

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2016 – 7pm, Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In Attendance: Tim Grant, Marilyn Martin, Bob Stambula, Sue Dexter, Rory Sinclair, Steve Klein, Carolee Orme, Carmen Gauthier, Jane Perdue, James Murdoch, Christian Mueller, Gail Misra

Regrets: Eva Janecek, Margaret Procter, Caroline Macfarlane, Carlo Drudi, Paula Gallo

1. Chair's Welcome: At 7:02pm, Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda:

A number of reports were received in advance of the meeting.

Under discussion items, Laneway Greening, was moved under #6. The Chair will take questions on reports submitted. Added 5A for Skills Inventory. Added Yard Sale as an item. Added a report re Bob Barnett (as part of Chair's Notes).

Moved by Gus, seconded by Carolee, to approve the agenda as amended. Approved.

3. Approval of February 22, 2016 Minutes:

Some corrections have already been made, and Minutes to be amended to indicate that James Murdoch was in attendance at the meeting and took the Minutes. Moved by Marilyn, seconded by Carmen, that the February 22, 2016 Minutes be approved as amended. Approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes:

a. Fire Brochures: Marilyn suggested the brochures still on hand be sent to rooming houses as there was a fire in one recently. We have 1400 brochures. It was decided that the Fire Brochures would be sent out with a flyer to be delivered soon for the Brunswick College Parkette Naming competition, or with the Newsletter. That would get the brochure to the neighbourhood.

b. Treasurer's Report: Christian had made a report to Carmen re the Oral History Project monies. The project has \$1,554 in its HVRA budget line for ongoing expenses, and \$1,000 for an award the project received. The committee would like to keep that \$2,554 for the Oral History Project, although the only remaining work is that Eleanor is going to do one more interview of a relative of Albert Jackson, and there may be maintenance needed on the story posts from time to time. Following a discussion of how best to ensure that there was money set aside for maintenance needs, it was decided that HVRA would take back what it could of its original \$2,000 commitment, as it was not apparently all needed. If money is needed in the future for this Project, the Board agreed that it would entertain such a request.

Motion: That the project funding account be closed for the Oral History Project with thanks to all those who worked so diligently on this project; and that the unspent funds be allocated as follows: a new 'Project' budget item for maintenance of the story posts, etc. be set as \$500, and the remaining funds be moved to the HVRA equity fund. Moved by Steve, Seconded by Sue. Approved.

c. It was suggested that items that should be brought forward for Business Arising should be on the Agenda. The Chair and Secretary should discuss this in advance of meetings.

5. Discussion Items:

a. Skills Inventory: Steve had sent out a summary of the skills identified by Board members in November 2015. He reported that we have a cross section of talent on the Board, and a detailed summary was provided at the meeting. The exercise was undertaken in order to develop a base inventory of skills, although not an inventory of soft skills. It was to capture the type of skills that cannot be easily taught. We may need to find people to fill the voids where we don't have a particular skill set already on the Board. It was recognized that volunteers are appreciated in this Board, that this is a dynamic group, but we will need some more skill sets from time to time. As we move through our visioning exercise, we may need to redefine the role of the Area Rep to be a fundamental part of the Association. A number of Board members identified that the skills inventory did not measure or ask for identification of soft skills.

b. Yard Sale: The question was raised as to whether it is necessary to rent tables to people in the neighbourhood again this year. Marilyn identified that fewer tables were rented by other people last year and it is a lot of work to get them delivered and picked up. The plan therefore is to try to find free tables that can be borrowed for our own use and not to rent any other tables. There was a question as to where leftover items will go. Goodwill stores were open late in the evening after the sale but they are now out of business. It was suggested items could be dropped off at Value Village. Marilyn and James will consider this matter further.

Location for the sale is an issue. Marilyn spoke to Hutoshi recently and she thinks the space at Robert and Harbord is available. Another option may be to use the end of Boys of Major Lane at Harbord.

c. Planning Committee: There was a concern raised that only the Planning Committee should be addressing planning issues in the neighbourhood. When we as Board members are asked about planning issues, we should refer neighbours to the Committee. We need to be cautious about what we say if we are not intimately involved in planning issues as we may lead neighbours astray by giving them incorrect information regarding planning processes.

