

October 26, 2011, 7-830pm
Friends of Trinity Bellwoods
Fall Community Meeting - TRC
Meeting Minutes (Anna Hill)

Present:

- 1) **INTRODUCTIONS;** Patricia Cavanagh-Chairperson, Anna Hill-Secretary, Michaelle McLean-Steering Committee, Leigh Nunan-Steering Committee, Carolyn Wong-Steering Committee, Councillor Mike Layton, Marco Bianchi from Councillor Layton's office, Steven Monitz, Jane Wells, Ed Dosman, Kristen Sharpe, Julian Sleath, Nuit Blanche Producer, Stan Rezepka, Chris Shulgan, Gelman Cortez.
- 2) **Treasury Report:** Friends balance \$7185.94. Since last meeting we received a few donations from film companies; \$550. Approaching productions for donations if they are filming in the park is our main source of funding. It was agreed that the market would donate \$500 to greenhouse every year at the end of the market season towards their operating budget. Happy to say that the market could contribute again this year. As well, the market contributed \$300 to the Friends of Trinity Bellwoods. The intention from the beginning was for any market surplus – beyond operational - would go towards sustaining the Friends. It's taken a few years to build a cushion for the market and it's great that things are falling into place to sustain the Friends initiatives. Our main expense (\$1000) this year was the revamping of the website. Just over \$400 was expensed towards facilitating/maintaining of our highly successful Adopt-A-Tree program.
- 3) We need more **TriBell Facebook Friends**. We have 100 Twitter followers. Leigh is doing a great job.
- 4) **Website** – All efforts were made to maintain all previous documents on website during migration. In the event we can probably find anything that was lost in transition. The old site is accessible to us, though at some point it will be taken down. It is advisable that the Steering Committee go through our respective areas to review new website info and old site info to compare.
- 5) **Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Farmers Market.** Season 5 ended Oct. 25th and from all accounts it was a success. We had some new great short season farmers, in particular apples/cider and corn. We were super lucky on weather, except for the last day. Before market started we had a threat of increased parking permit fee – upwards of \$2000 for the season, this from \$80 in previous years! With the help of our Councillor and the Toronto Farmers Market Network (www.tfmn.ca), we were able to stop it. Any increase to operational costs to the market, ultimately increase the costs to farmers – which is what we don't want. The recent threat to farmers/markets is an increase to 'user fees' Our market pays the City for a permit to Parks property, this is a user fee. As do any events/activities that take place in the park or recreation centres, to name a few. We've had a petition going at the market and on-line to collect support to NOT support the user fee increase. We have no idea what the increase would be, though we suspect massive, if the City wants to recoup their budget short fall. We are still in limbo land on this front. Nov. is when it's supposed to rear it's head. So far 5000 signatures have been collected. We can always use more. Info/link are on our site still, please sign if you have not and spread the word. The Friends and market accounts are shared. Carolyn does the bookkeeping to separate them. In a nutshell, the vendors stall fees cover operational costs. The market is sustainable. I received three grants to purchase/install a permanent

storage shed at the market location. The past 5 years we've been borrowing space for the wagons/dolly/tents. It will make a world of difference to have our own shed near the market. We hope before year end that it will become a reality, as the grants must be spent this season. Current balance for farmers market is \$3164.93, with some receipts to come. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me, market@trinitybellwoods.ca.

- 6) **Grants for the shed** are not included in market balance. They were received from; Neighborhood Beautification (\$1000) and their Open Air Farmers Market program (\$1000) and The Carrot Cache (\$1225) on the Danforth). And Farmers Markets Ontario contributed \$500. General supervisor and Parks Supervisor have approved the shed – concrete – and will supply the footing required. The shed also has the Councilor's support. Which all were obtained more than a year ago. A mural will be painted on the facade, vines will be planted to grow over it during market season., then in fall, reveal the mural. The process to look for an artist(s) is in the early stages. Shed will be located on the laneway near the current market location. Ed Dosman is concerned that every group would like to make the claim that they need a shed. Farmers Market fits food policy of the City. They support health and sustain local farmers and the economy. Can't compare this with other events that occur in the park. Ed Dosman does not want park to forfeit more open space to specific activities. "Art in the Park is not going to ask for a shed," says Jane Wells. Friends of Trinity Bellwoods supports the shed. In future, it could still be possible to remove the shed from current location once installed – if there is significant community opposition. I hope that the community will allow time for the shed presence to settle in, get properly decorated in appearance before a final judgment is made. I would like to add that the shed is significant in sustaining market operations and gives it the permanence and independence that it needs. Ed Dosman stated that he was not in support of the market shed. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carolyn, market@trinitybellwoods.ca.
- 7) **Adopt A Tree** – Michaele (Adopt A Tree program coordinator) reported that the park got 46 new trees this year which brings the total to 87 trees in the program; the summer of drought meant a tough inaugural year for the trees; we've got 61 adopter volunteers in the program now = fantastic; but still have a few trees needing adopting; despite putting up signs in Korean, Chinese and Portuguese the group of adopters doesn't represent the ethnically diverse users of the park; the Patagonia store staff did some volunteer work in the park this summer but stopped after their lead volunteer took another job. Very lucky to get all these new trees in park and Trinity Bellwoods is a very popular site for memorial trees. Who knows what the city budget cuts will mean for future succession plantings. The program was a lot more work this year and will be reorganised for next year to spread the workload.
- 8) **Parks, Forestry & Recreation Department's Union** is starting to accept some help from local communities, per Mike Layton. Union now supports community gardens. Mike Layton wants to find a balance of community and union care for parks. Mike suggests that we have a party for people who are taking care of parks. Is now a time to make a big change in how Parks are managed?
- 9) **Park People** Anna from Friends of Trinity Bellwoods is new advisory board member. Purpose of Park People is to unify community park groups like ours so that citizens can provide City with feedback about how to create park policies that respond to user needs. November 2nd City-wide Parks Plan meeting. Anna will attend.

