

Meeting on June 23, 2015

In attendance: Rae, Bonnie, Michelle, Lynn and Carla

Update on our project request:

- This information was also presented at the May Community League Board Meeting so many people already know most if not all of these details
- Our site was assessed as a Transportation-Road Right of Way, would need to go through a change to parkland process and a licence of occupation would be required through Transportation for a cost of \$75
- The proposed site was assessed as River Valley and would therefore need to undergo a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment with a projected cost between \$5000-\$8000 with the cost being the responsibility of the group. Potential additional environmental reviews, as per River Valley Bylaws, could also be expected.
- Water: EPCOR will open hydrants for special circumstances but they will not run a hose across any roadway to supply water. The other option would be to have water trucked in on a regular schedule by a private company and stores in large water barrels.

Informal discussions with the majority of the members of the core garden group have resulted in a general understanding that we do not believe it is in our best interests to move forward with the proposed site and as such, we are looking for a new site.

Rae has talked to Ben Henderson and he believes that most of the open green space in our community is classified as River Valley, as all of the discontinuous ravines (Capilano Ravine, Forsland Park, Mike Finland Park, Fulton Ravine) once belonged to River Valley system and are still classified as such. As such it might be best for us to attempt to partner with an organization within our neighborhood to obtain access to land.

We tried to think of schools in the area and came up with these 5:

- Forest Heights Elementary – Land associated with this area are city fields and so wouldn't be a great fit for us.
- St. Kevin's – Slated for closure (in approximately 2 years time)
- Former St. Bride's school – Headway School– temporary situation where land may be soon be sold
- McNally- Soccer fields and potential issues with River Valley
- Argyll Center – Location of the Terrace Heights Rink. Is also the location of the Terrace Heights Sports Fields but we are unsure if this takes up all of the space at this location.

None seem like a good fit for partnering for the location but it might be good to contact all of these schools to see if they want to be involved in the project, growing seedlings, helping build or plant. Also we need to obtain letters of support for the project and these might be a good starting point.

We tried to think of the churches in the area and came up with

- Centre for Spiritual Living – no real land
- First Filipino Alliance Church – not sure how much of the land is theirs vs. would be classified as river valley. Could still inquire.
- Catholic Archdiocese – Not at all central, gated...
- St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Sobor – no real land, at least I don't think so.

We also discussed both possible sites at the community league: Along the side of the rink or in the park by the picnic tables. Along the rink is shady and often busy with soccer. The park area is fairly small and will become shadier as the newly planted trees in that area grow. These sites while perhaps not ideal could maybe be used for a small community garden project scaled back to not involve the centre H bed etc. Carla suggested that if we went for the smaller space we could maybe consider a permaculture garden similar to that of the Park Allen Diggers.

Mentioned the future library site, but that this would only become a possibility a few years down the road once it is built. Could maybe consider having a Forest Heights garden and expanding with a Terrace Heights garden in a few years.

Finally we went on a walk to the building we have been calling "the church on 79 Street". Some inquiry revealed that this is actually the home of Plast – The Ukrainian Youth Association.

<http://www.plast.ca/about/about-en/index.shtml>

<http://www.plastedmonton.org/Plastedmonton/Golovna.html>

Michelle has emailed them to see if they are at all interested in partnering with us for this project.

Update on funding:

- Got a grant from Imperial Oil for \$1500
- Have the \$353 from Pancake and Skate + \$177 (I think) from the Big Bin BBQ + a bottle donation (I'm just trying to remember these numbers off the top of my head but I think they are fairly accurate)
- Should receive \$5000 from Sustainable Foods Edmonton
- Age Friendly Edmonton contacted us to see the site and learn more about our intended goals etc and gain some clarification. After updating them on our situation, our current application has been deemed to be on hold and I will inform them of the developments as we move forward.

So this is currently where we stand, if you have any comments or suggestions or great plans on how to move forward I'd love to hear from you. Feel free to email me at garden@forestterrace.org

-Bonnie