

Minutes for Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park Summer Meeting

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

7pm – 8:30pm Trinity Bellwoods Rec Centre, 2nd floor, west landing

Minutes by Laura Jamer

Meeting Chaired by Sian Owen

Total attendees: 16

Attendees:

Sian – Steering committee

Laura – minutes, adopt-a-tree coordinator, Steering committee

Norma D – Fall Park Day lead

Danny Vala – Leadhand Parks

Elizabeth – Greenhouse

Carolyn – Farmers Market, Steering committee

Anna Hill - Steering committee

Kevin O'Burn

Sue Campbell

Matthew

Samuel – Canadian Cancer Society – Bark for Life

Joanne – Canadian Cancer Society – Bark for Life

Ausma Malik – running for School Board Trustee

Mike Layton – Councilor Ward 19 (ours)

Phillipa – working on a school project

Kevin Cooper – Cycle Toronto; bike valet

Unnamed – late arrival

Welcome – Sian

Sian welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Adopt- A-Tree – Laura

Laura gave an update about the program and that about 47 trees remain un-adopted of the 89 that were planted this year. She asked anyone who is interested to contact her to adopt a tree or to spread the word to friends and neighbours. Email – adoptatree@trinitybellwoods.ca

Sian suggested Danny Vala and and Councilor Layton that it would be nice to get a heads up when new trees are going to be planted.

Someone suggested Park People and LEAF may be able to get the word out for more adopters.

Farmer's Market – Carolyn

It has rained a lot. Still a steady loyal flow of people who come weekly. Parking is still a struggle to manage.

Four new sandwich boards were created to draw people to the market on Tuesdays. Thank you to Martha & Connor of www.greeninghomes.ca, who donated their time and materials to build them. Kent and Norine for painting, and Ali for the great lettering/silk screening skills.

Samuel asked if there are any events during the markets. Carolyn explained there are no planned events. The market is a simple functional market, but there are musicians on occasion. Because it's during a weekday afternoon, a formal event may not add much in terms of attendance. Were tried in past but didn't draw so much.

There are 1,600 followers on twitter for the farmers market. Facebook is not so popular. Still accepting volunteers for set up/wrap or other things. Contact info@tbfm.ca

Greenhouse – Elizabeth

There was an excellent seedling season this spring with 80 trays and about 6 groups including students and over a dozen individuals. It is also used as a watering station for the AAT program. The hot-house program was in the greenhouse in the winter.

Dog Bowl – Sian

This item was put on the agenda because Belinda emailed the Friends group. She's asked that people remember to pick up after their dogs.

Broken glass is often found in the dog bowl and so is there anything we can do to help prevent this. Also, sometimes the lawnmowers go over tin cans that get shredded and cut the dog's paws. Could parks do a visual before mowing?

Danny Vala said the lawnmowers try to pick up items before they mow the lawns and city worker Jeff tries to clean up throughout the week as much as possible.

Sue asked Danny if they are going to crackdown on off-leash dogs. Danny said that Trinity Bellwoods is one of the targeted parks for the crackdown on off-leash dogs. The crackdown started yesterday. There is a \$360 fine.

Permits – Carolyn

Carolyn and Laura get notices for letters of condition for permits in the park.

Carolyn said anything that is official goes on the our website calendar. Events not listed on the calendar are they aren't permitted/sanctioned (ie fireworks) and other rogue events.

Danny brought up that there is a food truck reality show filming this week in the park. And Carolyn indicated we are trying to co-ordinate a donation.

Sian mentioned that the acoustic musical festival (Great Heart Festival) this year missed their chance to get a permit so Mike Layton helped them through. Sian mentioned it's important to get a permit because when huge groups of people coming to the park mean more usage of the washrooms.

Sian brought up that past events allowed the Friends group to set up a booth for information sharing so if anyone wants to attend that booth on Friends behalf, that would be good. This year there are 2 events:

- Bark for Life - Sept 20 – we need volunteers to rep FoTB at this event – if we want to have a presence.

- National Homegrown Park Day – October 5 – Sian, Carolyn and Norma will attend this event. Sian mentioned that David Suzuki will be in the park for this event.

Bark for Life – Samuel & Joanne

Sept 20 – to celebrate the dogs of people who have cancer; like a “relay for life,” has been happening for the last four years. Last year there were 75 people and \$17,000 was raised. Goal is to raise \$20,000. Hoping for the same turnout as last year.

Vendors will be present and will be selling dog clothes and treats. The vendors either pay the charity or donate a part of their sale profits. The goal is to get more people to sell items. They aim to have about 20 vendors. This will be right in the centre of the park in the circle. The event lasts two hours.

Carolyn said the signage has to be very apparent that the profits are going to charity so that it does not appear to be a commercial venture.

Sian suggested they talk to Carolyn to have a chat about hosting an event in the park. There will be a booth there and it will need to be manned to promote volunteerism with the group.

