

Sibelius Square Working Group Minutes - November 15, 2006

Room 114 Royal St. George's College
Meeting commenced @ 7:30pm
Chair: Patrick Kennedy

Also Present: Chris Ronson, Tom Friedland, David Mills, Julie Markle, Fred Freedman, Caroline Harvey, Paul Martel, Gillian Morton, Mike Coleman, Kristina Renders, Ginny Brett.

1. Appoint a **Secretary**: Ginny Brett
2. Approval of **Minutes** with an amendment to item 5, which shall record that Play at the Park had requested two seats on the working group.
3. Approval of **Agenda**
4. Report from the **Playground Committee** – Julie Markle
 - Julia presents design objectives for play areas in Sibelius Square, which are based on input from the community through the online survey, and at the community meeting last March.
 - Tom suggests brainstorming around playground issues, focusing on questions such as a funding sources, existing equipment, target age group, hard versus soft ground covering, topography, and to the size of the playground and its relationship to the rest of the square.
 - Chris Ronson explains that while playgrounds must be CSA compliant there are ways to get a unique playground by using sculpture or creating interesting edge conditions. Robert Leathers & Assoc. custom built the High Park playground with written CSA approval, this is unusual.
 - Fred Freedman suggests a playground without an enclosure
 - Gillian suggests getting feedback from Mommy&Me classes that meet in JSS during warmer weather.
 - Ginny referred to an article from PPS (Project for Public Spaces) which described “Playgrounds for All Children” not just able-bodied children; benefits of this approach include funding possibilities and creative freedom.
 - Sub committee will be formed around playground.
 - Playground Committee will work separately from Playing Field Committee, for the time being;
 - Fred and Tom will work on Playing Field Committee
5. **Planning the Community Process**
 - a. Report from Tom on meeting with Chris Ronson, Parks Planning
 - Acknowledging that the working group has already covered a lot of ground, and obtained a good deal of community input, Chris

agreed that some kind of hybrid organizational structure might be appropriate for Sibelius Square.

- Sandy and Chris will meet with members of WG in 10 days for further discussion
 - Gillian suggests getting a timeline from the City to get a sense of how the process will evolve.
 - Request from Gillian to hear from the design committee on Dec. 6th regarding Pros/Cons of various models
- b. Proposal (Tom/Gillian): that the SSWG move forward with a community consultation meeting, asking Councillor Adam Vaughan to chair. The process will be controlled by the SSWG. Passed unanimously.

6. **Communications**

A. Website

There is agreement that the working group's analysis and draft objectives be posted on the website, with provision for constructive feedback via email to the chair, on behalf of the working group, with the understanding that this feedback will not be published in an online public forum, or used as a straw poll. The goal to get as much information as possible to the community before the Community Meeting. Documentation may include the following topics:

B. Documenting Objectives

- a. Overall Community Objectives for the Square (all)
- b. Playground Objectives (Julie)
- c. Playing Field Objectives (Tom/Fred)
- d. Objectives for the Perimeter of the Square; including possible expansion of the square, and possible effects on parking (David, Paul, Patrick)
- e. Horticultural Objectives (Caroline)
- f. Objectives for the Statue of Jean Sibelius (Nena) Chris mentions contacting Sandra Lougheed – culture division
- g. Objectives for a building in the Square (Fred)
Mentioned: Warm storage for hoses, water supply, refreshments
- h. Dogs off leash analysis, building on Oct. 25 discussion minutes (all - see below)
- i. Funding info – fund raising, phasing.
- j. Transition leader

C. Planning for a Community Meeting

Gillian: two break out sessions in community meeting. 2-3 minutes pitch for each topic. Let individuals choose discussions to participate in.

Meeting should be informative for the community, and should be used to gather new ideas.

Tom: we may want to discuss with the community what measures are taken in Sibelius Square in the time preceding construction, which may be two years from now.

7. **Dogs Off Leash** - continued discussion:
 - a. Gillian suggests a change of wording by adding qualifying language in the minutes under: Manifestations of Conflict (e.g. "It is perceived by some given the needs of children...", "Some people feel...", "May reduce social tension...") Also, acknowledge that turf problems are in part due to drainage. Confirm the legitimacy of the existing use (dogs off-leash).
 - b. Tom and Kristina discuss adding the concept of a DOGS Plus (Caroline's Coinage) area as opposed to a dogs-only enclosure.
 - c. Discussion of recommendations is tabled until Dec. 6th
8. The Sibelius Square Working Group would like to thank **Helen Kennedy** for her work on Jean Sibelius Square and wish her well in future endeavors.
9. **Next WG mtg.** on Dec. 6th

Meeting adjourned @ 9:40pm