

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
November 3, 2014, 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens

The meeting was called to order at about 7:05 pm by Chair Tim Grant, who welcomed all to the meeting including our guests; Ward 20 Councillor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh and her Executive Assistant Rebecca Keenan. Approximately 90 residents were in attendance.

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

North-East (NE)

James Murdoch

- 1) Break-ins and muggings. Need for increased police presence, including undercover agents
- 2) Drivers and cyclists ignoring one-way street signs and speeding
- 3) UofT using the derelict skating rink for garbage storage

South East (SE)

Carlo Drudi

- 1) Development at College and Spadina
 - meeting held at Lord Landsdowne on Nov 3, TDSB backed out of its opposition against 22 storey development at 484 Spadina in exchange for \$1m "reparation fee" for playground
 - Russell Street will be affected by loss of morning sun, in shadow of condos
 - City and HVRA going it alone, with an OMB preliminary meeting on Nov 24 and full hearings likely in April 2015
- 2) Development at 562-564 Spadina Ave
 - looking to expand current footprint of buildings by going up a floor and extending back
 - houses backing onto laneway will be impacted as well as residents north of the development
 - going to OMB on Nov 11
- 3) Briefly discussed state of leaf removal/roads. Some residents concerned that leaves are not being properly disposed of; they are being raked onto streets and are clogging sewer drains. Potential issues with drains being blocked, minor flooding on the streets (this happened before)

South Central (SC)

Margaret Procter

- 1) Wrong way traffic – especially north up Major; at one point of time 1 in 4 cars/bicycles going the wrong way
- 2) Bus shelter at Harbord west of Brunswick was replaced with advertising signs depriving people of shelter while waiting for a bus
- 3) Complaints of noise from houses owned by absentee landlords

South West (SW)

Wendy Smith

- 1) Pedestrian traffic obstructed on Harbord (Borden-Brunswick)
- 2) Illegal rooming houses / absentee landlords - resulting in noise, no snow removal, poor maintenance of property & misconduct of tenants – often excessive number of tenants (not just students but young unsupervised adults).
- 3) Poor snow removal on sidewalks and roads.
- 4) Central Tech – three of the 14 people attending our caucus indicated support for the proposed dome.
- 5) Eyesore of Central Tech trash bins permanently on Borden

The election of our area reps was delayed when a third candidate volunteered from the floor and our caucus ran out of time to sort out an election process. Caucus member Susan Pfeiffer, a member of HVRA's Constitutional & Nominations Committee, after discussing procedure with the three candidates, arranged for a post-AGM online election, which was conducted the following week. The winning candidates were Jane Perdue and Paula Gallo.

North-West (NW)

Christian Mueller

- 1) Re-surfacing Brunswick Avenue from Bloor to College, with particular attention to fixing the badly damaged pavement from Bloor to Harbord
- 2) Assisting smaller, independent businesses to survive along Bloor Street since it looks like several of them have been forced to leave because of rent increases
- 3) Resolving the dispute over Central Tech's playing field, which affects many people but is crucial to us due to CT's location in our part of the Harbord Village

The following were elected as our 2014-15 area representatives:

NE

Carolee Orme and James Murdoch

NW

Steve Klein and Christian Mueller

SW

Jane Perdue and Paula Gallo

SC

Margaret Procter and Marilyn Martin

SE

Carlo Drudi

HVRA Business

1. Councilor Ceta Ramkhalawansingh "The State of Ward 20 & The City".

Before introducing Councilor Ramkhalawansingh, Tim announced that Executive Assistant Rebecca Keenan was leaving her position. He thanked Rebecca for her years of diligent and excellent work with the HVRA Board and for our community.

Councilor Ramkhalawansingh also acknowledged Rebecca's great work and asked her to share the podium with her. The Councilor then reviewed the many accomplishments during her short time at the City Council (since July 2014).

Her Newsletter was very recently made available and can be accessed via the following link:

<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=1a10871f85524323ab2487471&id=e028dcb8e8&e=2572a38726>

Councilor Ramkhalawansingh highlighted a few items such as heritage issues (Waverly Hotel), development issues and challenges (including Central Tech) and opened up the discussion for questions.

Cycle lanes issues: Bloor Street is still problematic for cyclists especially at Spadina and Walmer; Harbord Street has improved but is still problematic at Brunswick. Rebecca agreed to look into the issues expressed.

Residents are very concerned about the recent increase in crime in the area. Rebecca noted that the 14th Division was already contacted and the City was asked for an increased police presence. She will contact them again and ask for more plain clothes and bike police and increased patrolling.

The Councilor's closing remarks were on the issues surrounding Central Tech. She pointed out the need for more provincial funding for schools.

