

Sibelius Square Working Group Meeting

February 21, 2007

Royal St. George's College, Room 114

Chair: Patrick Kennedy

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Also Present: Fred Freedman, Chris Ronson, Ginny Brett, Mike Coleman, Gillian Morton, Kristina Renders, David Mills, Premika Ratnam, Julie Markle, Tom Friedland, Caroline Harvey, Paul Martel, Adam Vaughan (at 9pm).

1. Meeting commenced at 7:35pm
2. Question from Gillian surrounding the structure of the community meeting committee. Agenda approved with adjustment from Gillian and Chris
3. "Kudos" from Patrick to the WG members who organized the well-attended Community Skating Party at Jean Sibelius Square.
4. January 10th minutes approved
5. October 4th minutes
Discussion regarding appendix in the minutes noting David's objection to the web-site; Chris suggested that comments be respectful with notes of objections; Mike was concerned that one opinion is presented at length; Gillian is concerned with negative commentary being included in minutes. Motion to pass October 4th minutes: 2 in favour 6 against; Tom suggests tempering David's comment to demonstrate civil discourse; Gillian would like a counter-comment included in the minutes Fred recommends an amendment to the motion that allows ADO a note of objection; Premika wants her objection to this amendment noted. Motion to pass minutes with amendment; 1 in favour 6 against Procedural amendment by Tom to adjourn decision on October 4th minutes
Motion to pass this amendment 2 in favour 4 against 2 abstain
Tom offers a second amended resolution that the minutes note David's objection and refer to the PATP web-site for details rather than including in the minutes as an appendix
Motion to pass this amended resolution; 1 oppose, 6 in favour, 2 abstain; PASSED
6. Community Meeting
Gillian poses questions about the community mtg. when, what structure and rethink committee composition
Premika suggests a community mtg in the form of a Sat. BBQ 1-3pm time frame; draws in youth and families who might not make an evening mtg
Chris says better results in evenings; stay away from weekends; 2 hours max.; with small break our groups for discussion.
Breakout groups: question of mixing the interest groups and demographics composing the groups according to similar interests; Chris suggests that more interesting feedback comes from mixing diverse users.

Gillian likes the idea of involving children in the groups with random breakout group assignments
Julie would like each breakout group to discuss all three topics

Premika expresses concerns about PATP not being allowed to make a presentation about dogs-off leash at the community meeting
Caroline comments that it would be a different type of community mtg that devoted entire time to presentation and advocacy issue.
Tom suggests using web-site as a forum for special interest groups
Fred feels sympathetic to PATP and thinks the WG needs to take direction from the community on the topic of dogs off-leash
Tom would like to discuss the idea of a temporary enclosure as a way of getting feedback and lessening the need for advocacy exercises.
David restates the need for presentations.
Chris suggests that a smaller group make decisions about the structure of the community meeting and then vet them before the WG.
Chris suggests using a neutral summary of the various positions on controversial topics, rather than having interest groups make their own presentations.
Gillian proposes a mtg with facilitator and chair (Adam Vaughan) and trained volunteers to run breakout groups; Introductory remarks to be vetted before WG
Fred suggests Patrick write the summary
Chris suggests being clear on how to run breakout group in twenty minutes with three key questions; open-ended; printed sheet with information and questions needed.
Geoff expresses need to include City guidelines regarding off-leash dogs;
Chris says City will speak to these issues
Patrick relays that a note from Adam indicated that Paula Fletcher, councillor heading the DIPS for the City, says policy will focus on dog walkers initially and then on Parks with no decisions being presented until June at earliest.
Community Meeting Committee will include Premika, Gillian, TVincett, and possibly Caroline Harvey (Caroline has been replaced by Kristina Reinders).
Tom suggests the CMC be given instruction to develop process that keeps presentations neutral and non-aggressive
Tom makes proposal that the WG establish a committee with the assistance of facilitator (Vincett) to develop a plan for the community meeting that includes a neutral presentation of controversial issues
Motion: 7 in favour 1 against. PASSED

7. Playground

Julie (handout of on-line survey) explains on-line survey and feedback needs regarding the two part qualitative survey

Geoff question why off-leash dog discussion was not included in the survey; Julie explains that the focus is on playground issues with dog issues being addresses elsewhere

8. Recommendation for temporary dog enclosure at Jean Sibelius Square
Tom presents compromise solution of temporary enclosure as a way of “testing the waters” with the community; should be soft; determine if an enclosure is viable at JSS; de-escalate the debate on off-leash dogs; build community around the western field; any long term solution is months away; temporary enclosure allows continued use of western playing field after rink is gone.

Chris adds that the City can assist with the soft enclosure

Tom adds that we use Brown & Storey design as a start for determining size

Gillian suggests having concrete measures of success; Geoff suggests cameras; Adam and Chris state that camera are not allowed in parks; Gillian adds that before the public meeting the WG must have a clear vision of enclosure and how to evaluate success/failure

Tom puts forth proposal: The SSWG recommends a temporary enclosure, in the southern quadrant of Jean Sibelius Square, approximately the size as depicted in the Brown & Storey drawings, subject to approval by the community to assess the viability of enclosure for the duration after the Community Meeting through the end of September 2007.

Motion passes 6 in favour, 1 against PASSED

9. Next meeting March 7th
10. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm