

## Adam Giambrone – DGRA Executive Meeting

### Survey Results

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

**Present:** Rob W., Sheila P., Carol S., Mike M., Adam Giambrone, Kevin Beaulieu

#### 1. Bloor St. Improvements

- BIA's can apply for grants eg. commercial research grant – group W. of Dufferin doing this
- new trees, parkettes, planters etc. only go in when major reconstruction occurs. No plans for this part of Bloor in the next 3-4 years.
- there is a **City Beautiful initiative** but the city has only allotted \$1500/ward. AG noted that the parks are definitely cleaner and that there are more flowers.
- **Orphan Spaces Initiative** – one space/ward can have an orphaned space renewed. The space is identified by the councillor's office. Hasn't been decided yet.
- we can get a lot of free plant material from Parks and Recs – ie. their left overs.

BIA's take care of the planters with trees and flowers in them on Bloor.

- Sheila mentioned maybe getting high school students to help wash windows on storefronts. Apparently Brock Initiative just did that. Check in with Egon to see how successful it might be.

#### Graffiti Cleaning?

- the city is issuing orders to comply with cleaning the graffiti up. If the store owner doesn't do it, the city does the cleaning and charges it to their property taxes. Best results are to do it within 24 hours.
- AG said they are in phase 2 on a pilot project W of Dufferin between College and Bloor to have parking sides changed one day a week so that the street can be cleaned.

#### Who recruits businesses to the area?

- Economic Development does it in the bigger picture but essentially no one in the neighbourhood is doing it. Some of the more effective BIA's have worked on recruiting businesses of note are the Junction and Bloor West Village
- BIA's can generally get matching grants for projects.
- presently \$800,000 is being used to build a boulevard on Gladstone.

- Mike told AG that we wanted new, **better lighting for Bloor St.**
- AG said it was a \$100,000- \$200,000 cost and that the BIA should work on saving some of their money to establish a fund for streetscape improvements. Realistically are looking at a 6-8 year stretch of time to save enough money.
- \$1.5 million is budgeted for urban development across the city.

## 2. Parks

Adam said that Section 37 money goes to the area immediately surrounding the development. Dufferin Grove Park is considered a regional park

**- Section 37 money from Havelock and Sylvan will go into Dufferin Grove.**

**Re. Havelock and Sylvan – June 30th will be the first public meeting to identify the issues.** There will be a 2nd public meeting after that.

- we pointed out to Adam that Yves and the DGRA had issues with the development as it stands.

- a development at 48 Fisher (Dundas and Dufferin) yielded \$15,000 which will go towards the paving of the pathway in Dufferin Grove.

- 40 Westmoreland will also give Section 37 money to Dufferin Grove although it has been delayed at this point.

### Section 37

- money doesn't come until building permit is issued
- council approves the final some
- councillor can also be more specific eg. \$10,000 to here, some to there etc.
- only Toronto in Ontario has Section 37 benefits.
- sometimes is not a cash amount. For example, development at Dupont and Lansdowne, Adam negotiated an office space at 21 years free rent in one of the buildings for the South East Asian Women's group. It was valued at \$800,000.
- trying to get **Clay and Paper Theatre** a space on Queen St.

- unlikely we are going to bulldoze houses for new parks in this area

- So of Dundas to King area has no parks in the ward. The first \$5 million that comes will go there first.

**Re. Reforestation Plan** – should be done by the parks not come out of Section 37 benefits. Also need a Turf plan

Mike asked if we could get a list of everything planned for Dufferin Grove. AG responded that we don't have a list. FOI issues are a problem. Depends what kind of questions you ask.

There is a pilot project for **green bins in Dufferin Grove Park.**

### **3. Meeting Space.**

**New library?** Right now the library closes at 8:30 and so the meeting room closes at 8:30 too. The size of the library will increase so community meetings can go on while the library is closed. It should accommodate 120 – 160 people.

**Dovercourt Boys and Girls Club** has meeting space as well. They also have a pool and are doing \$1.5 million in renos.

**Public Art** – Wallace Emerson project happening. There are also Graffiti Grants Eg. Delaware N of Bloor as a site for public art, sculpture. Costs \$50,000 - \$100,000 minimum for public art. Needs to last 25 years, have a maintenance program, Historical plaques alone cost \$3000.

#### **Guerilla Gardening**

- we can provide dirt and excess plants from Parks.

**Walk around Bloor?** AG would be happy to join a group of residents on a walk along Bloor St. to identify places for improvement.

AG said that **Ward Council** meets every 2 or 3 weeks where these things come up for discussion. They are Public meetings but not general meetings. Happen every 2-3 months. Andrew Munger used to attend them. Sheila will try to attend them next.

- AG is looking for sections of **pavement to turn into green** spaces for example Rusholme south of College.

#### **Traffic plans**

- just finishing one up No of Bloor on Dovercourt  
- public meeting but no follow-up  
- AG wants to try to set up a traffic committee again. He needs 6-7 meetings over about 6 months with a working group and the city. Dovercourt to Dufferin, Bloor to College. Carol and maybe others will attend the traffic committee meetings.

#### **Bike plan**

- AG chairs the bicycle committee

- he confirmed that they will be putting in new bike lanes in the ward. Starting with continuing the Harbord bike lane to Ossington.
- also working on creating a separate transit lane on Dufferin from Dupont to Queen
- also the Dufferin jog around Queen is going to be eliminated.

### **Seniors and Disabilities**

- need to know what we have first and then figure out what is missing
- Mike will talk to Kevin to work on how to figure this information out.

### **Daycares**

- Joe P and Adam G have worked hard with the people at the daycare north of College on Dovercourt. They were going to close because of poor enrollment but the city is putting in a multimillion dollar investment to improve it and keep it open. For example, the playground is on the roof of the building and should be on the ground floor.
- Mike will also work with Kevin on identifying daycares

### **Re. bus service on Dovercourt**

- won't happen, we can ask the ttc to study it but there are width issues with the street. Also, a new route has to bring in new ridership but the area is already serviced by Dufferin and Ossington routes.

**Safety Audits** are another way of getting things improved. We can ask for a safety audit of the area. Police, councillor, community identify issues and then things get done to make the area safer.