

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday July 19 2016 7pm Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Steve Klein, Christian Mueller, Paula Gallo, Rory Sinclair, Sue Dexter, Carolee Orme, Margaret Procter, Carmen Gauthier, Marilyn Martin, Gail Misra, Jane Perdue, James Murdoch

Regrets: Carlo Drudi, Bob Stambula, Caroline McFarlane

1. Chairs welcome – The Board recognized Eva Janacek for all her hard work as Secretary for many years, and who is leaving Toronto with her partner Larry.

Tim welcomed Barbara Donaldson who addressed the Board regarding the Croft Street greening project.

2. Approval of Agenda Moved by Marilyn and seconded by Gail. Approved with a few late additions.

3. Approval of Minutes - Spring Meeting Minutes accepted for approval at the Spring Meeting in 2017.

April Minutes – Moved by Steve seconded by Marilyn. Approved with a correction to the spelling of Wendy Trueman's name.

4. Special presentation Croft Greening – Barbara Donaldson along with Jane gave the Board an update on the Croft Street greening project. She took the Board through the process starting with an idea last winter to coming up with a plan, gathering the community and then planting in the spring. She said it has been a success so far but there is still work to be done. It has been a community building project and she mentioned that it's about 90 percent organization and 10 percent actual planting. They have been able to determine what has worked and what hasn't. Planning for maintenance is now a priority with long term planning preparedness for the winter. Barbara said they hope to have a celebration in August. She thanked the HVRA for its support and Barbara was thanked for helping to organize this project.

5. Discussion

Proposed HVRA restructuring

a. Steve said that we are on track to have the necessary changes to the makeup of the Board and the job descriptions ready for the October AGM. Steve thanked the four Board members who are working on this; Margaret, Sue, Gail and Gus. Steve thanked everyone for their feedback and input into the proposed changes and job descriptions, much of which has been incorporated. He feels the changes will make for a better structure, better accountability and greater clarity by making it more proactive.

Gus will go through it with a fine toothed comb so that he can recommend changes to the Constitution, which he mentioned, may be outdated at this point in time. He said he could complete that process by the end of August. The ensuing discussion was over how members were to be informed of these changes before the AGM. Steve felt the document could be released after Labour Day so people will have time to digest it. Due to timing to ensure the changes are announced 60 days prior to the AGM, there may have to be a Board meeting by email or phone to vote on accepting the changes.

MOTION moved by Gail and seconded by Steve that the Board will recommend to the Constitutional and Nominations Committee and therefrom to the membership at the Annual General Meeting, adoption of the revised structure, which has emerged as a result of the Board Visioning process undertaken commencing in January 2016.

Passed

MOTION Gail moved seconded by Sue that the Board adopts the job descriptions for the positions of Chair, Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Communication Director and Area Representative. Furthermore, the Board also adopts the job description for the Vice Chair and Webmaster, to be implemented in the event that the revised structure for the HVRA is accepted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

Passed

There was a discussion as to how to encourage the membership to find out about the restructuring. Steve mentioned it will be on the website.

A Motion was made by Gail and seconded by Sue to recognize and thank Steve for his leadership and hard work. In closing, Tim mentioned this will help the Board going forward and be a model for how residents' associations are structured.

Yard Sale

b. Marilyn said we were able to achieve great results this year because there were more volunteers, more items for sale and that they were pre-priced. She mentioned that having drop off and storage points at Carmen, Christian and Paula's homes also contributed to a successfully run event. Carmen felt that more people got involved by dropping off their stuff. And she said the proceeds going to charity help the Board's credibility. Gail suggested buying a banner that can be hung near the sale site for advertising and that it should be funded by this year's proceeds. Carmen reports that \$4100 was raised after expenses of \$500. Tim felt that in future, there should be a volunteer coordinator and a dedicated communications person to roll out the info and build excitement. There was a discussion about whether part of the proceeds should go to the HVRA but nothing was resolved at this time.

c. Guiding document for Laneway greening – a non starter and recommend that it be dropped from the minutes.

Response to recent violence on College Street

d. Jane thanked Tim who set up a meeting with HVRA, police and Councillor Cressy's office. There has been a spike in the numbers of violent crimes in the area. Police had recognized it and had added more patrols and surveillance but the police say they can only do what they can do. Jane said it's frustrating as clubs continue to over-serve and there are more guns and violence and nothing more that can be done. Carolee said enforcement is an ongoing issue and that rules are no good unless they are enforced. Cuts to the city mean less resources so more pressure on MLS is not going to be the answer.

Updating HV list of absentee landlords

e. Tim asked the Board if it wanted to hire someone to update our list of absentee landlords of problem boarding houses in the area. Gail felt that we could recommend to anyone who is experiencing trouble, to comb through the Assessment roles in the City Clerks office at City Hall to find the information instead of spending money.

6. Committee reports

a. Fall Fair – Christian and Wendy Trueman are the co-chairs. Christian says they made the eight-week deadline for street closure of Brunswick Avenue for the length of Margaret Fairley Park. The permit process is proceeding well. Music is lined up. Barricading is a problem as specific fencing must be erected to cordon off the alcohol sale area. Tim made some suggestions and Christian will pursue that. The process of acquiring items for the silent auction is underway. More people are needed to help with this.

b. Gardeners – Margaret says the small signs in the area concrete planters are being stolen and she asked for an expenditure of \$81 for 36 signs. Carmen says we could afford that.

MOTION moved by Margaret and seconded by Carolee that the Board approve the expenditure.

Passed

c. Zoning Gus reports that plans for a third story addition to 142 Borden which was turned down at the C of A have since been abandoned by the agent.

There will be a conflict in development at the Brunswick House over the issue of encroachment of a fire escape and garbage disposal area. There will be further meetings with the Bloor BIA, the owner and HVRA.

Harvest Kitchen noise issue will go to a mediation meeting with Councillor Joe Cressy involved.

7. New business – Sue asked whether the Board was willing to continue to support a move to preserve parkland at Exhibition Place. The HVRA is part of a loose collective of residents' associations which is spearheaded by Rick Amos, who recently formed a land trust in Parkdale which has established a community garden in the area. The Board agreed it was a good idea with Jane abstaining. Sue will write a letter of support.

Carolee reports that a fine for operating an illegal patio was handed to the restaurant, Flock on Harbord Street by MLS.

The encroachment of the building at 1 Spadina Crescent may have been somewhat resolved. There will be some alterations to the new structure.

A Planning Study has been initiated on Spadina Avenue between Queen Street and Bloor Street. It will take place over the next 18 months. The study is asking for community input as to what should happen on the street.

Tim thanked Carolee and Sue for all the time spent at planning meetings.

8. Chairs report

Our Councillors office is organizing a meeting in August about proposed parking changes around Lord Lansdowne school.

Garden in Alan Powell lane – \$454 was spent by Tim, Gail and others to cleanup and green the laneway. Everyone agreed that it is a big improvement but its unclear how long it will last.

Too few Boar members were available so HVRA did not have a presence at last months Annex Family Festival on Bloor.

Adjournment 9:10pm