

Minutes – Oct. 7th, 2013

Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Fall Park Meeting

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Trinity Recreation Centre

Minutes by Carolyn Wong (to the best of my ability in following the lively discussion!)

Steering Committee Reports

Introductions by meeting Chair – Sian (Patricia)

Social media – Carolyn

FB/Twitter/website all okay, please follow us and/or friend us to be in our loop. Please visit site for more, calendar is good resource for planning your time in park and getting news as to what we are up to and other park related info. You can self-register on our site for our occasional newsletters. Follow us twitter/FriendofTriBel and facebook/Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park

Farmers' Market – Carolyn

All good. Last day is Oct. 29th. John van der Heyden, Anne's husband of Woolerdale farms passed away suddenly. They missed Oct. 1 market, in their stead, we put a table w/photo, obit and book to write in that has been forwarded to Anne. It's all very sad as Woolerdale has been with market since the beginning. Question: possible to have market year 'round? Anything is possible. Though the concern is that year round is not within the mandate i.e. locally grown seasonal produce. I'm not necessarily prepared to manage it year 'round. But, if anyone is seriously interested in making a commitment to explore this, please contact me at market@trinitybellwoods.ca. I'd enjoy working with a conscientious partner in crime ;-). Please follow us on twitter/TBFarmersMarket and facebook/Trinity Bellwoods Farmers Market and www.tbfm.ca ;-)

Adopt-a-tree – Sian (for Michaelle)

- Been a wet summer so pretty easy on the trees.
- packing up and shutting down the watering sources this week sometime.
- lost 3 of the new cherries – they had just been transplanted too often so it wasn't the fault of our care.
- have 100 saplings trees and 80 volunteers so many volunteers were taking care of more than one tree.
- next year the number of trees will be reduced by about 40 as the Sakura cherry trees in the south end "graduate" from the 4 years of care and watering the Adopt A Tree program commits to.
- thanks to all the volunteers and to our Park Supervisor, Brian, for his assistance in opening up the water sources and bringing the piles of mulch, etc

Please contact Michaelle, AAT coordinator at adoptatree@trinitybellwoods.ca for more details.

Greenhouse – Elizabeth Willing

Elizabeth, former adopt-a-tree is the new green house point person/coordinator, welcome and Yay! She has email list of GH gang and looks forward and thanks the regulars for their guidance during transition. Aiden, the Homegrown Nat. Park Ranger with the Suzuki Foundation, give an update on canoe garden planted at the Sunday Oct. 29th event – it's located on north side of green house . There are now X5 along Garrison, has photos to show later if anyone would like to see.

Park Business

- Bike rack at Queen/Gorevale, our website poll, right now; total of 61 voters, 28 say it's safer/21 say dangerous for cyclists / 9 doesn't matter. Fortunately there have been no accidents. Jessica Wilson feels it could have been placed somewhere else, and it's not esthetically attractive. Layton says he is working with Transportation about more bike racks that are needed. Comments; can we make them better looking etc. Friends thank our Parks Supervisor for acting so prompt at cutting the hedges that block view. Made a huge difference in regards to visibility. note; Transportation has a survey at, <http://www.toronto.ca/cycling/queenstreetstudy/> for the bike rack 'study' which closes OCT. 31st– they want feedback, so please do. Scroll down, under `What your feedback' click on the work **survey**. Also, vote on the poll on our website.

Illegal vendors in park – Sian

Has been working with Brian/parks super to try and resolve this issue. Brian has told us to call him and he'll let MLS (Municipal Licensing Standards) know – they enforce by-laws. This summer, on regular basis, several vendors were set up along Queen St in the park. One guy was there every weekend, but has moved to in front of Church east of park – after getting wind that it's not cool to have a pop-up shop every weekend. MLS is apparently doing regular sweep in the park now. Mike Layton says also if we see free alcohol being handed out too, let him know. This summer park had blatant alcohol corporations handing out free samples.

Layton - Brief update on the alcohol in park discussion meeting that occurred. Baseball groups seem to be the regular culprits. Parks got to point, and explained that according to their permit, no booze is allowed and that they could lose their permit– compliance was almost immediate. In general hasn't stopped entirely, but it's reduced. Will be monitored.

Slack lines, general – Sian

Community generally has given it thumbs up, pictures on slackline poles being used on their FB page. Sian reached out to SL community to ask them be more specific about tree protection – said they'd do on their website. Sue Campbell, has noticed they are being used – seems though that the `pros' may use poles more. Asks how do we protect the trees from unprotected slacklines and hammocks. Discussion of how we can get them used all the time. Big wonder why the poles are so short. Discussion about days where there is almost every tree had slackliners. Not opposed to their activity, just need to protect the trees and how we can change the culture to ensure they protect. Patricia C asks Layton, if there was enough folk that don't want slackliners, how do we accomplish that. Something to talk about in future.