2. Minutes of October 2013 AGM

The minutes are reviewed for accuracy by the Board members within a couple of months of the 2013 AGM meeting. Copies of the minutes of the October 2013 AGM were made available at the meeting for those that wished to peruse them.

3. Treasurer's Report

Carmen Gauthier

Carmen made available copies of HVRA Financial Statement 2014 update. She reported that HVRA's finances are in a very good shape. She thanked the volunteers that made this possible especially Marilyn Martin and Christian Mueller (Yard sale) and Carolee Orme and Tim Grant (Fall Fair). Proceeds from the Yard sale and the Fall Fair allowed for the donation of \$1,600 to The Stephen Lewis Foundation and \$ 1,000 to the scholarship program at Scalding Court Community Centre. Copies of HVRA Financial statement were made available at the meeting.

4. Central Tech Community Pool Swims

Susan Purvis, a volunteer, picked the winning ticket from a large number of tickets sold to support the Community Swim at Central Tech. The raffle tickets were sold during the HVRA Pumpkin Festival and prior to the AGM. Proceeds go to help keep the Central Tech Community Swim afloat into 2015. Susan announced that over \$1,000 was collected. Susan invited residents to attend an open house on November 29th and urged everyone to come and participate in the community swims.

5. Chair's Report

Tim reiterated that the Yard sale and the Fall Fair, the main HVRA fundraisers, were very successful this year (over \$2,500 were raised).

Tim also mentioned that in spite of very cold weather the Pumpkin Festival was magical.

Another newsworthy item was "parkettes". Some were already renovated while the plans for Brunswick & College parkette are completed and awaiting the beginning of construction.

Tim pointed out that there are many "development" pressures on our neighbourhood, including the proposed Central Tech sports dome. He said that he remains hopeful that a solution to the school field dispute can be found that will result in the restoration of the playing field for the students and for the community.

In closing Tim put out a call for community help with organizing the Fall Fair and the Pumpkin Festival. Five coordinators are needed for each

6. New Board Elections

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

Slate of officers presented for 2014-2015 term

Chair:	Tim Grant
Past President:	Rory "Gus" Sinclair ex officio
Secretary:	Eva Janecek
Treasurer:	Carmen Gauthier
Membership Secretary:	Gail Misra
Communications Director:	Wendy Smith

Richard Longley moved to appoint the above to the respective Board positions. All in favour.
Susan asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.
Jeff Rosenthal moved to acclaim the above Board. All in favour.

Tim resumed the chair position and asked for nominations for the University of Toronto Liaison position and the newly created position of Development Coordinator.

David Booz moved, seconded by Leslie Thompson, to nominate Sue Dexter as University of Toronto Liaison, and Robert Stambula as Development coordinator. Sue and Robert accepted. All in favour. Carried.

Tim presented the Slate for the Constitution & Nominations Committee for 2014-2015:
Susan Pfeiffer, Margaret Smith, Margaret Beare, Samiya Sayed and Celia Denov, Convener
He then asked for nominations for CNC. Since there were none, the Chair declared the slate acclaimed.

7. Awards:

Tim presented the HVRA Community Builder award to Sharron Richards of Major Street for showing extraordinary courage and compassion in coming to the aid and assistance of two young women who had been mugged, robbed and physically beaten on Major Street south of Ulster in the early morning hours recently.

Tim congratulated the HVRA History committee for receiving two awards at the Heritage Toronto Annual Awards ceremony on October 21, 2014. The History Committee will also be honoured for its Oral History Project with an Honorable Mention at the Governor General's awards in Ottawa. Colin Furness will represent HVRA at the Ottawa ceremony.

Tim also congratulated our board member Wendy Smith, who was also honoured at the Heritage Toronto ceremony with an Award of Excellence (Media category), for her Toronto Park Lot Project.

8. Stop Spadina — 40 Years Later

Tim introduced Jim Jacobs, son of Jane Jacobs, and a short film clip by Marshal McLuhan was shown.

Jim gave a short history of his family and his involvement in the film and then proceeded to talk about the plans for the Spadina Expressway, the problems, controversies and the eventual rejection of the plans by Bill Davis.

9. Central Tech and other development issues

Sue Dexter summarized the many upcoming development challenges faced by Harbord Village including the November 25th OMB meeting to decide on mediation of the Central Tech dome project (and the OMB hearing scheduled for next April); the OMB hearing on the Waverly Hotel between Nov 24th and Dec 9th and the U of T residence at Sussex and Spadina, where City planning has recommended that the residence be decreased from 22 to 12 storeys. Sue's report received warm applause.

It should be noted that before the meeting, 20-30 Central Tech students protested that their playing field remains closed and HVRA's opposition to the dome project.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm