

## **Minutes for Friends of Trinity Bellwoods Park Summer Meeting**

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

6:30 pm – Trinity Bellwoods Rec Centre, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Meeting Chaired by Sian Owen

Minutes by Laura Jamer

Total attendees: 9

### **Attendees (names may be misspelled):**

Sian Owen

Laura Jamer

Carolyn Wong

Mike Layton

Nicholas Harrison

Rhonda Blase

Nikolas Blase

Ameneh Kadivar

Jessica Benard

### **Welcome and intro – Sian**

#### **Adopt-a-Tree Program report – Laura**

- 123 trees in the program currently
- 100 total adopted
- 23 total orphaned trees
- 39 trees graduated after 2014 season
- 47 new trees were adopted into the program in 2015

Laura reported that the north end water source was lost this year due a cracked pipe over the 2014-15 winter. No plans are known to fix this pipe.

Mike Layton suggested Laura send him information in the spring and he will include a call for volunteers in his newsletter.

#### **Farmer's Market report – Carolyn**

The season has been stable, mostly good weather, with a mix of vendors. Food Trucks were there recently and this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the VQA provincial program, which people love as do the small wineries that are involved. Promotions this year really helped – 6,000 postcards, new banners, new lawn signs that worked, next year is the 10<sup>th</sup> season. Budget is looking good but won't have totals until the end of the year. Avalon orchards didn't come this year due to low crops due to weather.

#### **Bellwoods Beer Bottles – Carolyn**

Carolyn described how a recent tweet about scattered Bellwoods Beer bottles in the park led to a change about collection of those bottles at the beer store. They are now returnable for refund which means the park's bottle collectors will start taking them along with other abandoned bottles i.e. any bottles from any brewery.

## **Miscellaneous:**

### **Increased resources for park staff**

A discussion ensued about whether the park needs more than one full time staff member through the busy season. Mike Layton outlined his plan for increases to the service levels in the parks as well as:

- Horticulture program in the city frequency;
- Additional staff maintenance for busy parks;
- Funding for a park ranger to be full-time park activation.

This proposal goes to council for approval next week.

### **Brian Green**

It was mentioned that Brian Green is on medical leave at the moment and Paul Orichesky, is the acting park supervisor.

### **PC Mike Muir**

Carolyn read a letter from PC Mike Muir whose last day as a community officer in our community is October 4<sup>th</sup>. His letter stated his positive outlook on how the park has developed over the last two years with: (abridged version)

- Increased police presence and by-law enforcement
- New signage
- Key message to the public

There was a general discussion on the state of the park and it was agreed throughout the room that the park was pretty civilized this season and there were few complaints. Mike Layton mentioned that softball leagues were warned about drinking on the fields and some permits were pulled. The beer garden party fundraiser moved to a different park this year. There were blackout periods during the summer and long weekends for events in order to reduce traffic at peak periods.

### **Paths**

There is still no coordinated plan in place to redo the paths in the parks. Mike Layton mentioned that it was very expensive to do and would need a lot of planning and funding for a comprehensive plan. Some small sections of the paths have been redone this summer but we need to identify what is in most need and it will mostly be patchwork repair. Mike suggested maybe he could add this back in the cycling budget.

### **Park Bulletin Board**

It was mentioned that Sue (who was not present at the meeting) was trying to bring forward a plan to install a new park bulletin board in the park near the north-east corner of the playground/St. Hilda's walk pathways. The approval for such a board would have to go through the parks department but everyone agreed that it was a good idea.

### **Budget**

Sian reported that there is currently 10,862.12 in our bank account.

It was reiterated that fundraising is important for the park and there was a debate about whether film shoots should be forced to donate money to community groups like the FoTBP. An idea was brought forward that film shoots could donate equipment and “stuff” to the park instead if they don’t have cash.

### **Social Media**

1,016 likes on Facebook for Friends

1,588 followers on Twitter

2,369 followers on Farmer’s Market twitter

### **Tennis Club**

There was a debate about the pros and cons of starting a tennis club in the park. A more formal proposal will be put together by Jessica to be put forward to the group.

### **Pumpkin Parade**

Laura volunteer to coordinate this year’s pumpkin parade and will contact Mike Layton’s office for his support on the application form. It was decided that the pumpkin parade would occur on November 1<sup>st</sup> followed by a “pumpkin toss” to throw out the pumpkins in the evening. Carolyn mentioned that the Lucky Penny General Store would donate apple cider. It was established that there was a need to find neighbours with wheelbarrows to help with cleanup.

Suggestion: post the meetings and next events on the website

### **Closing items**

Sian identified a need a lead for fall park day.

Next proposed meeting time: Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7pm TBC