Skate boarding get's brought up – Sue Campbell asks how do we prevent a skate board park being put in Trinity? Sian suggests that down at Fort York would be appropriate.

John Gibson House, tree, renos update –Layton

Has development design. They have unique by-law, subject to official 'plan'. Currently finishing path, outdoor work done, doing interior right now. Dining room, kitchen and a few rooms where work will take to Nov/Dec. Has had them agree that before anymore work commences, that Layton's office is involved. There are valid concerns by community. He has been assured by JGH that he will be involved.

Discussion about the tree concern- the site will be inspected. Half of the big tree's roots have been cut because of the ramp and design. It's life has been shortened now. Forestry had approved the designs. Is there a sense that LOFT has out grown the building – Layton says no. The designs accommodate a handful of extras which are mostly to make living space better for residents.

Path maintenance – Marco/Layton

Sian asks about funding for park maintenance. No budget for improvements in 2014. Paths are expensive. There are developments there can get little pots of money. Which might be around for 2015, but not lot of develop in direct proximity of park. Note; money goes to parks in direct vicinity of development. There are some developments down the line that may be eligible. Layton explains how capital funds are distributed etc. He will request for future improvements. 2015 is the year to aim to initiate as 2014 has been spoken for

and committed. Could FoTB raise funds? Do we have a plan for the paths? Lots of lively discussion! We should make a diagram/listing of what priorities are. Good idea. Leigh Nunan asks- Is there a model about state of good repair for regional parks?

Winter path dangers – Every year, ice, water etc. General understanding is it's always budgetary issues. Carolyn suggests that we do a dial 311 campaign and bombard the city to make the paths safe and bring attention. Everyone agrees. Will do for sure.

Discussion about the pools of water that occur in park i.e. near gates, bowl. What to be done. It is an on going concern/issue that's been around for many years, does have some to do with the Garrison creek, the clay soil and nowhere for the water to drain. Perhaps weeping tile?

New governance model for Friends? – Patricia

Maybe coming up with new model for Friends. Something perhaps more formal? To extend reach and appeal. A small group met after our last meeting, discussed how it could go all wrong, how it might appear to look more difficult to get involved, concerned about bureaucratic appearance etc. etc. Have agreed that this needs more discussion and will meet again to talk more.

Gene Threadryle says that social media is great outreach tool ie. hot house discussions. Expresses the disconnect from park to rec centre.

Sian –talks about the Nat. Park Crawl and our outreach during the event and how people get their community news.

Events in park – Carolyn

Working towards 8pm cut off for amplifications for Special events in park. Surrounded by residential, it's a concern. Sound carries and can be quite disturbing if you live near park. It's about preserving the park. Not going to please all, but it could be a model for our park, somewhere to start. There was a past agreement with city /past Councilor/Friends with cutoff time 7pm. Though never really enforced. Discuss pros and cons of restricting – generally 11pm is the latest. Not all agree with a 8pm cutoff. In the end, explain that even if we did implement an agreement, ultimately we don't have any say. It's Parks/city. Range of opinions. Gene Threndyle suggests the few summer months let events go to 11 with amplification, should it be requested – we need to find the middle ground. Though Susan Campbell wants to be able to sleep all year.

Need for new rink schedule; Anna Hill/Chris of TBCA following up from last year with Maryann at Rec Center. In past has not been enough free skate for families, small kids and at the appropriate times. They had met with Maryann and started to work on better schedule.

Park Day plans? Mulch, bulbs...Are we going to have? Leadership op! Leigh says we have good success finding the people that like to plant. Discussion about a park tour – interest in that. We'll do a shout out if something happens for a Fall park day.

New Business

Projexity – Marisa Bernstein

Wanting to just introduce them to our community. Group of professional landscapers, designers. Their website is a platform for design, crowd sourcing to fund community projects. Letting us know they are there, feel could be a good fit for Friends for future projects. Latest project Scadding Court patio competition.. Visit www.projexity.com for all about them.

Dog Wading pool?

Jessica Wilson, would love to have on in the bowl. There is nowhere for our dogs to romp in the water during summer. Marco explains there much has to be considered; big cost, logistics, safety, maintenance. Comments; What are the priorities in the park? Can't very well put in dog wading pool, at great expense, yet not improve the existing paths.