

Friends of Trinity Bellwoods

Winter 2010 Community Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2010

General

- Introductions
- How to Get Involved
 - Let us know about an initiative you are interested in.
 - Come look at www.trinitybellwoods.ca

Treasury Report

- December Balance \$7326.12
- Market Balance \$1774.84. Will be used for 2010 startup.
- New Donations
 - Luminato - \$600. (They will be putting an installation in the park in 2010).

GreenSpace / Greenhouse

- Tentative Spring Park Day – Sunday May 30th.
 - Help plant native trees
 - Date recommended by Parks / Jaime
- Tree Audit
 - Working with UofT group mapping out canopy of the city (Neighborhood program).
 - All 800 Trees mapped in 2009
 - Existing condition report has been generated.
 - The existing condition report has been used as source in 20 year forestry management plan.
 - Pruning / Care
 - Invasive species
 - Education / History
 - Looking for ways to share this data (the website and what else)
 - Can public access the database?
 - FOTB owns the e
 - Need to use the plan to work with Parks to achieve the desired outcome
 - Work with city non-profit groups to create an education plan
 - Friends spent \$4000 on this work.
- Adopt a Tree is still in action

- 32 individuals / groups using the greenhouse in 2009.
 - 3 shelves available – Talk to Anna if people are interested
 - Request for 5 hours volunteer work in the park
 - \$900 Budget in 2010 - \$500 from FOTB – remainder from individual donations.
 - \$1059 Spent in 2009
 - \$1187 Spent in 2008

Farmer's Market

- Farmers Market starting May 11 (to Oct 26).
- Permits are submitted for parking and park use.
- Volunteers for start-up and wrap-up required
- Looking for a co-manager in 2010 (with honorarium attached).
- Market is financially sustainable and is able to provide a small contribution to FOTB

New Business

Gibson House Proposed Renovations – Ed Dosman

- Last remaining part of Trinity College
 - Abandoned in 1920.
 - Became a seniors' residence.
- Major renovation was proposed in 2009
 - Very little community consultation was performed.
 - Notes from meeting indicated that Ed had agreed with approach, without is agreement or knowledge of such.
- Request made by Ed that FOTB petition the city immediately that any renovations do not impact the exterior envelope of Gibson House (walls, ceiling etc.)
 - Entire building including 1950s section should be maintained
- Request made by Ed that FOTB petition the city immediately to hold wider, serious public community consultation be held.
- In 2009 FOTB expressed concern with councilor's office about lack of consultation with the park.
 - FOTB was labeled as promoting NIMBYism for requesting a wider community consultation.
- Councilors Office's perceived to support this project fully due to the community need of the services provided (housing for disabled seniors).
 - Committee of Adjustments had originally ruled that the project was inappropriate and forwarded to the OMDB for review
 - Councilor's office petitioned that OMDB did not have jurisdiction due to grandfathering agreement.

- The original architect of the renovations (Don Schmidt) has challenged the project.
- FOTB recommends that a community petition will be the most effective approach and that such a petition contain highly accurate factual information to present to people.
 - **It is proposed that Ed Dosman strike a committee to draft a petition on behalf of the FOTB steering committee.**
 - Recommend that Don Schmidt can participate with Ed.
- Should a communication to Olivia Chow to say no to funding at the Federal Level?
- Should a communication be sent to Anglican House?

Residents Association – Megan Hall

- Would like to form a residents association for the community
- Would like to work with FOTB. FOTB focus is on the park.
- Friends has offered to do an email blast in the future to notify residents of the association existence.
- Working with Ed Dosman to reform the old association (Trinity Bellwods Community Association)
- Aiming to have a meeting March / April.
- College to Queen (or South?). Ossington to Euclid.
 - Based on self-identification

Events – Carolyn Wong (and others)

- Luminato
 - Ship of Fools – Chinese Junk
 - Sound will be contained. 24 hour security. No permanent footprint.
 - June 11 – 20. May extend up to 1 month depending on grants applied for.
- Yard Sale – June 12th.
- Drummers in Exile
 - Applying for 10 dates in 2010 - Alternate Tuesdays
 - FOTB have communicated the ongoing concerns of the community
 - Use of park as latrine
 - Noise and time
 - Excessive alcohol use
 - Drummers are proposing to hire security
 - Drummers are investigating renting port a potty

