

FoRRP steering meeting - July 20th, 2016

In attendance: Jill, Zac, Barbara, Bob, Christine, Melana

Proposal: Increased accessibility

Jill had a meeting with some residents of the Bellwoods Park House and talked to them about their accessibility needs in the parks. Some of issues they brought up include:

- They requested a wheelchair symbol on Shaw St bike lane because they say it is easier and safer for them to use on this stretch of Shaw Street, than the sidewalks. The City does not permit wheelchairs in bike lanes but no one has been ticketed. People using motorized wheelchairs are considered pedestrians and are expected to use sidewalks.
- The group discussed whether the increased presence of delivery vehicles obstructing the sidewalk and bike path while parking. Delivery vehicles are supposed to search for a legal vacant parking spot when making a delivery, but this is not practised regularly by the delivery drivers. It was brought up that allowing parking beside Fred Hamilton Park would increase the amount of spaces, free up congestion further south on the street, and possibly deter this delivery vehicle practice. Writing up a petition would be necessary for the parking rule change. No one in the group was willing to go about the petition procedure and there is still some skepticism for merits of the contra-flow bike lane on Shaw Street. Calling Police 14 division non-emergency number, when a vehicle is obstructing the sidewalk is an option. Action: Jill will contact Councillor's Office to see if there are other issues with Shaw Street bike lane between Dundas & College that might necessitate a redesign. We have heard Shaw/College and Shaw/Dundas intersections have lots of accidents. Post meeting idea: Perhaps we can promote delivery services that use pedestrians or bicycles so to reduce the large vehicles blocking paths. GoodFoot once had an event in our park.
- They would like at least two power outlets in the park. We now know we will have 3 outlets on outside of the washroom building. Could a light post be altered at the north end of the park to provided an electrical outlet? ACTION: Marco to check if that is possible. Up to staff to fight for accessibility funds. Jill currently has a extension cord extending into the park as a temporary measure.
- Automatic door openers on new bathrooms. Melana confirmed from the drawings that all four of the doors for the building will have push buttons to open doors automatically. Only one of the new bathrooms is fully accessible, the one with door facing north is best. The second washroom facing south will be very accessible.
- Sand is the worst surface for wheelchairs. A few of the newly installed benches have sand around them. Grass would be a bit better for them. ACTION: Jill shared that park staff will be adding sod around the benches in September.
- They expressed the desire for some sort of water feature in the upper area of Fred Hamilton Park. Maybe a splash pad or spray fountain at top area. Maybe make better use of the potable fountain where Brian Green (Park Supervisor) said he was going to pull up pavers. Revitalization to think about how to incorporate water in the upper area and what might be achievable \$200k to \$300K for small splash pad. Could include in our partnerships application for Fred Hamilton Playground?
- They want to make use of the bocci court - either existing courts or one that is accessible. Apparently there are tubes that go onto wheelchairs so they can play bocci - City Accessibility site has these listed. We agreed to explore a removable ramp for them to enter the existing bocci courts. ACTION: Zac to look into. Either make in his shop or explore StopGap.ca.

- They expressed the need for a place to garden that is accessible. Maybe use Roxton Road Parkette. Might need modifications and may be too isolated. May have to create a raised bed somewhere for them. The Community Canoe was suggested.
- They would like at least one table without any benches for a group of wheelchair users - not just a single wheelchair. Able-bodied people can easily bring a chair and still use table. ACTION: Marco will talk to Ops Team Peter/John Abela about getting such a table.

Proposal: Using Bocci court for skating in winter

ACTION: Melana to seek feedback from bocci people about converting bocci court to ice rink in the winter. If they are okay with it, our Park Supervisor will need to be approached to see if we can flood a side of the bocci court for skating in this winter. Also look at how the middle piece could be extracted in a way that does not disrupt the court.

City Update

- Ping Pong Table - awaiting delivery of tables - no timeline.
- Grading project - in preparation for building renovation beginning later in summer.
- Shade structure - ready except for letting sod get established
- Benches - need sodding around concrete bases

Revitalization

- Water Harvest next steps. Repair section between rain barrel overflow & cistern. Hopefully the pump will work after that. Proposal for additional rain barrels capturing run-off from residences was discussed at end of meeting. No objections were tabled. Next step, is to confirm with Marco and Park Supervisor that this will happen. Action: Zac.

- Building renovation. We have received the final drawings and will go out to tender soon. Will ask Martin for a timeline for completion.

- Playground Committee. Currently writing the Partnership's application so that we can issue tax receipts for donations towards the playground revitalization. Meet with Doug Bennet when complete. ACTION: Zac will circulate the application for editing.

Green

Jill has been in contact with Sarah Quann and Debra Beattie of Trees Canada, a not-for-profit group dedicated to greening communities. 82% revenue from corporations like Seimans and Ikea. Discussed their "Partners in Planting" program: they work with us to identify our "wants". Find corporation to supply funding for tree stock and planting costs, and often provide the employees to volunteer in tree planting. We liaise with City on costings and utility locates. Our project currently described as:

Fred Hamilton Park 5-10 trees, greater than 6' high

George Ben Park - 10-30 large stock trees

Roxton Road Park - 5-10 fruit & nut trees

Native trees. Melana suggested that George Ben include fruit & nut trees as well, based on original plan developed with DSF.

This project has been added to their inventory of possible projects. Nothing would happen until this Fall at the earliest. Another option for RRP is their Edible Trees Grant Program which they are launching this fall for plantings in 2017. ACTION: Jill to get costings from City to Trees Canada. ACTION: Need communication with residents surrounding RRP - some people might

have issues with edible trees. Could reach out to Not-far-from-the-tree to ensure fruit is collected and not going to waste.

Events

The 5th Annual Block Party will be on August 6th from 11am-3pm.

There will be live music, karaoke, and food. Enbridge will be operating the bbq for us again, we will need two more volunteers to help. ACTION: Bob will be acquiring the food. ACTION: Zac to post clothing swap to coincide on Bunz. There will be a hula hoop contest. There will be a 50/50 raffle. FoRRP will have a table for promoting park activities and soliciting volunteers and donations operated by Jill and Christine and whomever else has a moment to represent the park group.

Other Business

Update: Laneway Mural program with StArt. Approached us with deadline of this August 13th. Jill circulated the proposal among directors and approached one resident who has pushed for murals. Only 2 directors responded. No one willing to be the FoRRP liaison for the project. ACTION: Jill let Jodi Callan know that we are unable to participate this year, but will consider the project in 2017.

Jill brought up reducing the amount of FoRRP meetings per year to four from six. This group felt we should stick with 6 for now. To be discussed again at our AGM.

Followup from last meeting:

- Marco will ask our Park Supervisor to add signs on pathways at entrances where they don't exist.
- Doggie bag dispensers don't work. Friends could add some creative signage to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. ACTION: need volunteer to make sign.
- To get bench in RRP, need to send request to Park Supervisor indicating location. Maybe into queue for 2017 projects, because we have exceeded our allotment of benches for 2016.

The history committee is working on the calendar for 2017. Zac to look through old photographs. Jill will try and introduce Barb to Phillip who has park photographs

St. Luke's Catholic school is undergoing a name change to Pope Francis Catholic school. The fence along the George Ben field will not be installed. Joanne Saragosa staying on as principal for the newly named Pope Francis Catholic School.

Next Meeting: September 21st, 2016