

Sibelius Square Working Group Minutes - March 7, 2007

Present: Patrick Kennedy (chair), Fred Freedman, Ginny Brett, Gillian Morton, Sandy Straw (Parks), Chris Ronson (Parks), Mike Coleman (secretary), David Mills, Caroline Harvey, Julie Markle, Eileen, Kristina Reinders

1. Approval of Minutes of February 21 meeting.

Ginny - outlines last minute changes to minutes

Fred - moves to accept minutes, Mike seconds

PASSED - 8 accepted, 0 decline

2. Approval of Agenda

PASSED unanimously (no formal vote)

3. Next WG Meeting Date

March 28

4. Proposal for a Rotating Secretary (Ginny/Gillian)

The role of secretary will pass through the working group in alphabetical order (excluding the chair), by last name, starting with Mike Coleman. Those absent for their turn will be asked to take on the role at the next meeting they attend.

PASSED unanimously (no formal vote).

5. Structure and Content of Community Meeting

Note from Councillor Vaughan:

Patrick describes Councillor Adam Vaughan's email in response to Patrick's request for input on the structure of the community meeting:

- Adam believes having a neutral summary of different positions is a better approach than a soap-box format where various constituencies make their own cases.

- Adam suggests that written materials can be created to explain the finer points of various positions.

Notes on the Community Meeting, included on the Agenda, and drawn from previous meetings:

- 2 to 2 ½ hours
- Opening sessions and Wrap Up
- Three Break-Out Sessions
 - i. Play area & playing field
 - ii. The dogs off leash question

iii. Other Design Objectives

Gillian leads discussion on community meeting

Questions we need to answer:

- do we want a facilitator?
- logistics (date, publicity, location, etc)
- dates of May 8 or May 15 are proposed

Chris - we must consult with Adam to see what his schedule permits

Patrick - volunteers to talk to someone about booking the RSGC

- is the school child appropriate? Do we need special considerations?

Advertising

- Fred says that for around \$200 we can get the post office to send advertisement to the entire neighborhood
- Chris says that Adam may be able to mail this out through his office, for free

- Julie offers to design advertisement

Our role in the meeting is discussed, and there seem to be 3 ways we can go

- Advocates for a position
- Neutral, informational only (similar to the role of a chair in a group)
- As individuals, and not representing the working group

David - is concerned that a group may go off on a tangent and get off track, rehashing the same issues/points

Gillian/Patrick - discuss educating the public regarding the issues (via website and leaflets)

Julie - suggests presenting our analysis and design issues

Fred - thinks the most important issue is dogs - an off leash zone, or not?

Chris - thinks dogs (dedicated space) and perimeter are the most important issues

Gillian/David - raise the issue of cost

- should we design our dream park and raise funds, or
- do something more humble

Ginny - mentions Wychwood Park as a big, expensive renovation of a park

Julie - raises question of a fund raising committee

Input on discussion questions from Committees

o *Playground and Play Areas in JSS (Julie)*

Eileen - says she feels that the questionnaire was loaded

- Worried that the working group has already made the decision as per what to do with the park, and is just trying to justify the decision

Gillian - wants to get more information on what the community wants, and if people are happy with the state of the playground or not

Eileen - thinks 3 things need to be done to make the park better

- Age appropriate equipment in children's area
- Dogs fenced in somehow
- Better seating and amenities

Julie - survey results will be directional, but are not the end-all be-all

o *Playing Field and Ice; Field House (Tom/Fred)*

Fred - re: the building

- Will lay down rubber matting
- Building could be used as a heated change room next year
- Thinks building should stay, because it's:
 - heated
 - has plumbing
 - can be used for storage

Gillian - thinks main objection to the building is aesthetic

o *Jean Sibelius Statue (Nena via Patrick)*

Patrick - Nena talked to Finnish community

- strong interest in the park
- July 15 is 50th anniversary of Sibelius' death
- there will be a Finnish event in the park: concert and folk dancing
- some members of the Finnish community may want input on the setting

of the Sibelius statue.

Gillian - doesn't want them to control the process, though their input is valuable

o *Horticulture and Gardens (Caroline)*

Caroline - How much interest is there in a community garden?

- Should we spend money on it?
- How should that money be spent?

o *Perimeter of Square (David)*

David, re: Perimeter

A draft set of objectives requiring research has been posted on the website

- Curb cuts for accessibility, etc.
 - more details in website
- do we expand north?
 - expansion could be contentious
- do we expand west to create a sidewalk?

Kristina - we should talk to transportation so see if they will support expansion before we present it

David – Tin Laspa from the city has asked us to get Adam Vaughan to indicate his support for further research into the perimeter questions.

Caroline - wants clarification if SSWG endorses off-leash zone -

- Patrick/Gillian - we haven't endorsed it, though there is support within the group. The working group has only agreed to endorse a trial of an enclosure this summer.

Chris - Community meeting, the working group, and surveys and polls are all pieces of the puzzle

Gillian - the trial solution is suitable because city off-leash policy is in flux

Fred - wants concrete example + visual aides for community meeting

Patrick - encourages Kristina to develop some language that will help us understand the community's preferences for basic upgrades or grand design

Gillian - wants to pick 2 or 3 things to get feedback on in community meeting

- what is most important

- how would you frame it?

Patrick - asks Gillian to clarify where in the meeting the community would decide whether to approve the temporary enclosure.

Gillian replies that discussion would take place in the break out sessions, and the results would be summarized by facilitators.

Julie - volunteers to make poster

Patrick - agrees to talk to Adam re: facilitating

Gillian – proposes an SSWG outreach session in the park, to allow the community to ask questions about the SSWG, the issues, and the purpose of the community meeting.

Patrick says that he would attend.

- information session - April 28, 4:00 - 5:00 PM.