Fireworks – Sian

There were a lot of complaints this summer so far. There was a lot of mess left after the fireworks.

Danny said there is a policy that fireworks are not allowed in the park but that it is inevitable. Parks anticipates this and didn't have a problem cleaning up.

Sian mentioned that noise complaints came through late into the night on several nights (until 1am). Sian asked if there was a way to register doing fireworks, to try to control the situation, knowing that it will happen regardless. Essentially she is wondering if there's a way to manage fireworks in a clean and safe way.

Danny said that the cleanup isn't too big a deal but sparklers are a real concern because they are hard to find- metal sticks - and are dangerous. This park has become very popular. This is Toronto's 'Central Park' but it's hard to control everything that happens.

Sian suggested we remind people through social media to pick up after themselves.

Mike suggested we put a sign out reminding people to clean up their fireworks and to be done by 11 and also a metal garbage bin or two to put out. Danny agreed that putting out some metal bins would go a long way to helping the cleanup.

We will try and get something (bins or signs) ready for Labour Day.

Yellow Ribbons for “Jumpy Dogs” – Sian

Dogs that aren't good with people can have a yellow ribbon on their leash to signal strangers to give them space. Several attendees agreed this is a good thing.

Paths – Sian

Many people have brought this item forward. People would like the paths improved and fixed.

Danny explained that the park's main water main is near the Gibson house and it burst twice over the last winter and it needs to be fixed before the paths can be fixed.

Matthew mentioned that the path just north of the playground going east-west is also constantly flooded.

Daniel said that Brian has allocated some money to fix the situation.

Sian added that there are many issues with paths in the park.

Mike said paths are really expensive to replace and also become an issue with arborists whenever a tree goes near a path i.e. roots too close to path = damage to tree.

Matthew, Norma, Sian and both Kevins said they would be willing to be on a committee to discuss path issues to try to get 2016/17 to fix the path issues and come up with a plan to do it. Sian mentioned we might need a donation drive to get the paths fixed. Carolyn wanted to remind the group that we need to call it a multi-use path and not just a bike path. Any path in a park is a multiuse path. Mike offered to send the 2011 path plan through to the committee to discuss. Sian asked Danny to relay information about what's already planned for fixing the paths.

Lost Keys – Sian

Lots of lost keys recently, there used to be an area that was good for a lost and found at the top of the dog bowl but it was 'vandalized'. Is there interest in replacing it?

Updates

Sian –

- Park Safely Audit but no update at this time.
- Donation Stations: these would be parking meters that people can put their change in to make a contribution to the park. We've been waiting for a breakthrough with the city's negotiations with the parking meter providers on this issue.
- Movie Nights – Andrew was trying to do movie nights. He sent his regrets about attending. No update on progress.

Danny piped in that the stage in the dog bowl is being completely rebuilt.

Kevin –

- Bike Valet, no real update yet. Proposal sent to Brian Green, waiting word once he gets back from vacay. Intended location to be near Shaw/Dundas, behind organizers tent to provide people with a secure place to leave their bike while shopping in the market. Danny said that if Brian says it ok then he can get Kevin 12 barricades to try it out. Kevin hopes it would get put together in mid-September to see if it's popular and worth doing it in 2015. This would be a trial run.

Processes – Sian

There has been some people who've asked for the history of the park and this group so that things are documents so that when new volunteers come in, they have a framework from which to work. Sian has not initiated anything yet but wants to know if anyone else wants to get involved. Carolyn said some history is on the website already from which to start. Matthew volunteered with this process.

Fall Park Day – Norma

Norma volunteered to run the fall park day. Carolyn suggested that Norma get in touch with her to discuss how to get off the ground and what can be done for a fall park day. Anna said before or after Thanksgiving is a good time for the park day.

John Gibson House – Sian

There is no further activity on the site plan application for the JG house, so we're now in a lull at the moment with the activity and renovations there.

Funds for the Park – Sian

When new condos go up, developers are required to provide funds for parks development. Marco indicated via e-mail that at least \$100k will come from the MOCCA development and that money will come to the park.

Anna suggested that Mike might want to run a community consultation on how to spend the money.

Social Media

Laura: Facebook – more users have followed. Since last meeting, we are now at 630 “likes” on our Facebook page (there were 522 at the last meeting). We are finding followers increase when there is sharing.

Carolyn: Twitter has about 900 followers.

Matthew suggested we connect with the other parallel facebook groups in order to capture more followers.

Budget

Carolyn is doing well on the budget with the farmers market. There is approx \$10,000 in the bank account for Friends, but Sian will check on the actual numbers. Sian said we don't do much with the money aside from paying some out for the Adopt a Tree program. The last big expense was \$4,000 for a tree audit several years ago.

Fall Meeting

Anna suggested after November.

We determined the week of October 22nd would be good to target.

Sian thanked everyone for coming out to participate and have their voices heard. Meeting adjourned.