

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9

MINUTES

In Attendance: Gina Buonaguro, Sue Dexter, Cathy Merkely, Gail Misra, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Nick Provart, Jane Perdue, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Robert Stambula, Merrill Swain

Regrets: Simon Coleman, Lena Mortensen, Eve Schiffman, Gus Sinclair

Meeting called to order at **7:09** pm by Gail.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board to the meeting. Board members went around the table and introduced themselves for the benefit of new member Gina Buonaguro. Gail suggested that Gina (and Eve) sit down with Gus as past Chair for a debrief on board mechanics.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Regine moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Carolee. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of September minutes and October AGM notes:** Nick moved approval of the September minutes as amended (with the change in language around Bob's SW report); Bob seconded; minutes approved. Carolee moved approval of the October meeting notes; Merrill seconded; minutes approved.

4. Other Business

a. Boulevards (Bob)

Bob shared his handout regarding greening boulevards. The idea is to plant 1000 trees in the HV, for example, by planting trees on boulevards. This greening initiative would serve to improve the tree canopy in the HV along with narrowing the streets for traffic calming, and improving safety for pedestrians, by creating a physical barrier between pedestrians and cars. The Councillor suggested this is just a longer version of our in-ground street planters, which improves the potential to get this project off the ground. There is an appetite at the City to try this out in select areas in the HV. This plan is congruent with the pilot project that was initially green lit as part of TOCore. Merrill and Nick suggested that east west streets might be well suited for the project in terms of also serving the purpose of stopping wrong way traffic. Jane reminded us that the City will consult with the community before implementing a pilot of any

kind. Bob is asking the Board to approve and support a response to the City of a pilot of installing boulevards in HV for the purposes of planting trees, calming traffic, promoting storm water management, and supporting Vision Zero. Nicole seconded; motion carried.

b. Sidewalk Snow Clearance (Bob)

The early snow has brought this issue to the fore again. Bob has been talking with the people behind the Deer Park initiative to encourage City Council to extend sidewalk snow clearing to the old City of Toronto streets. There is a sense of apathy about calling to report people who don't clear their snow because of the lack of enforcement. Layton's motion to have this item debated by Council failed. The city is proposing to do a 150 km pilot study this winter season in areas that do not already have their sidewalks cleaned. Bob is going to ask the City if they need some assistance in figuring out some of the parameters around the pilot.

The Councillor inquired about areas in the neighbourhood that are particularly poor with regard to snow clearance. Gail will clarify with the Councillor's office what the Winter Maintenance Crew does so that we can respond accordingly.

We talked about if there were any things we could do as a group in our own community to encourage snow shovelling by those that are not compliant with the bylaw. Some ideas were: use Facebook to upload photos of offenders and Nicole could report to 311 in bulk, put flyers in mailboxes of offenders, use eblasts to put the word out. Gina offered to put together a half page flyer to encourage neighbours to shovel; she will share it with the Board.

Bob will follow up with the Mayor and Councillor with regard to the pilots that are underway to see if there is a way to better understand what they are doing and potentially be able to input into the process.

c. Climate change potential pilot (Sue)

The City has been working on policies to reduce carbon emissions and has also recently declared a climate emergency. This idea appears to have a good deal of energy (pardon the pun) and resources behind it. Buildings are 50% of our carbon output and residential buildings are more than 50% of that 50%. To meet the climate change targets, the City will have to drive down what we are doing in our own houses. There is a new project BetterHomesTO that is being rolled out that allows for energy audits and data collection, and provides financial supports for making energy improvements. Chinese language brochures were handed out .

Sue suggested that the Board set up a Net Zero Carbon committee (the name is being finalized) that will look into initiatives that might be interesting for the HV. Interested parties include: Sue, Tim Grant, David Booz, Bob, Nick, Nicole and Andrea. Sue has a connection in the Pocket where they are moving forward a bunch of initiatives in this field. It also might be an interesting topic to have a speaker come in at the Spring meeting or at an HVRA board meeting.

d. Parks (Bob)

As part of TOCore, the city is looking for places to put parks. Parks are in limited supply in the HV. Bob put forward the following motion:

Whereas the HVRA community has among the least amount of park space in the city, and whereas we have lost our largest open “public” field in the neighbourhood, let it be resolved that the City enter into partnership with the TDSB to secure the remaining “public” spaces at Lord Lansdowne and King Edward Public School fields and playgrounds as both school facilities and public parks.

