

FoRRP Steering Committee Minutes – November 19th 2014

In Attendance: Jill, Zac, Christine, Aidan, Bob, Barbara, Beth, Phillipa, Ben, Samantha, Melana

Bike lanes

Group expressed desire to extend parking hours beside Fred Hamilton Park to better suit residents. Action: Ben will resend to Marco the original email from FoRRP to City Hall about our feedback on bike lanes.

Soil test

Group agreed a bit more research needed to understand how we might mitigate lead and zinc levels in two parks with higher levels: Fred Hamilton Park and Roxton Road Parkette. Good news is George Ben Park which doubles as a school yard during weekdays does not have elevated levels of lead. Our response to the high lead and zinc levels may be to add organic matter to the soil, diluting the heavy metal percentage, but how do we go about this? Also discussed signage encouraging people to wash hands after playing in playground and discouraging people from eating food planted in the community garden. ACTION: Jill and Aidan to post official soil test reports on the blog with some context and ask Jill to ask Marco what more can/should be done by City

Communications

There has been some posting issues with Facebook, will try to remedy. ACTION: Christine will ask Tim to investigate. Ben offered some expertise on Facebook as well. Everyone found business cards very useful so we agreed to proceed with new batch cards with our new address. Action: Christine to get cost estimate and confirm budget is available with Samantha before proceeding.

History

Have selected images for next year's calendar. Beginning editing process. Design will be done again by Compost Council who will also look to arrange the printing. ACTION: Christine will recommend to Kim and Barbara improved process for using Shoplocket for sales and distribution.

Events

Pancake breakfast in January, date tbd.

Revitalization

Pathway upgrades have been delayed until Spring 2015. Roof repairs - minor repairs done by City to minimize further damage City staff found old fire damage. Concern expressed over delays of paths, with much concern about safety of people walking across the park. Also expressed concern about further delay of washroom building renovation. Redesign of building must now proceed - City to confirm is

architect will be asked to make our suggested modifications. This was the original reason this group formed 3 years ago. Suggestion to invite Mike Layton to an upcoming meeting. Action: Jill and Melana to write to Martin asking about next steps on building. Jill to catch up with Marco now that election is over.

Playground

It was agreed at the September Steering meeting that a Playground task force should be formed to concentrate on the revitalization of the playground area. The group initially met on October 7th to discuss needs of the playground space. ACTION: Zac to send Minutes from that meeting to Christine to be posted in the document library.

The lack of shading the playground area is a cause for concern and the group supports planting of more trees in the area. ACTION: Zac to coordinate with the Green committee about tree inventory (prioritize this area in spring) and planting plan on species and where to best locate trees. Jill to find out if City can add any trees in the Spring. If not, should we go pursue other sources like Tree Mobile or grants for planting.

The group also expressed dissatisfaction with the amount and quality of playground equipment in the park. May Wu of FoRM lab has finished her thesis on the WaterWise play structure. It is an ambitious project that we are looking at as a long term goal. ACTION: Melana to write post to accompany May's thesis project on FoRRP blog.

Idea to Paint wading pool. Could be quick and easy. Ben suggested a process to get to an image.

We have also looked through catalogs of pre-fabricated and affordable playground equipment and will generate a menu for the next playground task force meeting. After items are selected, we will bring them to the Steering committee and propose a funding strategy.

Green

Application submitted to Weston Park Challenge by David Suzuki Foundation, with us as one of the 4 partners - not proceeding for now. FoRRP is still interested in pursuing Food Forest with David Suzuki Foundation. Jill, Melana and Aidan most involved to date. Phillipa and Bob would also like to become involved. Jode will be calling a meeting for January or February to develop ideas further.

Profile Bee-condo at Environment Day - invite Ranger Gillian? Interest in doing milkweed plantings at Environment Day. ACTION: Aidan and Bob to pursue.

Lost Rivers Thirsty City Walks - partners for laneway greening workshop, container butterfly garden, & walks producing brochure circulated at this meeting. Action: Jill will provide feedback to Helen Mills.

Steering

5 stolen benches - not yet reported to Police

One new dedicated tree, Tulip Tree, hope will be adopted by Julie and Tim

ParkPeople survey of Friends Group. Action: Jill will submit on our behalf.

Ryerson student working on prototype for park specific cigarette disposal unit. Student wants direct access to park friends groups. Jill will bring any proposals to this group or Revitalization.

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting and will be on January 21st 2015