: Marco to follow up with the person (Jane?) to see if our park is a candidate. Likely timeline for renovation is:

1. finalize drawings by end of mid April
2. purchasing ?? done by early May
3. tendering completed between early June to early August
4. start date for construction likely September, or when wading pool closes

2.2. Kitchen Task Force Proposal. Melana ran through a series of proposals from Ben and the Kitchen Task Force. The Friends were keen on many of the ideas and offered up a few new ones. A number of logistical items have also been flagged for further research by the kitchen task force. Anyone wishing to review the list of ideas, and contribute suggestions or time to the task force should contact info@roxtonroadparks.com.

2.3. Proposal for a Playground Task Force. Deferred to next meeting. In meantime, Jill asked people to consider whether they or anyone they know in the neighbourhood would like to participate in research, community consultation and planning to take playground revitalization to the next stage, where we can start fundraising. Marco flagged that he needs to be present to represent City. Action: Samantha will connect with Justine to gather information / materials about previous work done on the playground d.

2.4. WaterHarvest next steps. Meg is keen to get involved in this project. Action: Melana.

2. Not-For Profit Update

Confirmed as NFP as of Jan 29, 2014 - thank you Zac and Samantha for your work on this for FoRRP. Aside from ensuring transparency and a level of legitimacy, it also means that we will be able to apply directly for many grants.

Currently we have 3 First Directors who constitute the Board (Melana Janzen, Zac Childs, Jill Cuthbertson) and 3 Officers (Samantha Irvine as Treasurer, Zac Childs as Secretary and Jill as President/Chair). For 2014, the group agreed that in an effort to keep things simple, we would stick with these assignments and the organization chart developed at our January 2014 meeting, until elections in January 2015.

Jill asked everyone to consider participating in the NFP in a formal way in the future by joining the board or becoming an officer. A minimum of 3 and maximum of 8 Board Members are required, and a minimum of 2 to maximum of 5 Officers positions are to be filled each year. See definitions at end of this email for more detail.

3. Green Task Force Update

2.5. Aidan told us about the Tree Office concept with wifi being worked on by a fellow student at York University. Everyone liked the concept. Action: Aidan to pursue this further.

2.6. Marker Trees are also something we are keen to pursue. Action: Aidan.

3. Soil testing. Aidan is trying to figure out how to get soil testing completed so we know if we can plan food, and or we need raised beds. Costs are quite high - approximately \$39 for a regular test. \$150 for a heavy metals test. And over \$1,000 to test for PCBs. Action: Green Task Force to consider idea of doing 1 test to get an indicator. Aidan to contact Gene at Artscape. Action: Jill to followup with Bellwoods Park House who she recalls needed to remediate their soil prior to their new building construction.

4. Upcoming Events

2.7. Sat May 3 Workshop: TRCA Greening Your Grounds. Coming out of a Revitalization meeting, Zack Lathrop agreed to lead this initiative with TRCA on behalf of FoRRP. Samantha proposed that we participate in Jane's Walks on same day. Recent walk led by John from Lost Rivers was great and Barbara felt that History Committee members might participate when it get's to our parks. We would love to co-brand and promote it on our website. Aidan not-

ed Ranger Georgia has led similar tours and might be interested. Action: Samantha to suggest these ideas to Jane's Walk contact.

2.8.Sat May 10 Workshop: Lost Rivers: Green Your Lane way. Helen Mills is organizing this workshop with various people including Jill and Aidan from FoRRP.

2.9.Thurs May 22 Environment Day: Fred Hamilton Park. City could cover food costs. Action: Bob to contact Marco and Enbridge. Focus for FoRRP will be on promotions: Tshirts, coffee, tent, sign up, any updated building / path or rain garden plans, and surveys. Possible day to mulch new trees enmasse and find new adopters? Action: Jill and Aidan to discuss.

2.10.Mon May 26 Walking Tour: Lost Rivers Lane way and Garden Tour is proceeding.

2.11.Sat April 26 & Sun Apr 27 Community Clean-up Days. Everyone agreed FoRRP should participate in this initiative. Recommendation is to focus on one day / one time. A modest amount of FoRRP funds can be used to supply some beverages and snacks (trash free hopefully!) Jill will register our group with Jeff McCormick (also our LiveGreen rep) for Sunday at 2pm. NOTE: the timing has been moved earlier 11 a.m. as all garbage bags will be picked up by 2pm so start time must be earlier.

2.12.Sat June 7 100 in One. Samantha proposed FoRRP participate in this international event. We brainstormed ideas and she will take these to a workshop for further development. Of these, the concept of a flashmob type human river was very appealing to all. Might be interesting to engage local artists. If you want to assist with planning or participate, contact Samantha. Action: Samantha to lead, and pull in Bob (Events Committee)

5. Communications Update

2.13.Generic FoRRP business cards are now available - thank you Christine! Extra cards are available from Zac. Please contact Zac if you would find them useful and require a quantity when talking to your neighbours, park related contacts, and at events.

2.14.Christine shared a list of posts for the next 3 months and asked that others take on some of the writing. The list includes some suggestions of who should lead each post, Christine will review all drafts and schedule them for release.

2.15.Tim suggested that we should use social media more and maybe a private social network. Action: Tim and Christine to connect.

6. History Committee Update:

1. Barbara noted that this committee would like to incorporate an historical element into the renovated building - like a plaque. Someone suggested a painting of what the area might have looked like with the Garrison creek running throughout it. Timing might be tight to get something installed at same time, but FoRRP is keen on idea and it could always be installed after building reno completed. Marco noted that the communication can apply to the city to have historic plaques commemorating George Ben and Fred Hamilton. Action: History Committee to continue pursuing and bring forward ideas at future Friends meeting.

2. This group is also starting to develop a history on George Ben.

7. Other Business

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday May 21st. Everyone agreed meeting bimonthly still works. Start time should be adjusted to 7 pm instead of 6:30 pm. Location for meetings will be in Fred Hamilton Park unless otherwise posted. Future 2014 Friends meetings are scheduled for May 21, July 16, Sept 17, and Nov 19. Everyone interested in our parks is welcome to attend!