

Steering Minutes - September 16th 2015

In Attendance: Jill, Zac, Bob, Christine, Barbara

DSF Park Crawl:

- The David Suzuki Park Ranger Park Crawl will be coming through Fred Hamilton park on Sunday Sept 27th, between 2:15-2:45. They will be walking north this year from Shaw entrance at south, exiting at Shaw north east corner. A Dance performance by Julie Aplin will be in our park and freezies will be available.
- We discussed what level of engagement FoRRP wanted to have in the event. Some ideas that have come up are: stencilling fish images along the path, picking up bricks from old building for washroom renovation, setting up FoRRP tent for information sharing and merchandise sales, having OOPS attend to talk about protecting school from closure.
- Due to lack of resources, the group found it difficult to commit to participating fully. We still plan to set up the FoRRP tent for information. Zac and Bob to occupy tent. ACTION: Zac, Bob to find volunteers and pry up bricks by lower build for re-use on the new building separate from DSF event.

Garbage Collection Update:

- At the previous meeting, the group expressed dissatisfaction with the current garbage collection system in parks. We understand our councillor Mike Layton is putting forward a motion that park garbage collection revert from Waste Management back to the Parks, Forestry and Recreation department. This is the preferred option of FoRRP as it will mean more and better garbage receptacles and less trucks driving through the park.
- The City does not have cigarette butt disposal option. Jennifer Gagne was talking about someone who was designing one specifically for parks. ACTION: Jill to follow-up with Jennifer Gagne.

Communications:

- Have determined content for next couple of months for FoRRP blog posts.
- The alternative online distribution platform has an annual fee. Due to the lack of online sales we decided to not move forward with the website and concentrate on other ways of distribution.
- It was brought up that the blog would benefit from a donation option. We are unsure if our WordPress template is capable of that. ACTION: Samantha and Christine to have conversation about raising funds online through blog donation button and possibly seek web design help from Shani.

Revitalization:

- We are anticipating the start of construction on the WaterHarvest prototype. Should start October 5th. We still need some help with things. Please contact Jill if you can help. We will also have a blog post later looking for help doing various things for the project. Group approved the Declaration of a Non-Discrimination Policy required by the City.

- The washroom building renovation is being delayed to 2016 as we need a new architect for the building. There will be a meeting this Fall and we will begin the process again. The project manager and new architect will have a meeting with Melana and Jill and whomever else wants to join where we explicitly describe what we are looking for. Action: Jill to contact Marco to see if FoRRP can have a role in the selection of the architect given expertise in our community.
- Asphalt Pad removal is continuing. The dirt piles have been spread and in need of sodding or seeding. Can possibly use barriers for water harvest renovations. We were delayed with Brian Green's leave of absence. Will continue process with his replacement Paul O. Action: Jill or Zac

History:

- Calendars out to printers. Not sure when it will be completed, but hopefully we can start selling them soon. Thanks to the History committee for such quick completion. ACTION: Invoice the cost of printing to Samantha.
- Auntie Kim dedicated tree story discovered. ACTION: Jill will write a blog post to be posted at some point in the future. Still trying to contact Len Domino for tree adoption.

Green:

- The Adopt-A-Tree program will need more adopters in Spring and has to consider replacing St. Luke's trees that died in George Ben Park which is a difficult location due to lack of water. We may also need adopters for the Rain Garden. Monday mornings at 9:30 there is a group watering session for the young trees. All are welcome to join. This is the third year of the AAT program, at which point some trees might be strong enough to survive on their own. ACTION: John or Beth to check the young trees and see if any are healthy enough to graduate the program.

Events:

- The events committee is discussing times to do the Night of the Living Fred event. Thursday October 29th or Friday October 30th seem to be the preferred dates.
- The money raised from the Block Party is with Samantha to be deposited. ACTION: Jill to write a thank you letter for Paul and Cheryl for sponsoring the event and develop template for other cash sponsors. Some things for next year include having the sign in more prominent location for longer period of time and for the events committee to discuss whether they prefer Enbridge volunteer for Environment Day or the Block Party.
- Rain Garden prototype launch event will take place sometime late October or early November We will acknowledge those involved and have a ribbon cutting.

Other:

- The Laneway Puncture project is delayed. The group is seeking funding. Our laneway along Shaw is still slated as the prototype, but uncertain if funding will come for the project.

- There is a significantly long list for installing the standard City bike locks. Our park needs more with the new bike lane along Shaw Street and there is a damaged one by the Metro. ACTION: Jill to follow up with Marco.
- Group was reminded that calling 311 is useful for any problems in parks including litter, damaged benches, etc., and all neighbours should make use of this service!