6. Committee Reports:

a. Croft St. Report: Jane reported on the dates that have been set, and she wanted to ensure that there is no conflict with other dates in the neighbourhood. Margaret and Jane are discussing whether the Gardening Group may also get involved. There will be a flyer, which will be shared with the Board before it is distributed. A budget will also be prepared and submitted to T. Grant and the 3Bs group for review. Next week the group will meet with the David Suzuki Foundation (March 21/16), and then hold a neighbourhood meeting for those backing onto Croft Street (April 20/16). There are two pilot laneway greening projects going forward in Councillor Layton's ward. They will be monitored for ideas for our area. The plan is to get people excited about the Green Plan, and to have Helen Mills come to the Spring Meeting, and then gauge interest by area.

b. Spring Meeting: James has invited Helen Mills and Councillor Cressy to the meeting as speakers.

c. Brunswick College Parkette Naming: Gus had sent out the plan to the Board for review. Moved by Steve, seconded by Carolee, that we adopt the plan as proposed by Gus, and that it be distributed to the neighbourhood soon. Approved.

d. Planning: The Planning Committee's report was circulated in advance of the Board meeting. Sue reported that City Planning is of the view that towers on the Honest Ed's site can be 24 storeys high, and massed more towards the neighbourhood rather than at Bloor Street. It might be comprised of several towers. The HVRA Planning Committee will be responding on this issue.

7. Chair's Notes:

a. Environment Day is early this year, April 2/16. We turned down the invitation to have a table there.

b. The Friends of Margaret Fairley Park are upset, as they had been looking for updates on what is going on in the park and have just learned that the tender has only just been let, so construction will run through July and August, and may well run into the fall. This may be an issue for the HVRA Fall Fair.

c. Sally Bird Park will be getting new exercise equipment installed.

d. Bob Barnett, former President of SURA, has been nominated for an Order of Ontario for his considerable work on the Escarpment, and we were asked if we would write something in support of his nomination. Gus will write a letter as he knows Bob and his work well.

e. There is an issue with a rooming house at 60 Borden Street in light of the boisterous actions of some tenants. A meeting was scheduled with the owner at the Councillor's office, but she did not attend. There have been ongoing issues with how her tenants have been behaving, and several complaints from the neighbours. Conditions may be put on the rooming house license renewal this spring so that there can be some Municipal Licensing & Standards oversight on the property and with enhanced Police Services capabilities to enforce these conditions.

8. Planning from Visioning session:

Steve provided an updated HVRA Major Activities/Events Plan. He reminded the Board that at the last meeting we had run through all the events we take on in a year, and had wanted to indicate one or more persons responsible for each item. That person(s) would then recruit a committee of volunteers to work with them to execute the event in question. One item not covered was the Fall Fair, which will be dealt with at this meeting.

ACTION ITEM: In the remaining part of March, each chair should provide Steve with any edits or corrections for their respective event, and should provide Steve with any information to fill in the blanks for their event(s), who will be leads and/or coordinators, the required financial resources, schedule of key steps and dates to ensure event success, etc. in order that the Draft Plan may be completed for now. This would be a working document, and once updated, would be set aside as we work on Visioning and build out a strategy for the Board. Please send the information above to Steve Klein as soon as possible, and ideally well in advance of the next meeting.

Fall Fair: Gus had prepared and circulated a list of tasks undertaken to run the Fall Fair – need a Chair, then Committees must be struck for: Music, set up/break down, Permits/Security/Insurance, BBQs, Cooks, Sales, Alcohol, Silent Auction, Raffle, Food Procurement, Tickets, Produce Table.

Tim and Carolee have worked on the Fall Fair in the last two years. For each of the work items on the list they got a coordinator if they could for that area, and got a dozen or so people to help in each area. A chair is needed to ensure that all the sub-committees are working on their respective areas.

There was a discussion about whether the event could it be run with Co-Chairs? Gus indicated that there must be meetings held, even if short ones, to check in. Starting in July, the planners should meet every two weeks, and then should meet every week from mid-August on. He held quick meetings in the park for 10 minutes.

It was agreed that we likely have to start earlier than July to find coordinators. Tim has names of all the volunteers for the last two Fall Fairs and he can share that list with whoever is the Chair.

ACTION ITEM: At the Spring Meeting we should ask for volunteers for the Fall Fair in the area caucuses.

Carolee suggested that each person on the Board take on one area, or act as a back up to a coordinator. Paula Gallo has volunteered to act as a coordinator; Carmen will be the coordinator for Tickets.

Tim, Carolee, and Gus will meet in the next 2 weeks, compare lists of possible co-chairs, and contact the best individuals. They will report back to the Board at the next meeting. It was suggested that they may wish to try to find two or more people, who could be mentored for this year only by one of the people who have run the Fall Fair in the past.

At the April Board meeting, we will resume discussion on strategy, visioning and priorities, and link the mandate to the **critical success factors, available and potential community assets** and in turn create an updated Board structure to sustain HVRA's efforts going forward. **Our goal is to complete this exercise before the summer.**

Adjourn 9:25 p.m.