10) **Greenhouse** - a good spring with seven community groups and thirty individuals sharing the space. Community watering program, a success. Carolyn of Farmer's Market gave greenhouse a \$500 grant so our total balance for 2012 is \$1,218.00. Greenhouse meeting in February to determine how to best allocate funds. Space is not well used in summer, fall and winter. This fall, we had a homeless person in greenhouse. What is highest and best use for greenhouse space during off season?

11) **West End Bikeway Update**-Issues of signage. Looking for comments from the community on proposed signs ([see pdf](#)) Route north of playground is not possible due to fragility of tree routes. Route will be per attachment ([see pdf](#) from Layton). Speed of cyclists will be regulated through signage. No new markings on paths. Re-doing Lobb and Crawford corner. Re-doing section of path at north part of park. Upgrading the path systems. No new paths being added to park. Extension of fence along south side of playground. Transportation money will pay for these path upgrades.

12) **Sign locations** - near gates, also at Dundas and Shaw, also at Lobb and Crawford.

Friends of Trinity Bellwoods reaction to multi-use path is very disappointed on the one hand and optimistic on the other. Why are we fencing in the kids? Why is kids safety not a priority? Councillor Mike Layton's concern is that the money is there and why not fix the paths? Mike also feels that signage can be further critiqued. Mike says that he can't move the path to the north of the playground due to Forestry's assessment of the vulnerable tree routes. Anna from Friends of Trinity Bellwoods is optimistic that route proposed along diagonal path is a reasonable solution. Michaelle from Friends of Trinity Bellwoods expressed strong disappointment in this final outcome. Although FoTBP was successful in lobbying for no new pavement, its position on the issues of pedestrian safety and the inappropriateness of our crowded downtown park being used as a transportation corridor was ignored. McLean suggests that FoTBP should go on record somewhere with a formal response to this decision, as a follow-up to its "Don't Pave Our Park" petition, which 129 park neighbors signed. Neighbor Ed Dosan also expressed disappointed in this outcome.

- a) **Can Marco from Councillor Layton's office** please email pdf of signs and multi-use path route to Friends of Trinity Bellwoods so that we can post on our website?
- b) **Community request** to use anti-graffiti paint on signs.
- c) **Community request** to revise signs to feature a picture of child at play and a pedestrian rather than pictures of cyclists (see attached).
- d) Michaelle and Anna will **analyze the petition** and report back to the community about what has and has not been achieved by the community in its efforts to oppose/critique the proposed bike route through the park.
- e) **Community member's concern** that trees are being killed at corner of Ossington and Dundas by bikes being attached to them. Route through park needs to figure out how to protect the trees from bike locks. Don't want to see the trees being planted and a year later, they are dead due to damage from attached bikes. We need more bike racks around park perimeter and possibly in the park. There are markings on every tree in Roncesvalles saying not to lock bikes to trees.
- f) **Community concern** that when a bike path is marked on a city route, it becomes a major transportation corridor. Worry is that this will be an unsafe route for pedestrians.
- g) **Community suggestion** that we need a major review of city policy on bike paths in parks.
- h) **Michaelle notes bylaws state Ebikes are not allowed in parks.** Signage at Trinity Bellwoods must reflect this.

15) Proposal for Trinity Bellwoods Summer Gallery. Art just happens in this park. Leigh wants to help people put art in park legally and in an environmentally responsible manner and for a limited term. Proposal for a pilot project next summer for five months of art in the park for one month at a time. Perhaps Artscape could be involved. For now, only Leigh is suggesting this idea. Running this would cost money. Fun to see surprising things in the park.

a) Summer gallery proposal feedback ---Encouragement. Start small. This is a good idea. Talk to the City about what a permit for this would look like. Investigate how you could make this real and bring back data. Talk to Trinity Bellwoods Community Association. Special Events. Queen West BIA. Festival Event Guide. Councilor's Office.

b) Summer gallery proposal feedback –This year, Nuit Blanche teenagers had a terrible experience with their teepee installation in park. Wanted to use the park because they are from here but their installation was vandalized during Nuit Blanche. How will Leigh work to protect the artist's installations?