

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes
October 18, 2011, 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens

The meeting was called to order at about 7:05 pm by Chair Gus Sinclair, who welcomed all to the meeting. Approximately 90 residents were in attendance.

Area Caucuses: The meeting broke into Area caucuses for discussion of local issues. The following was reported back to the entire group:

North-East Laura Bradbury

1) issues concerning the Robert St, playing fields and parkette: in particular, a concern that U. of T. may be planning to build a permanent structure for the Pan Am games, maintenance needs for the playing fields, and the parkette is in serious need of work.

2) we are looking for help to develop James Murdoch's idea for making the empty space beside Fed Ex at Bloor and Major into a parkette. We also want to encourage music at Bloor and Brunswick in the summer time, but the piano used this past summer has been abandoned in the lane behind BMV and no one knows who to call about moving it.

3) there are some abandoned houses on Robert St (292 and 294) where kids are congregating, smoking and drinking. The same is true of the alley between Robert and Major.

4) the one-way sign on Sussex between Major and Robert is missing and is causing serious traffic problems.

James Murdoch is a new area representative succeeding Laura Bradbury who has done a great job for several years. Thank you Laura.

South East Graham Rempe

1) noise and other nuisance from "party" houses on Robert St at Willcocks and Spadina Circle and the sometimes slow response from the police, when called. It was suggested that calls to the police be placed to 416 808 2222, with a request that the "bicycle unit" be dispatched. Residents with complaints are encouraged to report these events to the police in order to establish a record. It was also suggested that HVRA consider whether there is any step that could be taken to collectively consider solutions to "inter unit" noise.

2) graffiti persists in some locations. A query was raised as to the possibility of "paint outs", murals, or other community solutions. There was also a suggestion that security measures be enhanced either through police contact, cameras at key locations, etc

3) traffic remains an issue on Sussex Mews, where cars routinely speed, and Major Street, where people routinely travel against the one way direction

South Central Wendy Smith

1) Laneway issues (again).

More laneway potholes, some so deep, and so badly lit, it is dangerous to bike in the lane at night. One problem location is the laneway south of Ulster and North of College.

In some places the sewer drains appear to be dropping, suggesting serious underlying infrastructure problems.

Garbage in the laneways is accumulating. One member related that neighbours are moving garbage and furniture debris from behind one house to another, to get it off their property.

2) Graffiti

Graffiti continues to spread, with obscenities and hate messages on the increase. Members expressed a wish to find an ongoing solution to this problem, with neighbours cooperating in efforts to paint over graffiti as it re-appears. Member Haritean Rathod offered to coordinate a team of volunteers, with the suggestion that neighbours could be asked to contribute towards purchase of paint, and perhaps store it in their garages and make it available as needed.

3) Other issues

-Croft Lane – broken glass near College.

-Car vandalism continues on streets and in laneways.

-Members expressed concern about the growth of illegal rooming houses, and the danger of fires from careless tenants.

-Cyril Greenland related that a racoon had slept on his deck for three days & nights and he was worried it had settled in for a winter's hibernation. Happily in the end it moved off. Members noted that it is dangerous to disturb raccoons (which carry disease and can be very violent) and much better to call city Animal Services or just 311, the city service line.

North-West

Steve

Klein

1) Recurring theme for this area: need to increase police surveillance and/or patrol of lane-ways (e.g. Brunswick/Borden lane), and to vehicular traffic disregard to the one-way roads at most times (e.g. Borden, between Lennox and Harbord) and the area's speed limits

2) A solution to the latter problem is not through the installation of 'speed bumps'.

3) Complete the breadth of the shopping options by adding a LCBO and a cobbler (shoe repair shop) to the mix of stores in Harbord Village

Positive aspect:

1) Expand the music in the Lippincott "P" to 7 days a week, rather than just Wednesday afternoons during the Farmers Market season

2) The addition of Christian Mueller (sp?) as the other Area Representative for the Northwest.

South West

Susan Pfeiffer

1/illegal dumping, especially at Croft and Vankoughnet

2/ graffiti

3/ irksome renters (as per the problems on Lippincott street over the summer).

4/ the problems with the unlicensed food business next to Aunties and Uncles.

We spent most of our time talking with Zane Caplanski, who was there to make his case that he is not a bad person, that he is trying hard to be a good neighbor, and that he hopes that certain confrontational folks will back off.

HVRA Business

1. Minutes of 2010 AGM

Copies of the minutes of the October 2010 AGM were made available on the HVRA web site

The AGM minutes are reviewed for accuracy by the Board members within a couple of months of the meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report

Carmen Gauthier

HVRA's finances are in good shape. About \$3,000 were collected for the Heritage Project. There is about \$15,000 for the needs of HVRA. A copy of the treasurer's report was available for the members.

3. Committee/Activities Reports

Pumpkin Festival

Tim Grant

On Nov 1st from 3:30 people can bring their carved pumpkins that will be displayed along Harbord St. They will be lit and maintained by volunteers. Last year there were over 500 pumpkins.

There will be no Silent auction this year, but there will be a display of art by local artists and musicians and hot apple cider will be served at 87 Harbord, the same place as last year.

Tim sent around a sign up sheet for volunteers for activities such as delivery of promotional and instruction materials, lighting pumpkins and serving cider.

University of Toronto

Sue Dexter

1/ Uof T is making plans for buildings of great heights and there are many that oppose these plans.

Councillor Vaughan proposes to "shrink wrap" such developments but there is fear that such containment may not last.

