

FoRRP Steering committee Meeting - May 20th 2015

In attendance: Marco, Aidan, Jill, Zac, Melana, Tony, Bob, Barbara, Samantha, Michelle

City Updates

- Work on paths has begun and will hopefully be finished by the end of May. Concerning the building part of the plans we are awaiting Martin's response to Melana's suggestions.
- There might be a change to the parking rules beside Fred Hamilton Park enabling parking at all hours of the day for permit holders.
- Rain Garden project, Marco indicated we are to work with John Abella at the City.

The Laneway Project

- Michelle Senayah presented the Laneway Puncture Project to the group. Laneway Puncture aims to make dashed incisions, 4" wide along the central drainage channels of select paved, residential laneways, and fill these punctures with porous materials and green ribbons of hardy, native vegetation. Laneway punctures will be planned in collaboration with local residents, city councillors and the appropriate city departments, and will be maintained by local residents with support from partner groups. These modest interventions will provide significant benefits by beautifying laneways, enhancing biodiversity and helping to encourage rainwater to percolate slowly rather than flooding into Toronto's often-overwhelmed stormwater system — all without affecting pedestrian, bicycle or automobile traffic. Punctures will only be established in lanes where the local community is supportive of the project. Follow this [link](#) to learn more.
- The Laneway Project Group wants to use the laneway along Fred Hamilton Park to Harrison Street as a prototype and will assess the greening potential of the asphalt strip along the lane. The other prototype will be on the westside of Bickford Park. These prototypes are scheduled to be completed by Fall of 2015. FoRRP supports this project and ACTION: Jill write a letter of support for the Laneway Puncture Project. Aidan will likely act as liaison for for while project is carried out. Manage space after completion and coordinate public outreach.
- Marco flagged potential opposition to any laneway changes. We will look at ways of reaching out to residents along the laneway.

Green

- Saturday May 23rd at 10am the asphalt pad in the lower end of Fred Hamilton Park will be torn out. We are looking for volunteers to come out and help smash the pad. City will be present to help and pick up material afterwards. Failing to complete it that day we will schedule another opportunity. Grass will replace the asphalt when finished.
- The incoming planting bed in Roxton Road Parkette needs an adopter. Immediate neighbours will get the first chance to adopt it. ACTION: FoRRP flyer to nearby residents looking for adopters. Failing to find a adopter that way, we will then go to various other groups in the community like St. Luke's, St. Christopher's house and finally we will post of the blog if we still cannot find adopters.
- FoRRP expressed strong support for maintaining the Old Orchard green space. Please follow this [link](#) to find out more information and sign the petition. We should also invite the group to our events and do a blog post trying to reach more people.
- The Learning Orchard will be incorporated into WaterHarvest plans. Ideally the next roof we should incorporate could be St. Luke's to provide rain water for the orchard.

- The adopt-a-tree program will be moving ahead, currently in need of one more adopter for this year. Also looking to plant more trees. City is doing a two-year review of the trees and will replace damaged or dead ones.
- Tree inventory will continue. ACTION: Beth to reconnect with Jennifer Gagne and organize a few more tree inventory sessions.

Revitalization

- Melana presented site Plans for the cistern rain garden prototype. These were revised following an on site meeting with FoRRP, City staff, and ACO our supplier. We are planning to have prototype installed between Labour Day and Thanksgiving. Although building renovation will likely not be completed by then, the cistern is being sized to accommodate rain water from expanded roof/canopy as part of building project.
- There was an idea to repurpose roof from field house being for something else.
- The city has access to a shade structure, the group supported the shade structure in our park preferably by the playground. Location to be discussed in a playground meeting.

History

- Beginning preparation for 2016 calendars.
- Tony has written an article about the soccer riots in our parks to be posted in June.
- ACTION: Jill to contact Frank of gas station to see if his family has historical photos.
- Tony mentioned that there was a bowling alley on Roxton and College, would be interesting to find out the story about this.

Events

- Sunday May 17th, Fred Hamilton Park was the location of a Clothing swap. Approximately 150 people showed up to exchange clothing and at the end of the day 20 garbage bags of extra clothing was donated to Oasis Clothing Bank. Thank you to everyone that showed up and hope to see you next time.
- The Annual Block Party will be held on August 15th. Details to follow.
- St. Lukes Fest will be happening on June 19th in George Ben Park.
- Old Orchard Public School will be having an event on June 12th

Other business

- Someone expressed concern about the building at College and Roxton.
- The owners of the Matador Dancing Club have plans on reviving the location. Here is a [link](#) about the Matador's history and coming changes. The Dovercourt/College Residents Association has formed in opposition to the scale of the project.
- Shoplocket is shutting down. We may need a new website to manage our online sales. ACTION: Marco to look into alternative websites
- There is still a lack of spaces to lock up bicycles in and near our parks. ACTION: FoRRP to write to Brian Green cc'ing Marco about suggested locations for City Installed posts.