

WEST BEND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of April 18, 2007

Chair: Hilary Bell, Minutes: David McIlwraith

Guests: Peter Leiss, City of Toronto; Cheri DiNovo, MPP; Amy Johnston, Councillor
Perks office

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1 Baird Park Upgrade

1.1 Update on last year

Peter gave an update of what work was performed in the park last year:

- Bowling club building was painted and some repairs performed
- Humberside street garden was cleaned up

The activities that were supposed to occur and didn't were:

- New swing set
- Fence for playground
- New park benches
- New sand (although there was disagreement on whether this was agreed to)

Peter explained that the work was submitted too late in the year to be done. He noted that only \$7,000 of work was performed out of \$40,000 planned. There is no carry over of budget or commitments from one year to the next.

1.2 Activities for this year

Painting of wading pool:

- Peter has special pool paint (blue, white, black, maybe red) that he can provide as soon as it is needed
- Best time to paint is between now and when schools close (which is when the wading pools open) – need two rain free days with temperatures over 15 degrees
- Tal Birze has offered to do the painting, and can obtain spray equipment, but needs to know paint characteristics

ACTION: Peter to provide paint technical data

- Need to determine if assistance will be required. If so, a call can be put out for painters (Cheri DiNovo offered to assist)
- A date needs to be set, particularly if assistance is required, so that people can be organized.

ACTION: Tal to advise on suitable date and if he requires assistance

- The pool valve housing needs to be checked for maintenance before painting occurs

ACTION: Peter to get Parks maintenance to check pool for any repairs

Playground upgrade:

- The overall budget for this year has already been submitted
- He will resubmit the proposal for the new swing, fence and replacement benches
- The fence will not be a chain-link fence, but a more aesthetically pleasing fence
- Although the 'special' sand can't be provided, he can obtain new 'normal' sand for the playground
- Peter committed to submitting a proposal for a new fence, swing set, sand and benches. It will take 4 to 6 weeks to find out if the request is accepted

ACTION: Peter to submit proposal for agreed items

ACTION: Peter provide a report back to the TWBCA in 2 to 4 weeks

- It was discussed that it would be preferable to get the work completed before the Summer Celebration event in the park, although Peter said having the work completed in early June was unlikely.

1.3 Dogs in the park

- The 'Dogs and Parks' public consultation meetings are being arranged by the City, possibly May. It should be possible to also provide submissions by email.

ACTION: Amy to advise on arrangements for public consultation meetings

ACTION: Peter to investigate providing any preliminary information on dogs and parks

- A strategy report on dogs and parks is available from last year

ACTION: Amy to provide 2006 strategy report to TWBCA for distribution

- A request was made for 'Poop and Scoop' signs in the park

ACTION: Peter to arrange for 'Poop and Scoop' signs to be installed

1.4 Other Park Issues

- A request was made for a green bin in the park for dog waste. Peter explained that the issue was under review with the City, but that Public Works didn't have the capacity to collect dog waste from parks. The current recommendation is to take the waste home and place it in the home green bin.
- The upgrade of the park paths is still on Peter's agenda, although no firm plans were discussed.
- Some of the new paint on the Bowling Club building is already starting to peel.

ACTION: Peter to have repairs to the Club checked

- The paths in the park are in a state of disrepair to the point of being dangerous. It was recommended that complaints be sent to Councillor Perks' office.
- A long term plan for the park is still required. It was agreed that a separate meeting be arranged on this topic.

2 Summer Celebration

2.1 Update on last year

The fair last year was held to promote the new TWBCA logo and name, as well as bring attention to the park as a community asset that needs attention. Key activities were:

- Historic walking tour of the neighbourhood, plus talk about area history
- Scavenger hunt for kids
- Lawn bowling demonstration
- Bake sale (courtesy of St-Martin-in-the-Fields church)

Comments and feedback on the event last year revolved around the relatively small attendance:

- June is a busy month for events in the area, such as Chelsea Park event, Wanda St Party, and Abbott Ave street yard sale
- The area has many young families, yet the lawn bowling and historical activities were skewed to an adult audience
- More advertising needed to make people aware of the event

2.2 Ideas for this year

There was general discussion about activities/attractions that could be considered for this year's event:

- Consider having the event after the wading pool opens (start of July)
- Have a drumming demonstration/participation event (similar to Chelsea Park)
- Have police dog handlers demonstration
- Dog parade for local owners
- Fire truck on site

Changes to the format of this year's event were discussed, with the following conclusions:

- The event date should be shifted to July 7, so that there is less conflict and competition from other events in June. The wading pool could also be used at this time.
- The silent auction was very time consuming. Other alternatives should be considered to allow efforts to be focused on other aspects of the organizing. For example, sponsorship from some local businesses or politicians to assist with food or funds.

Cheri DiNovo offered to provide assistance. Other possibilities suggested were: Mitzi's Sister, a restaurant in Parkdale, is considering opening another restaurant on Dundas St; local real estate agents.

- The lawn bowling club participation was considered a success and should be encouraged again.
- A meeting for the planning will be arranged and notifications sent out.

3 Other Business

3.1 Website

The site design is almost complete, and the web host server is running. Site content is being finalized. The site name is www.thewestbend.ca. (and .com works too).

3.2 McBrides Site Development

The city planner dealing with this site has left, and Richard Dexter has left Gord Perks' office.

ACTION: Amy to find out name of replacement planner

3.3 Dundas/Bloor Development

Notification has been received that the north-west corner of Bloor and Dundas (1540 Bloor St West, Joe Mercury's) has been sold to a developer called TAS DesignBuild. Gord Perks has asked High Park Residents Association, The West Bend Community Association, and the Bloor-by-the-Park BIA to determine what form of consultation they would prefer the developer to adopt. It was felt that the type of information meeting held for the McBrides site (where the developer and architect discuss plans and listen to concerns) would be appropriate.

ACTION: Hilary to contact High Park RA to arrange preliminary meeting with developer (representative Mazyar Mortazavi).

3.4 Environment Day (Saturday)

Hilary has arranged for a garbage pickup at Humberside and Dundas. The objective is to start at Dundas West subway station at 10am, and work north along Dundas to clean the Railside Gardens.

There is also a toxic waste drop off at Sorauren Park.

ACTION: Amy to put notification on their website/blog

3.5 Proposed Closure of Keele Pool

The City has selected 7 pools (down from an original 14) for closure. Keele Pool, in the Keele St Public School, is one of them. Cheri DiNovo is trying to work out a strategy to lobby against the closure. Tim Goodall, at her office, is the contact. It was pointed out that

the objective is not to save Keele at the expense of a pool in another area, but to fight for an overall funding strategy from the Province and City to support the current infrastructure.

ACTION: David to contact Tim to exchange information

ACTION: Amy to obtain usage numbers for the Keele Pool

3.6 Price Chopper Site

Gord Perks met with the site owner, Massimo Rovazzi, about the requested site improvements. He said he needed to talk to the lessees (Shoppers Drug and Price Chopper) before any changes can be made. Given his previous performance and lack of subsequent contact or action, this appears to be a stalling tactic. Consequently no progress has been made on this, despite continuing degradation of the sidewalk and open areas.

Two City bike poles have been run over and snapped at the base, leaving sharp metal exposed on the sidewalk.

ACTION: Amy to report the damage to City maintenance for repair

The meeting adjourned at 9pm. Next meeting will be May 16 at 7pm. Guest speaker will be Kate Duncan of West Toronto Initiative for Solar Energy (WISE).