

MINUTES

Minutes – Meeting of the TTC Committee of the Pocket Community Association, March 22, 2016 at the home of Llana Nakonechny

Present: Diane Smith, Don Smith, Gilles Durot, Llana Nakonechny, Steve Cutting, Susan McMurray

Regrets: Jeff Otto; invited guests who expressed an interest in participating in liaison activities with the TTC also sent regrets for this meeting.

1. Background of Committee:

- The PCA's TTC Committee was established when the PCA was formed in 2012. The Committee's initial mandate was to continue negotiations with the TTC on behalf of the community to reach agreement about a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) governing maintenance and preservation of the western portion of the TTC Oakvale Green space.
- The TTC Committee took over this role from the Pocket Community Working Group, which was the original negotiating team until the TTC indicated it would only sign an MOU with an incorporated body. As a result, the Pocket Community Association was formed and incorporated.
- With the MOU in place, the TTC Committee's mandate changed to one of communication with the TTC and the community about greenspace maintenance issues. This includes day-to-day issues (e.g., damaged trees) and longer-term remediations and enhancements (e.g., fence and walkway repairs at Queen Victoria and Shudell).
- The Committee typically meets a couple of times a year to discuss the status of maintenance issues.
- The Committee also appoints a TTC Liaison (and a back-up TTC Liaison) to be a single point of contact between the Committee and the TTC.

2. TTC Liaison:

- The TTC requested that we identify a single person to liaise with the TTC regarding maintenance issues. Since the MOU is between the PCA and the TTC, the TTC Liaison position is filled by a PCA member.
- Diane Smith, ttc@thepocket.ca, is currently the primary TTC Liaison. Gilles Durot (at the same email address) is back-up when Diane is unavailable.
- Responsibilities include monitoring the greenspace and receiving complaints or concerns about greenspace maintenance issues and liaising with TTC contact Diego Sinagoga, Community Liaison, to resolve the identified maintenance issues.

- Since not everyone may be aware of the TTC Liaison function, and the PCA does not have permission for signage in the greenspace, if TTC greenspace issues are discussed on the Pocket community Facebook page (or if Diane is mentioned), Diane may be notified that way; however, the best way to insure that the TTC Liaison is aware of the concern is to send an email to TTC@thepocket.ca
- The TTC Liaison typically forwards maintenance complaints to the TTC within 12 hours of reading a complaint. There are sometimes delays in the TTC's response. The TTC liaison will follow up with the writer after receiving a response from the TTC. [Diane, should we add something about whether you email people back when the issue has been resolved?]
- Occasionally, the TTC Liaison will forward complaints that are not strictly maintenance issues (e.g., when a strong chemical/paint smell was identified by a neighbour, the TTC Liaison contacted Diego immediately). However, when there are complaints about other types of TTC non-emergency issues, such as signals or loudspeakers being sounded in the yard late at night, the complainant is typically advised to contact the TTC directly.

3. TTC Greenspace/MOU Updates:

- To comply with its commitments to the PCA, the TTC planted 7 new deciduous trees and 3 new evergreens along the fence north of the bridge.
- Queen Victoria fence repair and Shudell Avenue walkway renovations were tentatively supposed to be completed by approximately mid-2016. Signage to identify the closest street, for emergency responder purposes, is expected to be in place before that. Diane has contacted Diego to ask for a status update.
- TTC planned to undertake an engineering study to identify causes/solutions for drainage problems near the bridge, following PCA-TTC site visits and community consultations. As a preliminary step, the TTC located a site plan, learned there was a catch basin – or drain – in the space, undertook a topographic survey to locate the drain, and uncovered the drain. The TTC Committee continues to monitor drainage in the area; for the time being, uncovering the drain appears to have resolved the issue. Diane will ask Diego what the plans are for making the site safe for greenspace users on a permanent basis, since the drain is approximately a half-meter below ground level.
- An outstanding issue is placement of an additional garbage can at the greenspace. Diane will ask Diego what the TTC's proposed options are for placement, while advising against placing a can near homes or where the TTC will need to drive over big portions of the greenspace to empty the garbage. The next step would be a community consultation to make a recommendation to the TTC.

4. Other Issues:

- Park cleanup – The TTC Committee acknowledges and thanks the many greenspace users who report burnt-out lights and keep the space clean (and also clean up after the occasional individuals who don't clean up after themselves).
- TTC Relief Line – While this is not an issue related to the MOU, the TTC Committee has monitored the TTC Relief Line process. The proposed route is from Pape Station to downtown via Gerrard Square. At an earlier stage (when the terminus station and route were under discussion), the TTC Committee advised the TTC that running the line down Jones could have an adverse impact on many residents of the Pocket if access to Jones was cut off during construction, as that is the only route in or out for many streets.
- Donlands Station Second Exit – Same as above – the TTC Committee has monitored the Second Exit process. Nine options are being considered (see the map at https://www.ttc.ca/PDF/Transit_expansion_PDFs/LWG_9-Potential-Locations-Evaluation.pdf). All are on the north side of Danforth.
- Recent complaint to TTC about off-leash dogs – This issue was addressed in a February 23, 2016 Pocket website blog post. When the TTC Committee learned of the complaint, the PCA reminded the community through Facebook that the space is, through City of Toronto by-laws, officially a dogs-on-leash area and that the TTC advised us that the City of Toronto will increase enforcement in the area. The TTC has not updated the PCA or the TTC Committee about complaints or enforcement.

5. Next steps:

- Next meeting will be planned for summer 2016
- Once TTC has identified options for garbage can placement, the TTC Committee will organize a town hall and/or other consultation mechanism to discuss with the community and greenspace users