

The West Bend Community Association
Minutes from March 19, 2014
Indian Road Crescent Public School

In attendance: Chair: Des McComish, Tim Noronha, Jillian Paul, Grahame Roberts, Johanne Wilkins, Joe Costa, Karen Duffy, Elena Verikaitis, Barbara Gordon, Mark Thompson

Guests: Ed Guca (Bloor by the Park BIA), Lito Romano (TTC)

Welcome and introductions

Des introduced Ed Guca, Chair of Bloor by the Park BIA to discuss Section 37 funds. For a builder of a condo to be able to build past (higher) than what the City allows, they are given an exception and need to 'pay-in'. These funds can be used to make capital improvements (e.g. street furniture, improved street lighting, parks updating) to the area. In this case, The Address (1638 Bloor Street West) has generated \$450K of Section 37 funds. The BIA has \$240K in its own fund that the City will match so in total there is almost \$1,000K available. The Bloor by the Park BIA has suggested that a Steering Committee be set up to formulate a plan for how these funds can best serve the community. Ed has been in touch with the High Park Residents Association to request a member from them as well as WBCA. Tim has volunteered to be our representative. Requests for capital funding for 2015 must be submitted to the City by August 1, 2014.

Des introduced our second guest, Lito Romano, Senior Community Liaison, TTC. Lito discussed the TTC's plans to refurbish the Keele Yard's subterranean train storage facility, located just west of Dundas West Station. The work will mean closing a section of Dorval between Bloor and Edna to vehicles and the Dorval community garden will be excavated. Lito has been in contact with Leticia to discuss the TTC's commitment to restoring the garden to its original state once the project is complete as well as improving the garden in any way that it can. Leticia has provided a list of suggestions to Lito based on her canvassing of the WBCA members and others in the area. He will send those ideas to the landscape architect to see what is possible. The existing hardscaping (i.e. stones, plaque, etc) will be stored. The community will have the opportunity to salvage the current plants prior to the contractor removing the garden in ~June or July. We will schedule a garden day once we know more. Lito will be sharing all information on the garden through Leticia. The TTC renovation project will start this summer and last 10-12 months. Dorval (between Bloor and Edna) will be closed to vehicles during construction; pedestrian access will be maintained.

Ed Guca brought up the issue that, during this time, traffic will be diverted away from Bloor, and the businesses on Bloor. He proposed that the left hand turn from Dundas West onto Bloor be allowed at certain times (i.e. ease up on times, e.g. allow turning between 10-3pm). Tim moved a motion to support the BIA on this. Ed will write a letter and will coordinate with Tim to see how the WBCA can be supportive (e.g. co-sign the letter; mention our support in the letter, etc).

Review of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes by Jillian, Joe seconded.

Standing items:

Membership and Communications:

Discussed spring membership promotion using the flyer to do a 'walk about' in the neighborhood. Johanne to coordinate how we could divide this up by neighborhood. Johanne also provided overview of a company to use to print copies of the flyer. We discussed needing 500 copies for this first print. Barbara moved to motion that we spend WBCA funds to print 500 copies of the flyer and Johanne seconded. A vote was taken and agreement was unanimous.

Discussed the website – Joe requested that people provide updated pictures of the community. Des talked recently to Harry Cornelius, who provided him with a presentation about how the website could be improved (Action – Des to send to Joe). Harry would be happy to help with the web redevelopment. (Action – set up a follow up meeting).

Gardens:

Railside Garden clean up – Schedule for end of April (April 27th discussed as a tentative date). Action – Communicate in newsletter, through Facebook group, email, etc). Also, Des asked Metrolinx to do a walk around of the area to remove the debris that they've put in the area.

Social events:

- Function in the Junction is March 29th.
- Junction Commons Project (Action: Mention in next newsletter)

- 100 in 1 day Event June 7th - Mark Thompson provided an overview of this citizen-driven festival to unite people across the city to make Toronto a better place by creating acts of urban change. <http://100in1day.ca/toronto/> There are workshops every Tuesday from now until May. We could host a workshop in our neighborhood. Mark gave an overview of a project he has been thinking about that would set up a photo booth on the Wallace Street footbridge. Johanne mentioned that this is the same day as the Wanda street party. It was suggested that this event be promoted on the WBCA website and in the next newsletter.

Future agenda items:

Disaster procedures
Presentation from Romero House

Move to adjourn at 9.00pm (Johanne seconded by Mark)