

FoRRP Steering Committee Meeting – May 21st 2014

In attendance: Jill, Zac, Marco, Aidan, Phillipa, Samantha, Melana, Michelle, Christine, Zack, Bob, Ben, Barbara, Ashley

City Updates:

- The pipes in the washroom building burst, repairs necessary before opening.
- City staff is reviewing the contraflow bike lane on Shaw Street. Ben is collecting our feedback on the bike lane and will submit it to Marco. Some comments that arose from the meeting were: Cars turning left out of the college square parking lot are dangerously unaware of bikers riding North, request for more signage for cars coming out of the parking lot. At many intersections parked cars are making it dangerous for cyclists by obstructing sightlines. There is a broken sign on College Street.
- The current parking situation along Shaw Street is far from ideal. It was suggested that only local residents with cars featuring the E sticker should be allowed to park beside Fred Hamilton Park.
- Movie shoots and Rogers: Marco will inform us when film companies will be present in the neighbourhood. Brian Green coordinates with other groups that come into the park to do work. FoRRP decided that we should ask for some form of compensation when these companies use our park area.
- Laneway naming: looking for recommendations for the lanes next to our parks. Would be nice to honour citizens from the neighbourhood. Not time sensitive.
- Mural project for Shaw Street garages. FoRRP decided to skip this opportunity and re-examine the project at a later date. We require more time, funding, and greater control of artist selection, and larger neighbour support before moving forward with this project.

Communications

- There is a problem with the info@roxtonroadparks.com email address and we have been unable to receive messages. We are looking for someone with sufficient tech experience who may be able to solve this problem. Until then, please contact the group through roxtonroadparks@gmail.com.
- Tim Posgate is our new social media coordinator managing Twitter, Facebook, and working on a virtual billboard for us to post on.
- If you want to post content on the blog, contact at christine@roxtonroadparks.com.
- Some people continue to have problems receiving our posts. This usually results from user error - if having problems, check your “junk” mailbox.

Events

- Environment Day took place May 22nd. FoRRP provided a bbq, treats, coffee, and lemonade and had a raffle in the park. Thanks to all the volunteers that came out. Look for our recap blog post for more details.
- The 3rd Annual Block Party will take place Saturday August 23rd. ACTION: Bob is going to reach out to Enbridge again for their barbequing services. We will also be renting tables out for the garage sale and look forward to hearing more details... rumours of a dog show.
- 100 in 1 Interventions is an international event that encourages citizens to participate in various projects across their City and is taking place this June 7th. The goal is to get people to improve their local space. Samantha and Bob are leading the project in our parks, which will consist of creating a symbolic river representing the Garrison creek. We will need pieces of blue and green fabric. Please donate if you have any available. We intend to start off small, but hope this project can grow over the years. Zack has bamboo stakes that can be used. If you have any large pieces of fabric that resemble water please contact Samantha@roxtonroadparks.com or donate them on her front porch. We are also looking for streamers to be incorporated into the event.
- May 31st is the lost rivers tour, we should tweet this.

Green

- Want to incorporate community garden plots with educational components around George Ben Park. Involve school. Evergreen gives grants for such projects. ACTION: Aidan to generate content, and connect with stakeholders.
- Aidan has arranged with Susan Posner to do the soil testing at a reduced cost. \$260 each.
- Jill and Aidan to discuss future of Marker trees,
- Tree inventory training to take place May 30th, June 1st, and June 2nd.

Revitalization.

- New feature to the canoe a bee house, contact Aidan for details.
- Melana is developing panels for the WaterHarvest project and will post them somewhere so that people can comment on them.
- Downtown Lumber wants to support community groups. Bob will make contact about them providing supplies for the rain garden, or explore other forms of support.

Kitchen update

- Waiting for building to be constructed. Proposal is that this be seasonal & volunteer run. Want to run a soup program, toast program, ice cream program, use local produce, & involve local restaurants. Feedback and suggestions should be sent to Ben at bleszcz@gmail.com. We are hoping that construction will begin in the fall and should be finished by next spring. Idea to hold a launch event.

History

- History calendars are still selling. The committee has gone to the reference library for more park images and is going to search TorStar archives as well.
- Researching of George Ben has begun. We look forward to a future blog post.

Other business

- Update: Jayme Turney has finished the TPSI report on good governance in community park groups.

Next meeting will take place on July 16th, 2014