



Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park Meeting
Minutes Mon. Jan 30, 2017 – 7-8:30pm
Trinity Recreation Centre 2nd floor art room, east end.

AGENDA Menu

Steering Committee reports (aprx 30mins)

Meeting started - 7:01pm

1) Introductions - 5min. Rotating Chair, Laura Jamer
18 in attendance including SteerCom

Kevin O'Byrne, Melanie Davis, Theresa Belawski, Katrina Darychuk, Joseph Clement, K. Money, Dawn Rzepka, Bruce Van Dieten, Matthew Church, Kevin Cooper, Emily Quinton, Vanessa Marino, Paul Willis, Karene Kwan-Tat, Zack Lathrop, Marco Bianchi (for Councillor Layton), Carolyn Wong (minutes & apologizes)

2) Adopt-a-tree - 5min. Katherine Money

Laura has passed the AAT torch to Katherine. They will convene, she will get up to speed. 90 baby trees were planted last fall – all will need parents. In spring a call out will happen. Appeals to anyone now that is interested, contact her at adoptatree@trinitybellwoods.ca

Discussion/questions ensued.....

Marco – talks about trees. Q- Concern about gater bags, will city take care of? How much are they actually filled by city? A- Not guaranteed that they will be, if city can, they do. Q- Aren't the people that purchased memorial trees are supposed to take care of for a few years? Whatever tree is assigned a gater bag, it will remain until no longer needed by the trees. Then they remove to be used elsewhere. All other trees without gater bags will fall into AAT area. 90 were planted in the fall – need parents.

Q – Spring mulching by city? - Mulching, sked for spring has not been determined. Waiting to see how spring rolls out.

Trees that are damaged or sick – city constantly monitored. The tree that killed man was in healthy condition when the unfortunate incident occurred. It is on going maintenance of trimming trees/branches that need it as well as the cutting down of diseased ones.

Contact Marco/Layton if you see a tree that looks like it needs attention. And call 311 is very helpful to track where reports are coming in. Expedited, contact

Layton office. Everyone please use 311 call/email more to use effectively. Spread the word!

Katherine explains the AAT program, very helpful. Please contact her, tell your friends. Just watering is all ya gotta do. Please email Katherine at adoptatree@trinitybellwoods.ca to adopt a tree.

Katherine – We need aggressive marketing for AAT, please share on social media for broad promo. Next step is for her to get orientated and mapping tree. Anyone interested in helping out contact me.

The Friends did win an award for creating the AAT program (contact Kevin Cooper which one)

Discussion about the David Suzuki canoe and who takes care of it. Kevin O'Bryne has tried to water it. Q – wonder if Adrian from Homegrown is around?

3) Farmer's Market - 5min. Carolyn Wong

The drought last year did effect a few of our farmers. Hoping this season will be better. Upside, did not have one rain day last year and that was good for attendance. It was nice to have pleasant days considering the past 2 years of rain only on Tuesdays, or so it seemed. Excited about 2017 – 11th year! Invitations have gone out to returning vendors. The leave a bag/take a bag program was successful. If you have any clean re-useable bags to donate, please do. The basket draw for the last 3 months of market was fun. Will be putting out a call for seasonal volunteers, which we always welcome and it's lots of fun and great way to meet the vendors, learn about food source and help sustain operations. Visit our dedicated website www.tbfm.ca for more. Friends website has info as well. Follow us on twitter @TBFarmersmarket for on the day news. Make sure you are on the Friends email list for notifications.

4) Green House 5min – Zack Lathrop

Green space saver idea;there's been talk about mud tracks left in park. Lot of paths are made by people walking and city vehicles. There is a product of hard interlocking grid designed to stablize the ground, and allow grass to grow out of it. Not widely used, but city has used. Could it be applied to park on wayfinding paths to keep the users safer?

Mention about limestone put near/on paths. Concern that limestone can be damaging to the trees.

Zack has been using for past couple years, acting as coordinator. Email me at greenhouse@trinitybellwoods.ca Anyone in community can use. Most business is seedling in spring. Greenhouse is heated year round, some members winter their plants there. There is lock on door, you must become a contributing GH member and use.

Kevin C – couple women using over winter with tropical plants. He did some

maintenance around outside this winter on his own.

Zack – over the years different people contribute different things to inside and outside the GH. There are rogue things planted in the gardens around it. It is a process to get into the orbit of who's using the GH. Come to meeting in Spring. Fall and Spring usually a day to clean up.

Kevin C brings up community garden and is it possible? It has been brought up in past. Space is at a premium in park. Carolyn – the greenhouse is a designated 'community garden' already. When it was brought up in the past, taking green space away from the park is a big concern, especially with the intense use of our park in the summer months.

Zack – explains that Logie place is a Community Garden. It is an underused space and is more popular, TB is not. If they could acquire more raised beds, there would be more places to grow veg. It's a great spot to grow and fenced, gets lots of sun. Space in GH gets full up in spring fast. The green house has a table in middle and can be used for instruction as well as utility.

Marco – there is a city wide initiative but TB is not on list. Have to raise own money.