2/ Huron-Sussex is getting re-zoned

3/ Sandi Smith, the Dean of Forestry and a committee are working on a disciplined approach to the emerald ash borer problem that is threatening to decrease 10% of Toronto's green canopy if the City of Toronto eliminates all ash trees regardless of infestation. Three volunteers are needed from the community to join the committee.

Fall Fair

Gus Sinclair

Gus reported that this year's Fall Fair was a great success – one of the best- lots of kids and music.

Financially it was also very successful.

Heritage Conservation

Gus reminded participants that a Heritage Directory, compiled by Richard Langley, is available and pointed out the benefits of such Directory.

Communications/Website/ Membership Module

Richard Gilbert

Website is working very well and the membership module should be operational within a couple of weeks.

Farmers Market

Gus Sinclair

Gus reported on the great success of the Market; it will continue next year

Central Tech – Susan Purvis

Community swim started last year and has been very successful.

Susan requested ideas for fundraising as they only have enough funds till the end of this year.

Friends of Margaret Fairley Park

Ingrid McKhool

Ingrid reported that there are many significant changes suggested and final consultation with the City is planned for Nov 17th from 7-9pm at 25 Brunswick. Anyone interested needs to get involved now.

4. New Board Elections

Constitutional & Nominations Committee consisted Susan Pfeiffer, Margaret Smith, Margaret Beare, Samiha Sayed – Celia Denov, Convenor. Celia took the Chair to propose a slate of officers for election.

Slate of officers presented for 2011-2012 term

Chair:

Tim Grant

Secretary:

Eva

Janecek

Treasurer:

Carmen

Gauthier

Membership

Secretary:

Gail Misra

Comm

Communications Director:

Richard Gilbert

Past President

Rory 'Gus' Sinclair ex officio

Since there were no nominations from the floor for the above positions, the new Officers of the Board were elected by acclamation.

5. Creation of Specialist Board Position for University of Toronto

Gus re-assumed the direction of the meeting. Curt Oliver moved that the Position of Uof T Liason become a member of the Board for another term . Celia Denov seconded. Carried There was a recommendation from the floor that the Board consider a constitutional amendment to make the position a permanent one.

Curt subsequently moved the nomination of Sue Dexter for the Uof T liason position. Sue accepted. It was seconded by Jan Muscynski. Carried

6. The Slate for the Constitution & Nominations Committee for 2011-2012

Susan Pfeiffer, Margaret Smith, Margaret Beare, Samiya Sayed – Celia Denov, Convenor
Proposed by Chair Gus Sinclair Seconded by Steve Klein - carried

7. Community Builder Awards

Gus presented the Community Builder Awards to the following recipients:

Alberto Moralis for his exceptional restoration of his home on 61 Brunswick Ave.

Bernard King Fai Ng for the restoration of a peak at 74 Brunswick Ave.

Stuart and Joan Shoenfeld and Rene and Elizabeth Roy for exceptional restoration of brickwork on 208 and 210 Robert St respectively and for their neighborly collaboration

8. Designs for College-Brunswick Parkette Competition Awards

Richard Longley acknowledged that this competition was initiated by Tim Grant. 27 entries were received from many countries. Winners were selected by a committee comprised of two groups: experts in the field of urban design and local residents. All entries are now posted on HVRA web site.

Gus announced the winners:

3rd place: Jeremy Quastel and Ingrid McKhool

2nd place: Dimitri Papatheodorou Who donated his cash prize back to HVRA

1st place: Ya'el Santopinto and Cleo Buster

Community selection

2nd place: Dream Weaver- Steve Socha

1st place Canopy Park -Drew Adams and Mladen Pejic

9. Laneway Naming Project -The final names unveiled

Gus announced the results of the selected names of the 23 Lanes that were not named in the Harbord Village. He commented that the submissions were extraordinary and that the jury (Tim Grant, Margie Zeidler, Bob Barnett and Neil Wright) spent a lot of time deliberating which names to choose to represent the old and more recent history, luminaries and the multicultural aspect of the community.

Background information on all of the manes selected was also provided.

Gus moved that a small plaque with such information be created and be part of the posted name plate. The Board is to explore a cost of such plaques.

It was moved by Lynn Delfts , seconded by Harriet Friedman and passed unanimously that the selected laneway names be submitted to the City for approval as presented.

10. Benefits of Heritage Houses/Communities

Architect Lloyd Alter gave a compelling and passionate presentation on how Heritage communities are energy conservation districts using examples from around the world. He explained how Heritage houses are lovable,durable,flexible and frugal. Using a “walk score”, he demonstrated that Harbord Village is a very

green community. He encouraged the audience to get more information about such issues by searching for his articles at www.treehugger.com

11. Councilor Vaughan – State of the Union and Q and A

Councillor Vaughan reported that:

- the Bathurst-Bloor project has cut number of parking places from planned 100 to 44. This is consistent with the City's plan to aggressively decrease parking spaces in new buildings to encourage less cars in the downtown.
- all 4 corners of College & Spadina are in plans for development
- downtown hospitals are interested in expanding along College St. and are in discussion with the City to do a study to determine feasibility
- library hours reduction is projected to be about 19hrs/wk across the board without much consideration for the consumers
- TCHC sales are limited as far as highrises are concerned but not small buildings. This makes many TCHC buildings and their occupants in the neighborhood vulnerable. They could be sold and tenants given short notice for relocation resulting in serious disruption for families and children and have impact on society in general. Furthermore, such action is not seen as cost saving.

Councillor Vaughan urged the individuals and the community to SPEAK OUT FOR THE CITY and let the City know what our concerns are.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm