

2011/5/11 From Sabina Ali to Michael Ellison

Hi Michael,

It was a great conversation with you on phone this morning.

This is what I understand-

1. You are not looking into the permits. It is Bardee and Alex. Alex looks into the availability of space in the centre.
2. Permit to use the space centre requires at least two weeks notice. As the staff is very busy and they can't drop everything and look at every new request.
3. For our request for May 20th cooking fire, you are assuming that it might not be possible to get the permit as it requires 4-6 weeks notice according to the working policy. But upon our request you will talk to Gloria Peters and see if she could do something. You also have to check the availability of the staff too.
4. To use the kitchen as a part of cooking fire, I have to apply for the permit through Alex.
5. We as Women's Committee can apply for the permits independently (without intervention of PFR staff) and there will be a fee attached to it. We requested for our continued partnership with the city staff.

Am I correct?

I look forward for the meeting on May 19th at 2:00pm at TNO

Thanks,

Sabina

from Mike Ellison to Sabina

I have confirmed that space is available

Request for space can go through either Bardee or Alex

Request for the fire permits would be best done by sitting down together and planning the dates.

Space permit request should be made a week to two weeks prior

I have left a message with Gloria and will follow up as soon as I hear back

The kitchen request in the future can be made with Bardee if it is for a fire and there is no fee for those request if we are applying for the fire

Yes will continue to apply for the permit for you as a partner.

Yes could also apply for a permit if you would like and we could support you in that process

If you have any other questions please let me know

From Sabina to TPWC and CELOS

Dear all,

Just an update-I got a message from Michael that he did not hear back from the permit office yet regarding our request for May 20th. He is away from the office and will follow up when he returns back on Tuesday. Good news is that we have the kitchen available on May 20th and I have to confirm the time with Alex.

Sabina

from Jutta to Mike Ellison

Hello -- I just heard that the cooking fire permit for RV Burgess is unavailable for the end of this week. I'm puzzled -- at Dufferin Grove, the permit is seasonal, and that makes sense for any place where cooking fires are not a once-only event.

We can invite everybody over to Dufferin Grove to do the demonstration instead, but we wanted to switch it to RV Burgess because Friday is a PA day, so the park will be full of kids and families. Also it's the start of the long weekend and I'm guessing not many Thorncliffe Park families are bound for the cottage. To have a traditional cooking demo is a fun thing to launch the weekend. Everybody's ready, the campfire site was approved and re-approved -- is there a way to make this happen?

Jutta

from Mike Ellison

Hi

We could submit a seasonal permit, which we discussed doing last year and makes a lot of sense.

If we meet prior to the season we could plan all times and submit one permit request.

Michael

5/16 from Jutta to Mike Ellison

Good stuff, Michael. And once there is an approved campfire site and experienced staff/volunteers, it's good to have some flexibility as well. I've added a couple of experienced rec staff to this list -- Anna Bekerman, who co-authored the cooking fire booklet <http://dufferinpark.ca/campfires/wiki/uploads/Campfires/ACampfireHandbookEBook.pdf>, and Matt Leitold, who has done the Dufferin Grove campfire bookings for some years. They could describe what the routine is for a seasonal permit.

In the meantime, is there any problem with setting up a cooking fire permit for this Friday, since all the ducks are basically in order already? Hopefully it would be the last time it has to be last-minute. There was a similar situation in Councillor Doug Ford's ward last winter, and Permits very kindly bent their timing to come through for them -- could Councillor Parker do the same for RV Burgess?

Jutta

from Mike Ellison

Unfortunately I can not approve the permit but I can try and make another request.

Michael

From Jutta to Mike Ellison

Hi Michael,

I was happy to hear that the cooking demo can go ahead at Thorncliffe -- should be great fun. As for your request to have Matt Leitold attend the May 24 meeting with Costanza, Matt will be gone by then (he's leaving the city). But Mayssan, as the lead on many of the Dufferin Grove programs, knows exactly how the campfire permits work best, and I think she can make the time to be there.