Sue seconded the motion; motion carried.

e. Café @ 104 Harbord (Andrea)

It was noted that 104 Harbord appears to (brazenly) be open for business...again. The City continues to find itself before the courts in regard to 104 Harbord. There is a constitutional challenge being mounted by the residential tenant at 104 Harbord, which will appear before the courts in early 2020. An affidavit is being submitted by the City which includes details of the complaints made by residents of HV regarding the illegal activity at 104 Harbord.

f. Pumpkinfest debrief (Gail)

Pumpkinfest was a great event and it was a huge success. Lena and Gail co-chaired the event and there was a fantastic team of volunteers who helped to pull it off. The Board thanked Gail and Lena for their hard work and leadership in pulling off this amazing event! Her Father’s Cider Bar hosted us again this year for the third year running. A big thanks to them for their support of this event.

5. Other Business

a. Membership Report (Merrill)

Merrill shared a membership report comparing 2019 to 2018. We are at fewer paid up members this year in part because of the problems with the renewal module on the website. Some “events” and “issues” have driven membership spikes – Major St. gas station, patio on College and the Fall Fair. The Board had a discussion about why the NW area has such low membership rates. Previous board chairs came from the southern part of the HV so that might impact the community orientation of the north. Christian suggested that the areas might want to think about doing a local event (e.g. drinks at the Tranzac Club) to encourage community togetherness. There is an appetite to explore setting up the auto renewal feature for memberships. The committee is meeting on Monday and will report back to the Board.

b. Transportation Committee update (Carolee)

The Transportation Committee is planning a public meeting to get input to establish guiding principles for addressing traffic issues in the neighbourhood. It will likely be in January. A number of people expressed interest at the AGM in participating at this meeting. The meeting will be publicized again once the date and place have been confirmed.

6. **Receipt of reports** (acknowledgement of receipt of Committee and Area reports; identification of any new or pressing issues or clarifications)

Area Reports:

- **North East** (Nick/Carolee)
 - There is a proposal for a three-storey fourplex at 290 Major St, in what is currently a parking lot behind Sleep Country. It went through a very good process with the owner and neighbours
 - At 666 Spadina, two processes are happening concurrently. Repair work is being done on all of the balconies of the existing building and this has been disruptive to residents. As well, site preparation is underway for the construction of the new building to the south. Several trees have been removed, which we were not expecting. HVRA is represented on a Construction Management Committee for the new building.
 - Site preparation is also starting with respect to the Sussex-Spadina residence and changes to the Robert St field. So far, some trees and shrubs have been removed and geothermal testing is being repeated. No dates have been confirmed as yet.
 - Although the proposed canopy at Tino's was turned down at C of A, that decision has been appealed. Gus is working with a local lawyer and concerned neighbours to deal with this
 - Work is almost complete on the flank beside Metro. Several good size trees have been planted, and the soil seems a good quality for other plantings.
- **North West** (Nicole/Christian):
 - Bloor redesign looks to be nearing completion, plants are being planted, bike lanes are being asphalted
 - The installation of the parkette on Brunswick and Bloor is underway and has entailed closures of the street; panic ensues from street closures
 - A number of businesses on Bloor have folded (Rowe farms, Aroma cafe, Noodle shop west of Brunswick, hemp shop on Borden, futon store) and other stores that closed months ago have not reopened (the video store, the bubble tea store)
 - The group of homeless young men who were encamped in the opening to Aroma after its closure have been kicked out; they are now occupying various stoops in the neighbourhood
 - 201 Brunswick, which has been vacant for about four years, has renewed its building permit to construct 3-Storey Front, Side and Rear Additions
 - The Narayever Synagogue at 187 Brunswick is hoping to commence their extensive renovation in April; they have been in contact with the neighbour to the North and have indicated that they will be in touch with the HVRA. They estimate that the construction should take about a year and a half.
 - 185 Brunswick, which was subjected to a police raid in the late spring and was boarded up at that time, remains unoccupied.
 - The city finally did roof repairs on the addition to the semi-abandoned house at 200 Brunswick and has boarded up the opening to the basement. The windows on the second floor remain open, however, leading to concerns about wildlife entering and creating dangerous conditions.

- Transportation has been notified of 250 Brunswick's full paving of the land between the building and the sidewalk
- 248 Brunswick, immediately adjacent, appears to be being prepared for similar paving
- **South Central** (Simon / Eve): NIL
- **South East** (Cathy/Gina): NIL

7. Other Business:

On November 1, 2019, Gail sent an email to the Board asking for a motion to permit the HVRA to add its signature to an open letter drafted by our MPP, Jessica Bell, to the Minister of Transportation and Associate Minister, regarding provincial approval for cities to implement speed enforcement cameras in school safety zones. The letter and motion were sent to the Board on November 1, 2019. Seconded by Nick, carried (12 votes)

Merrill put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Regine. Meeting adjourned at 8.51 pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.