

FoRRP Steering Committee Minutes - March 18th, 2015

In attendance: Jill, Zac, Marco, Christine, Beth, Barbara, Bob

City Update

Construction on pathways in Fred Hamilton and Roxton Road Parkette will begin when the ground is dry enough to support trucks. Anticipating this to happen by mid April. It is approximately a five day project. There are still some questions about the grade of the ramp and the planting bed in Roxton Road Parkette, and the circular formation and seating in the middle of Fred Hamilton Park. ACTION: Marco to contact Martin about these details.

The bids for the washroom building renovation project exceeded the available budget, and are set to expire in a couple months unless we can raise enough money to finance them. The group was not optimistic about acquiring adequate funding to complete the project as currently designed.

Our options moving forward are:

Reduce the scope of the project and only complete the interior aspects, but without the electrical upgrade.

Only complete the exterior elements of the project.

Members of FoRRP believe that significant cost-cutting measures could still be applied to the designs. There is still some money in the budget for re-designs. If we go back to Allan Killan with a list of our five critical design changes, it might reduce the cost of the project. We would then have to re-tender the project, but wouldn't need entirely new designs.

If we are unable to get the changes requested, we may have to start the process over with a new consultant and a different scope of what we want to achieve with specific instructions of what we want.

ACTION: Jill to send Melana's five significant design changes to the building to Marco.

ACTION: Marco to take the design changes to Martin to assess if they can be incorporated into the plans, to come closer to budget, without going for a total redesign.

The City has a roof-like structure that can be incorporated into our park. It would not be able to collect rain water, but can provide shade. If it does not work for the building, it can be incorporated into another area of the park. ACTION: Marco to circulate images and specs of the structure.

FoRRP discussed the possibility of pursuing alternative funding sources to finish the project from pursuing corporate donors or a fundraising campaign.

Without the roof providing water to the cistern in the rain garden project, we will need a new source of water. The group requested Marco look into disconnecting the washroom building downspout or add eavestrough to the lower field house if possible. ACTION: Marco to raise with **John Abela** to see if this is possible.

List of items we need Brian Green to help with:

Ask Brian to provide new soil for community garden and George Ben trees

Remove asphalt pad

Fix damaged light standard

Peel back part of fence in lower area

The maple tree damaged in the ice storm still needs pruning

We would like more benches for Roxton Road parkette.

We need bags for community cleanup day

ACTION: Marco to talk to staff about bike path on Shaw and coming safety needs

Events update

Environment Day in our park will be held on April 25th. Enbridge will run the bbq, City will reimburse up to \$300 worth of food and beverages. FoRRP will have our regular tent set up. Events Committee to have a meeting and discuss. **ACTION:** Invite bee people and cartographer group to Environment Day. Bob and Zac to send contact info to Marco. Marco to send out official invitation.

RainBarrel.ca sales usually expect a minimum sale of 50 barrels to make it worthwhile for everyone It is too late for us to make those kind of sales in 2015 but will re-look at the program next year when we have more time to plan..

Bob will organize the LiveGreen Community Clean Up Day for Sunday April 19th 10 am to 1pm. **ACTION:** Blog post to promote, and contact Brian Green about bags for garbage.

Snow Removal

The group discussed the problems of residents along Shaw Street not clearing snow in front of their homes in a timely manner. With the high number of people living with reduced mobility on our street, uncleared snow is a significant impediment. We have come up with a few strategies on how to better manage snow removal next year. Sidewalk in front of the park is City responsibility. We want that space to be added as priority street removal. **ACTION:** Marco to contact City staff about adding Shaw Street to priority street clearing list and importance of not blocking the sidewalk
ACTION: FoRRP will help distribute a newsletter with Mike Layton's office before next Winter reminding residents of the importance of regular snow shovelling.
ACTION: FoRRP will post on the blog and other social media to remind residents about shovelling their snow.
ACTION: Jill to contact Bellwoods Park House on other ways to make it easier to traverse streets during Winter.

Ice Rink

We discussed installing a natural ice rink in George Ben or Fred Hamilton park for next winter. We will need a group of volunteers to manage it and a water source for the ice. **ACTION:** Zac to ask Tim if he wants to lead project, otherwise will need to find someone else. Also contact other parks on how they run their natural ice rinks and St. Luke's about using their water source.

History committee update

2015 calendars have passed the break even point in sales. The printing costs has gone up to \$700 though. We need to start looking for new printers to continue calendar production in the future. ACTION: Barbara to look for alternative printing sources. ACTION: Jill to follow up with neighbourhood people on photos.

Communication updates

The Friends blog will continue regular posts and will see updates to the partners page, the donor recognition page, and adding recognition to LiveGreen on the Revitalization page.

Christine is also producing a new flyer for distribution in time for Environment Day. Looking for inexpensive printing options. ACTION: Bob will try to generate dates for future events to include in the new flyer.

Green Update

All of our young trees were adopted last year. May need more adopters for this year if we get new trees or current adopters are unable to continue. ACTION: Jill to send email to adopters to make sure everyone is still committed. Start asking around for people who want to adopt a tree this year.

Beth will become FoRRP liaison with Jennifer Gagne and the NeighbourWoods Tree Inventory program. ACTION: Beth to reach out to Jennifer Gagne and continue inventory of trees in our parks.

Steering update

Group approved FoRRP structure for 2015
We have submitted our annual return for 2014.

The next Friends meeting will be on May 20th, 2015