

## Steering Committee Minutes - May 22nd, 2018

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

### **Water Harvest**

The WaterHarvest project has suffered a few setbacks. We have not heard anything from the City about the installation of the canopy structure that they promised to install. (Update: this work completed as of June 11) This means we have missed our LiveGreen grant deadline and will have to return a portion of the grant money. (Update: LiveGreen granted a further extension because the work was imminent) ACTION: Spend what we can on garden supplies. The cistern is still not functioning. We suspect that water is not reaching the cistern and perhaps leaking somewhere when it does fill up with rain water. ACTION: Disassemble rain barrel to find blockage, fill up cistern lock pump, and monitor water levels over the course of a week. Report back to City. The rain garden is also in need of some attention. Planting, weeding, and watering are all necessary. ACTION: Melana to reach out to Lauren again and see if she is still interested in taking on the garden.

### **Discussion Item: Bike Racks**

Bike Rack locations. We have received four bike racks. Two have been installed by *Fred's* and two on the concrete pad by the water fountain at the north end of Fred Hamilton park. They seem to be largely unused in their current locations. Jill proposes moving bike racks onto the road near the park entrances. This method has precedent on Augusta Ave, and in various other parts of the City. This way, they will not take up scarce park space and will be closer to where people might actually use them. The group supported this proposal. ACTION: Jill to move this forward with Brian Green.

### **Playground**

We have received the feed back from our playground survey. 59 people participated. The results ranked playground features proposed by the playground committee and indicate the preferred locations in the park for those features. The full results will be publicly posted in the coming months and the playground committee will continue to move forward with revitalization plans. The prioritization from the survey suggest that natural play features are the most important feature to add, followed by a play structure, water play features, a fountain upgrade, art in the park, and finally ball sports. City funding may be available in 2019 for planning consultant.

### **Park People proposal**

The Park People Group have asked if we would like to be a featured group in an upcoming tour in which they will focus on our working relationship with the City, our efforts towards making the parks more accessible, our events/programming and community engagement, and our building revitalization and the WaterHarvest projects. ACTION: Jill to reach out to Tara and Frank and see if they would like to participate and speak to accessibility. Park People would bring some food and an honorarium of \$100. Bob, Melana and Marco will be the FoRRP representatives for the tour. They estimate a max of 25 park people would turn up in our park for a talk/tour, maybe coffee or other beverage in Fred's, lasting max 2 hours. The dates are up for discussion. ACTION: Melana and Bob to contact Brianna to coordinate a date and let other FoRRP Directors know once finalized.

### **Events**

June 12th poetry reading hosted by Ann Mitchell, from 6-7pm. ACTION: We could do a post promoting. Suzanne McMaster reading for 20 minutes. The event will be open to the public.

They will not be using Fred's Kitchenette, although the Steering committee thought it a good idea to do a non-FoRRP prototype event in Fred's at some point. Keep an ear out for a group or event that may be well suited to this.

Environment Day took place on May 5. Bob has sent thank you notes to the various contributors. Suggestions for next year include:

- invite The College Promenade BIA again
- position City tents closer to us in **Fred's** to make it seem like the same event.
- request more compost - we also only received one pile of compost this year, after normally receiving two. This seemed to lead to less people coming to the park and a shorter period of time before everything was gone. ACTION: Marco can followup on compost.

- We should change the sign/jar to pay-what-you-can rather than suggested donations to receive greater income from people we made \$90 from the lemonade stand and, \$170 from the suggested donation jar. Some other ideas for events and programming raised by Bob were: hosting another bookswap; a potluck dinner event; boardgames nights; movies nights.; assembling and publishing a cookbook. The group was generally supportive of all of these ideas and willing to assist in the production of them.

- It may be better to set up the City Staff along Roxton Road next year. It was a bit crowded and hazardous on Shaw Street with cyclists going north, automobiles moving south, and dumpsters all on the same street.

### **Other**

Jill updating Tree Map and may look into getting more trees for next year to replace some that died during the turbulent Winter.

Bob is acting Chair in Jill's absence and will have key to **Fred's**.

The concept of combining CSA subscribers with herb garden maintenance and harvest had support from the group. ACTION: Jill to reach out to CSA subscribers and to Tara about willingness to participate.

Zac filed FoRRP annual reporting obligations with the CRA. We are still a not-for-profit

Zac told us about the bee house on the Red Bud tree in George Ben Park, and suggested the phd student doing this project could be a guest at a meeting or event later in the year.

Our next meeting and last of the 2018 year will be held on October 23, 2018.