

Harbord Village Residents' Association
Spring Meeting
May 18, 2016 Kensington Gardens 45 Brunswick Ave, 7pm

1. **Chair's welcome** to everyone and especially visitors Joe Cressy, Nick Forsythe, Frumi Diamond and Kei Yano from PARA and Polly Wells from the ARA

2. **Area caucus reports**

Northeast - Carolee Orme

- 666 Spadina Ave. 12 storey development proposal
- Sussex-Spadina development and lack of access to green space
- Developers on Robert blocking sidewalk and 3 parking spots during construction w/o authority. Total disregard for residents or people walking on Robert or looking for parking spots.
- Speeding and wrong way driving due to a lack of clear one way signage
- Noise from Harvest Kitchen restaurant

Southeast – Caroline Macfarlane

- litter in laneways, especially from clubs and businesses on College St.
- Magic Noodle and Flock have been dumping food garbage & fat into sewage drains. Flock is operating a patio without a licence, noise problems
- noise from College St. clubs past 2am

South central – Marilyn Martin

- speed bumps approved for Major; also needed on Brunswick
- problem with tenants renting through Airbnb
- stoplights at Brunswick and Harbord, also Ulster and Bathurst, not changing automatically
- Boys of Major Lane streetlights too bright

Northwest – Christian Mueller

- restaurants on Bloor St are dumping garbage on Green P
- trees are cut down that might not even be on the property of the people

South west – Paula Gallo

- murals on Croft are getting graffiti
- cars going the wrong way on a one way streets
- Bathurst-College road closure due to construction
- garbage in the laneway – Ulster near Harbord

3. **Making Harbord Village Greener**

Councillor Cressy outlined the “Harbord Village Green Plan” that has now been accepted by the City Council. Since there is limited space for new parks, one has to look for creative ways to green the city. He pointed out that the increase in ‘vertical’ neighbourhoods in our Ward requires increase in green space because the parks become backyards for those residents. Greening is also mitigation for climate change. He mentioned that in the downtown, the City has approved four new parks, including an “urban park” under the Gardiner between Spadina and Strachan. Laneways (‘2400 in the city’) are another opportunity for greening.

Then Councillor Cressy spoke specifically to Harbord Village and mentioned the three parks/parkettes: Brunswick-College, Sally Bird and Margaret Fairley. Residents expressed concern about the length of time for the reconstruction. The Councillor asked for patience.

“The Harbord Village Green Plan” was conceived by a group called “Birds, butterflies and bees” consisting of several HV residents and representatives from the Councillor’s office. The plan outlines greening of laneways, corners and flanking boulevards. This plan is now endorsed by the City as a model for community managed green spaces in residential areas throughout the city. The City is also partnering with U of T School of Architecture to create designs for greening. There will be 71 plants made available for the concrete street planters boxes on June 3rd.

The Bloor / Annex BIAs also participate in greening the area and have a plan to turn corners into parkettes.

Questions and suggestions from the audience:

1. When will the 30km/hr speed limit be implemented in Ward 20? Answer: in about 5 months
2. What can be done to stop shadow effects on the precious little green space we have, e.g. gardens behind Lillian Smith library that will be overshadowed by 245 College St. high-rise? Answer: the City planning is trying their best to minimize impact
3. Put grass back in dogs of leash areas (DOLA). Response: will pass on the good suggestion.

4. **HVRA Business and Committee Reports**

i. Yard sale

Before Marilyn Martin talked about the yard sale, she acknowledged Jeannie Hastie’s help in greening and beautifying Harbord St. planters. Marilyn then invited everyone to the Yard sale that has been moved to May 21st from the previous Saturday due to bad weather. She pointed out that all of the proceeds are given to these two charities:

Stephen Lewis Foundation and Scadding Court's Investing in our Diversity Scholarships. Marilyn asked for volunteers for the day of the sale.

ii. *Funding for the new HVRA website*

Margaret Procter sought approval from the membership for the expenditure of up to \$4000 for the redesign and restructuring of the HVRA website. The current one was created in 2000 and contains >7000 files. It has become unmanageable. The money will be spent on training Margaret in the use of WordPress and on expert support. Margaret assured the members that the price is competitive and it was well researched before selecting WordPress. Leslie Thompson moved to approve the request. Seconded by Patsy Aldana. Carried.

iii. *Harbord Village Gardeners*

Margaret Procter reported that the group coordinated planting and maintenance of 17 concrete boxes. This year Toronto Transportation Department offered a choice of plants from Sheridan Nurseries. Three shrubs and 68 plants will be delivered on June 3. She mentioned with regret that some boxes were vandalized in previous years. In effort to minimize vandalism, small signs were created and placed in the boxes.

Margaret also promoted the "Plant Fair" on June 5th 1-3 pm on the south patio of 25 Brunswick Ave. Residents and visitors to Kensington Gardens also join in. Fiesta Farms will donate some plants; other sponsors are Home Hardware on College and Harbord Convenience. Margaret reminded everyone that the fair is an exchange of ideas, plants and garden items rather than a sale. She asked people to bring seedlings and perennial cuttings to the Plant Fair.

iv. *Work planned for Margaret Fairley Park*

Christian Mueller reported that the 2nd phase of construction will start in July and regrettably the park will not be available for use the whole summer and for the Fall Fair. An alternate site for the Fall Fair that we hope to use is on the roadway of Brunswick, just south of Ulster.

v. *Rusty Dragons-Harbord Village dragon boating*

Christian invited everyone to join the Rusty Dragons-Harbord Village dragon boating team which has been competing in July 1st regatta for 3 years. It is best of the slowest boats to take place at Centre Island.

vi. *Heritage directory and walks*

Richard Longley reminded members that if they are contemplating renovations they can use the directory of services that are in tune with heritage preservation. He can be contacted for a copy of the directory. He also promoted the heritage walks.

vii. *Student Essay Contest*

Paula Gallo introduced Liya Tadesse, Grade 12 student at Central Tech, and Maya Retzleff, grade 4 student at Lord Lansdowne as the winners of the "What have I done

for the community” essay contest. Both winners read their essays and received big applause. The *Annex Gleaner* will publish the essays.

5. **Making Harbord Village Greener – continued**

i. *Laneway greening*

Michelle Senayah, the Co-Founder and Director of the Laneway Project was our guest speaker. Her presentation gave an intro to The Laneway Project and their work, then an overview of Toronto's laneway network (including its extent and current use). She then spoke about the potential of these laneways to become green corridors, to help to fill our urban green space deficit, and gave a synopsis of some laneway greening techniques—container planting, vertical greening, planting beds and laneway punctures. She finished up by touching briefly on the Croft Street Greening project and the partners who are working together to make it happen: the HVRA, the David Suzuki Foundation and the Laneway Project.

ii. *Croft St. Greening project*

Jane Purdue and Anne Kerekes talked about the partnership with Michelle and the Laneway Project to create the greening plan for Croft St. The other two members of the committee, Barbara Donaldson and Rochelle Rubinstein could not be present at this meeting due to prior engagements. The group received donations from the Suzuki Foundation and a private donor (resident). May 29th is set for a clean-up and June 4th for planting. A public meeting of the area residents was held; 25 people attended. An inventory of possibilities was created. A color brochure describing the Croft Greening project was designed and also made available at this meeting. Jane and Anne asked for ideas for type of plants and ways to minimize vandalism to be forwarded to them at <mailto:croftgreening@gmail.com>.

6. **Adjournment**

Tim thanked all who attended the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm

