

# **HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **Environment (Greening the Village) Committee**

### **General**

The Environment (Greening the Village) Committee (“EC”) initiates, oversees and assists neighbours in projects that contribute to greening Harbord Village, improving the natural balance, and undertaking measures to reduce climate change. In so doing, the EC supports HVRA Board’s ongoing efforts in the area of promoting community member engagement.

The committee is comprised of a chair and at least one other board member. A community co-chair could also be identified, especially for specific projects.

With Board approval, the EC would identify and devise strategies for the implementation of fresh projects. It will also recognize a responsibility to maintain our interest in past projects and, as necessary, update them.

Neighbourhood participation in specific projects should be encouraged through e-mail blasts, flyers, the newsletter, public meetings, and a presence of the EC at all HVRA events.

### **Partnership Models**

There are a number of models for partnerships which could prove useful to the EC, including the following:

#### **The Councillor’s Office**

In the past, the Councillor has stepped forward to draft plans and to enact legislative change to enhance our forest and greenspace. With the Harbord Village Green Plan, Councillor Cressy assisted from the idea stage through to implementation at the Toronto and East York Community Council.

#### **The Private Sector**

Where group rates might be realized from suppliers or experts, the EC can write requests for proposals, conduct interviews, select suppliers for projects. This was done on the Solar Energy Project, the Home Energy Retrofit Project, and the naming of the Harbord Village Urban Forester. At each implementation stage, the EC must have the permission of the Board.

#### **Outside Funding**

Grants from the City or from outside sources can be identified by the EC, or sent through other channels to the EC for consideration. The City of Toronto, the Laneway Project and the Suzuki foundation have contributed to our efforts in the past.

### **Educational Collaboration:**

The University of Toronto has worked with HVRA on various projects. University Grounds funded our neighbourhood sector study on an emerald ash borer protocol. HVRA hired Forestry students to complete our neighbourhood Tree Inventory. Engineering students did follow-up research on our solar energy project, and master's students in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design have drawn plans for our laneway greening. A Ryerson PhD. student used and updated the tree inventory for his thesis. Collaboration with all academic institutions is to be encouraged because it benefits the students and community alike.

The EC should liaise with the Harbord Village Gardeners, wherever possible, since its members are the source of enthusiasm, inspiration and expertise in the village.

**Materials** are available from past projects, which include:

- Solar energy project
- Home Energy Retrofit project
- Tree Inventory

### **Present projects**

1. Green Master Plan
2. Croft Laneway greening
3. 3Bs
4. Street planters
5. Harbord Street decorative planters