Mitchell Cohen, the CEO of the Daniels Corporation, which is doing the Regent Park reno, wrote to me tonight that he wants to come to Dufferin Grove for coffee next week. He says he wants to pick our brains about programming at the new Regent Park. I think he might find all this neat stuff at Thorncliffe Park pretty interesting too. Helpful partnerships between community people and Recreation -- that's a good approach, for sure.

Jutta

5/18 from Mike Ellison to Sabina

Hi Sabina

I have spoken with staff from Parks Forestry and Recreation Customer Service section and the Toronto Food Strategy. PFR Customer Service is fine with granting this permit but we can not distribute food without Public Health approval. We are working the Toronto Food Strategy to see if they can assist us in expediting this process. We are hoping to hear back from them today or early tomorrow morning.

If we are unable to get the approval from Toronto Public Health would you be interested in having the fire but not providing food to the general public ?

Thank you

from Jutta to Sabina

Sabina, should we point out that this can fall under the special event public health rules and that the cooks/baking demonstrators can easily follow them? And that a number of people cooking/baking already have their food handlers' certificate? And ask them to list their specific food safety concerns? Surely this Friday event comes under the same rules as the bazaar food?

We should certainly send them the special event food guidelines. PFR staff seem to show a lack of knowledge of those rules, and maybe they can learn something here.

Jutta

Mayssan's analysis

- this is not a special event. zakia is going to show me and yo how to use a tava at thorncliffe park.
- there are two options that the City can follow, both of which have examples in other parts of the city
 - a. consider campfire permit like picnic permits except free (greenwood, susan tibaldi). there are no public health stipulations for picnic permits.
 - b. consider campfire permits as recreation programs (dufferin, macgregor). the only

public health stipulation is that food gets prepared in a certified kitchen, that one person of the staff or community be food handler certified, that there be a temporary hand washing station in place.

I suggest that they proceed with option a/ for the 20th, and next week have a public health contact come in and approve recreation campfires for the entire summer under option 2. Maybe after discussing this with Costanza. After that, campfire programs would be booked in class (this is the name of the computer system) by recreation, and not through the permit office.

The fact is that this demo was supposed to be a smallish thing with zakia showing me and yo how to use the tava... its not supposed to be a big community event.

Mayssan

Sabina to Jutta

Hi Jutta,

I discussed this with Mayssan yesterday and told her that we never submitted any special event permit to serve food for cooking fires. It was only for the bazaars. I have spoke to Yu Tong -Public Health Inspector yesterday and she has already received the request by PFR. Michael is waiting for the response from Public Health. What response? I asked him if he could get the community kitchen certified. He asked me to check with Yu Tong if she can do it.

Sabina

Special event guidelines for serving food:

1. **SALE OR SERVING OF FOOD & NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** - If you plan to sell or serve food or non-alcoholic beverages at your event, this Division will send notification the Toronto Public Health Division on your behalf. You will be required to contact health to gain the necessary approval. We will also provide you with a contact Region and Telephone Number. For additional information please call Toronto Health Connection at (416) 338-7600 or access their website at http://www.toront.ca/special_events/event.htm Please be advised that the Public Health Division requires a minimum of 15 days notice to process all requests. Heating and cooking equipment are not permitted in a tent.

Mayssan's analysis part 2

We would like to have the permit from customer service - no food distribution. It is for a cooking fire without a fence, so we can reach the food on the fire. This is like a picnic actually, and with PFR support we can have a teaching opportunity for bread making. We have asked our friends from dufferin grove to bring the cooking tools and invited Seodhna and Laura and Dave to watch how to cook bread with a tava on an open fire. It is not an event for the general public. Still, any one is welcome to come to watch us or try it out. That is why it is a demonstration or show and tell.

thoughts?

Mayssan

5/20 from sabina

Good Morning,

I got a message from Michael that we have got the approval from Public Health too.

Sabina