

Minutes – CRBA Public Meeting

November 4, 2014 – 7 to 9 p.m.
Little Trinity Church Annex – 403 King East

Meeting Start Time: 7 p.m.

Adjourned At: 9 p.m.

Attendees

CRBA Board Present:

Sandra Iskandar (SI), Kara Isert (KI), Alex Bartlett (AB), Arthur Sinclair (AS), Peter Coish (PC), Larry Webb (LW) - Past President, ex-officio

CRBA Board Regrets:

Mike Kapil (MK), Peter MacDonald (PM), Matt Elliott (ME)

Public Attendance:

Approximately 30

Minutes

Opening Remarks

- KI welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees provided brief introductions.

Presentation: ThinC Design, Corktown Parks Improvement

- **ThinC Design** made a presentation on the reasons behind the Corktown Parks Improvement Initiative, the evaluation of Corktown's park spaces, and the community context.
- Reasons for parks improvement: rapid development in Corktown, the need for an integrated design plan.
- All Corktown parks and public spaces were reviewed. Community context plan includes active, contemplative and cultural 'bubbles' so that each park area might meet particularly needs within those bubbles, as opposed to each parking trying to be all things to all people.
- They also looked at how to create or improve linkages under bridges and connections within various areas.
- Specific parks to be focused on:
 - Bright Street (active/playground) – equipment is not compliant and is aging. Focus will be on play space for ≤5 year-olds.
 - Little Trinity Church Lands (cultural) – A preliminary design includes a formal garden, sculpture and gathering areas to the east of LTC. On the west, a playground, sand area, benches, and two options for parking have been suggested.
 - Sackville (community) – design includes a playground, basketball court, seating, shaded areas, splashpad, passive green space, and some area for dog-walking.
 - Sumach/Shuter (active park) – focus would be on 10-15 year-olds, with ping pong, beach volleyball, open lawn area, shade, seating, and some open space.

- Discussion/Comments from attendees:
 - Ensure ample lighting to encourage use of the parks in the evenings via making them safer.
 - Opportunity for public BBQs.
 - Possibility of an 'adult' park vs. ones focused solely on youth.
 - Connectivity between the parks, which could accommodate possible character or themed walks throughout the area.
 - Ensure coordination of the Sumach/Shuter plan with Regent Park area across the street.
- Next Steps: all design have to go to public for review. ThinC will work with the community and community groups. This will occur in early 2015.

Parks & Public Spaces Updates

- Friends of Corktown Common organized a Cheer Station for the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront Marathon on October 19. Event was well received, and deemed to be a good location.
- Unveiling of the pillar murals under the overpasses on King St. just west of Sumach takes place November 6 from 4 to 6 pm. Councillor McConnell to attend.
- No new developments on opening the closed portion of Underpass Park.
- Some discussion was initiated on the infrastructure and maintenance for newly-planted and existing trees in a number of areas. A number of trees have died, and some replaced. Tom Davidson from Councillor McConnell's office to look into this at the city, and Larry Webb to raise with West Don Lands Committee as tree infrastructure was part of Waterfront Toronto's overall planning for the area.

Construction Updates

- There is a campaign to open Cherry Street from Eastern to Mill, and Old Eastern from Sumach to Lower River. A petition will be circulated.

Business Updates

- Tim Horton's at King & River has opened.
- 416 Art Gallery has opened at 404 Queen Street East, just east of Parliament.
- The Dominion on Queen remains closed for renovations.
- The owner of No Frills at Front & Princess plans to run a shuttle bus service to the TCHC/Seniors' building.

Community Events


- Socrates Apallas is the Corktown representative at the Pan Am Games Logistics Committee meetings. There will be a public meeting held in early 2015 to review the logistics of getting around during the Games. Traffic restrictions will impact Corktown.
- A neighbourhood guide is being developed, outlining events, local businesses, happenings, etc. to assist visitors.
- The CRBA will be hosting a Christmas party this year, but at a different location due to ongoing renovations at Dominion on Queen. Date and venue will be announced soon.

Questions & Comments

- Parking remains an issue in the neighbourhood, with residents expressing concern about the shrinking number of parking spaces with both an inadequate number of Green P lots and coming restrictions on on-street parking. The CRBA has worked with Councillor McConnell's office to explore the possibility of Green P parking underneath the overpasses. Updates will be forthcoming.

Next Meeting

Date	Event Info
Dec 2	CRBA Public Meeting — 7-9 p.m., Little Trinity Church Annex (403 King St East.)

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