- FOTB are accepting – neither officially supporting or disapproving of the drummers
- Local residents indicated that the drummer’s impact has been improving over the year.
- Will report back to FOTB approx May 1st about proposals (security and port a potty).
- Queen West Music Fest
 - 1st was held August 2009.
 - Already being advertised for 2010.
 - Patricia C & Patricia A will be going to a meeting with the organizers, Parks and Councillor on March 17th
 - FOTB would prefer if the event was not held in Trinity Bellwoods. Do not feel that the park is an appropriate location for this commercial activity.
 - Poorly situation in the park
 - FOTB were not consulted in the permitting process in 2009.
 - Raised \$8000 in 2009 for Toronto East General Hospital
 - Huge corporate sponsorship
 - Councilor’s office is consulting with the organization regarding local groups they could donate to
 - Proposed donating money to CARE in 2010.
 - 0 footprint on the park
 - Final decision is with Parks and Recreation department
 - FOTB would like to put checks in place so that if it must happen:
 - It is somehow capped in size (bands, stalls, etc.)
 - Location is moved into The Pit.
 - Minimize corporate footprint / exposure.
 - Have written a letter stating that FOTB is opposed for 2010.
 - Other comments:
 - Best run large event in park.
 - Joe’s office does not have record of significant complaints.
 - Don’t think the park is a good location for promoted concerts
 - They cap the farmer’s market in size, why not this event?
 - Precedent was set by the Drummer’s petition to demonstrate community support for large activity in the park. Why not ask this organization to do the same?

Park Multi-Use Path Upgrades

- Diagrams used in open house not as clear as could be desired.
- Money to upgrade the path is carried over from 2009 and needs to be spent in 2010 ... This is driving a timeline and imperative to “get it done”.
- Comments are to be submitted to the city by March 5, 2010.
- How can we best advocate maximizing green space in the park?

- The role of FOTB is to promote the needs, protection, and appropriate development of the park, not the City's transportation policy.
- The park is not for transportation and should not be repurposed as a bike hiway.
 - The city has plenty of % space for transportation and not so much greenspace.
- If people want the whole exercise stopped, somebody should organize a petition.
- **Multiple areas of issues:**
- Appropriate Signage
 - Big Yellow "Yield to Pedestrians" appropriate?
- Materials to be used
 - Instead of concrete use a loose material to slow down cyclists
 - Bike safety issue
 - "Ecograte" Hard surface that grass can grow through.
- Widening of paths
 - In some areas from 1m wide to 3m wide.
 - Request that the city audit the hard surface area of park currently and offset any new hard surface with removal elsewhere? We already have too much hard surface in the park.
 - How would the addition of hard surfaces impact on tree health.
- Path Along South of Playground
 - Provide an open, maintained washroom on playground side of path?
 - This area was a children's recreation area. If we allow additional pathway through this area, it will never be available for future children's recreation development. Where will additional playground space be designated to make up for this loss.
- Path Through Farmer's Market Area
 - Attempt to use an interlocking material through the area to help regulate the speed of bikes in the market area.
 - Should a 25 time a year event impact a permanent transportation route.
- Winter Maintenance
 - If the paths are to be upgraded, will the MUP be plowed to allow for year round use? Would that bring salt (damage to the Greenspace)?
- FOTB Recommendations / Requests.
- **A - Proposed Incremental Approach --- ask for a set of recommendations**
 - Add no new net hard surfacing to the park. (either through surfacing other than asphalt or regreening other hard surfaces)
 - Minimize the path to 2m everywhere. (vs. desired 3.5 m).
 - Signage to slow down and yield at entrances to park.
- **B - Proposed Absolute Approach – FOTB do not support any new improvements to the bike paths and do not want paths through the park included on any biking map.**
 - Electronic communication to Friends requesting people to communicate opposition to the plan.
- **Move for show of hands to indicate a recommend an approach**
- **A – 3**

- **B – 12**
- Petition needs to be clear about is being requested and why.
- Anna will draft the petition with wider feedback due by noon Friday.
- Scott will Link a Trinity Bellwoods site article to an online petition engine.
- FOTB steering committee will ultimately decide what the petition states following the direction indicated by the meeting attendees.