FYI – no parks super in off season for TB. When spring returns, so does Ward 19, Brian our Pks Super. Ward 19-20 he takes care off. Winter Ward 19 prk super does not officially exist in winter.

Joseph - Discussion about capital funds about park investment/maintenance. Something flawed about park system/policy to maintain, does not take into consideration individual park and how it's used etc. Q - Maybe not the venue, to bring up.

Matthew - suggests a committee to advocate.

Marco – on a city wide basis, been fighting for more funding for park. There has been no service increase. We did not get 2 staff promised last year. Biggest lobby would be to go to Park People. Suggest to Joseph (I will hook him up) speaks about his interest about improving, adjusting policy for the future.

Marco – long term initiative. There are different ways to approach, can work with people that are park based.

Marco – says there hasn't been \$ for TB for a while. Explains about parks, when new parks are created, staffing and system.

5) Spring Park Day - 5min.

Kevin O'Byrne agrees to lead. He will touch base with Friends about date and activities and maybe coordinate with Zack/greenhouse clean up day.

6) 2017 movie night(s) – 5mins Katherine

The Trinity Bellwoods BIA and Friends put on a movie night this past summer. It was a huge success with maybe 1000 (aprx) people.

There is plans for more this summer. The Friends paid for CycleTO's bike valet at no charge to users and it rocked, 265 aprx bikes! They were very happy and so were we. Without it, there would have been bikes all over the seating area and not safe. We hope to cover the expense for future BikeValet with the help of the Farmers Market and maybe co-sponsorship with a local bike business or other – tbd. There are two projected dates June 20 July 11 for this summer. We will need volunteers on the day! Contact friends@trinitybellwoods.ca if you'd like to help.

2016 pumpkin parade – 75-100 showed, went very well and the pumpkin toss after is gaining popularity and was a blast, with returnees. We are considering adding activities to add to the fun. Do you have any ideas or an activity you'd like to run next P-Parade? Let us know.

7) Park update – Marco Bianchi for Councilor Layton – 10mins
City/parks has eliminated x2 staff and horticulture department has been reduced. This will affect seasonal flower planting of annuals, maybe noticeable or not. Did site walk of all paths with city staff to review conditions. They know paths are in bad shape. Questions, what needs to happen to get rid of puddles etc. Paths are not wide enough to facilitate usage.

Limestone was a temporary measure to maintain paths. What does really need to happen is pathway widening, to allow trucks to pass and figure out how to raise path or drainage. In the way past the drainage was removed during some past construct. All the run off from park leans to the where we find it. TB probably needs 1 mil for paths and more for tennis courts. Maybe need more of a move what the park will need in the future, than what we need immediately.

If we cannot get Parks manager to allocate \$ to TB, another approach is to complete portions, based on the master plan. Hope PFR will absorb costs of path improvement. Mathew – this is familiar talk from years before. Q- Is there anyway to accelerate us to getting the earmarked \$500,000? Nope. Need to determine priorities.

Joseph – (path discussion) Need to address the unpaved path that is a mess that runs NS along tennis courts. Used more than the old tennis courts, perhaps address the path over the courts?

Discussion about development, funds, prioritizing through consulting with community etc. Yes there are city staff that are landscape architects, but their focus is new design for new developments.

Layton has worked towards allocate funds for TB – on radar knows that work in park needs to be done. Knows we need more \$ and needs to make Parks to come on board to add to Layton's own discretionary funds they are contributing. TB is not ignored, city cannot keep up with the sharp incline of usage these past 5-6 years. TB is what it is.

8) Joseph Clement – 5mins

Park master plan idea. He is a practicing landscape architect. Past work on other parks in ie. NYC, SF. understands layers of bureaucracy. He thinks here is a great opportunity to help FoTB to spearhead a master plan for the park. There are ways to make a clear plan to ensure good opportunities can be had in the future for park. He is willing to spearhead and to work with City, Layton, FoTB towards this. Welcomes anyone is interested to join him.

Laura – Asks Marco how would this work?

Marco - Plans are good to help determine priorities. And that is the direction city is going, to a planning project than a construction project in the park. Long term cohesive park planning is good. A resident could not lead or design for the city, but could be the lead from the community with city.

Next Step? Marco will be doing a report and get back. Suggests good lobby group to work with and approach is Park People. They are an independent charity that's all about bettering parks. www.parkpeople.ca

9) Other business

Mathew – burdock. Wanting to bring awareness to those not in the know, in the absence of Brian. Burdock is very invasive. It is taking over more of the bowl. Discussion - about how we can't really get rid of it (bi-annual) the root is deep and twisted. The burrs stick to dogs too. Over the years there's been teams of residents & city staff that have spent time tacking (cutting) down burdock – has to be done at root and before the seeds go to seed. And cleaned up immediately, because even as yard waste sitting there, any disturbance will spread the seed. Periodic chopping done that will hold it at bay. Clear identification prior to chopping is important. Anyone with initiative that wants to tackle that darn burdock, let us know and we'll help you organize a 'burdock chop'!

Meeting adjourned about 8:40pm.

Next meeting TBD