

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Minutes
October 15, 2013, 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, especially MP Olivia Chow, MPP Rosario Marchese and Councillor Adam Vaughan. 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 James Murdoch

- 1) U of T development on Spadina at Sussex
- 2) Break ins
- 3) Drivers ignoring one-way street signs

South East Jeannie Hastings

- 1) Physical violence (using baseball bats) – requesting surveillance cameras on lanes just north of College Street to monitor crowds coming to/from the many clubs there
- 2) Illegal rooming-houses
- 3) Overfilled garbage bins

South Central Angie Andreoli

- 1) Laneway concerns - particularly on Boys of Major Lane: increased break-ins, bicycle theft.
- 2) Wrong way traffic – especially north up Major. Pinch points and signage are not as effective as they could be. Suggest painting arrows on the road.
- 3) Construction – there has to be greater vigilance regarding appropriate permits and noise violators with concerns raised with area reps.

South West Jane Perdue

- 1) Garbage dumping continues to be a problem, particularly in Croft Lane between Vankoughnet and Ulster. There are only 4 residential homes in that block on Croft and home owners feel a bit isolated in their complaints to 311. Our group suggested that we could share email addresses and several of the residents could contact 311 for better, faster pick-up by the City.
- 2) Graffiti and tagging – it was expressed that people like the anti-graffiti program. There was a request that these efforts be re-introduced to focus on our laneways.
- 3) Healthy Trees – we should continue efforts to create awareness (perhaps through the HVRA newsletter) that if a vine grows up a tree, the tree will eventually die. More education of homeowners would be welcome.

North-West Steve Klein

- 1) Noise and property damage continues to be a long-standing problem associated with the night clubs, etc. on the Bloor strip. (now 6 in number) Residential neighbours are increasingly frustrated by the lack of action being taken by the respective authorities (e.g. police, the city, alcohol comm.) while the owners/operators are increasing their efforts to 'silence' complaints.
- 2) Graffiti artists continue to believe their thoughtless damage of our laneways and backyard properties is appreciated. This is not the case. There are many legitimate streetscape artists who take pride in their efforts, with one known artist offering to restore the work only asking for materials reimbursement. .

- 3) Break-ins continue to be a concern; but members noted with appreciation the increased presence of police bike patrols in our laneways and around Central Tech.

HVRA Business

1. Minutes of 2012 AGM

Copies of the minutes of the October 2012 AGM were made available on the HVRA web site as well as hard copies that were brought to the meeting. The minutes are reviewed for accuracy by the Board members within a couple of months of the 2012 AGM meeting.

2. Treasurer's Report

Carmen Gauthier

Carmen made available copies of the 2013 HVRA Financial Statement. She reported that HVRA's finances are in a very good shape. She thanked the volunteers that made this possible especially Marilyn Martin and James Murdoch (Garage sale) and Gus Sinclair (Fall Fair).

3. Committee/Activities Reports

History Project

Nicole Schulman

Nicole praised Eleanor Levine's excellent efforts and results in accomplishing over 100 interviews with residents who lived in the area between 1930 and 1957. Audio records are already transcribed. Indexing is being done by professionals. Wendy is in the process of organizing the information for the website. A show at the MNJCC is being organized by the committee. As well "story posts" will be available to access through smart phone apps or the website. The committee is still seeking old pictures of the neighborhood.

Pumpkin Festival

Tim Grant

On Nov 1st from 3:30pm, people can bring their carved pumpkins to be displayed along Harbord St. They will be lit and maintained by volunteers. 860 pumpkins were on display in 2012.

Litter & Glitter Fall Clean-up & Gala

Neil Stephenson

The clean-up will start at Bloor Cinema in the morning of Nov. 23rd. Neil reported that it will be a re-match with Annex Residents' Association. First rain date is Nov 24 at the Tranzac Theatre and the 2nd rain date is Dec 1 at Annex CSI. This year there are over 60 prizes to be won. A NAGS actor encouraged the residents to come to their play at the Tranzac Theatre.

UofT Liason

Sue Dexter

Buildings south of 720 Spadina (including the former post office) were purchased by U of T, which is now planning a 22 story student residence. In addition, the owners of the Waverly Hotel are planning to build a 22 story student residence. Meanwhile the fight against the 24 story private student residence at 245 College Street continues at the OMB.

Flower Pots

Wendy Smith

Members made an inventory of pinch point planters and would like to know who is looking after them. The committee would like to work with the residents and coordinate efforts.

4. New Board Elections

Curt Oliver nominated Wendy Smith for the webmaster position. Wendy accepted. Seconded by Gus Sinclair. Agreed unanimously; carried

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

Slate of officers presented for 2013-2014 term

Chair:	Tim Grant
Secretary:	Eva Janeczek
Treasurer:	Carmen Gauthier
Membership Secretary:	Gail Misra
Communications Director:	Mark Treleaven
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. Position for University of Toronto

Curt Oliver moved, seconded by Gus Sinclair to nominate Sue Dexter for the UofT liason position. Sue accepted. Carried.

6. The Slate for the Constitution & Nominations Committee for 2013-2014

Susan Pfeiffer, Margaret Smith, Margaret Beare, Samiya Sayed and Celia Denov - Convener
Moved by Rory Sinclair, seconded by Wendy Smith. Carried.

7. Acknowledgement of Members Leaving the Board

Tim thanked outgoing Board members Angie Andreoli, Eleanor Levine and Lindan Toole for their valuable contribution to the Board and the community. He also welcomed Carolee Orme and Margaret Procter as new area reps.

8. Heritage Conservation Award

Tim presented an HVRA Heritage Preservation Award to Christie Blatchford for her renovation of 44 Robert St.

9. MPP Rosario Marchese “Freeing Toronto from the OMB”.

Mr. Marchese presented a history of Bill 20 which he introduced to make the City of Toronto independent of Ontario Municipal Board. He pointed out that the OMB is unelected and does not answer to anyone. He urged everyone who agrees that OMB's power and influence is undesirable for City planning and governing to write to the Ontario Premier and her chief of staff to support Bill 20. He suggested marking the letter Private & Confidential to ensure that the Premier gets the letter.

10. Councillor Vaughan “The State of Ward 20 & The City”.

Councillor Vaughan wholeheartedly supports Mr. Marchese's efforts. He mentioned that Ontario is the only province that has an office like OMB and the OMB's actions threaten democracy

Councillor Vaughan noted that there are concerns about the plans for the Sports bubble at Central Technical School.

He addressed residents' concerns about the downtown condo proliferation and its effect on overall infrastructure. He said that water/sewage is not a problem because the condo buildings are in a previously industrial area and the schools are also adequate. A new library will soon be open as well. The major problem is transportation.

Bike lane infrastructure is being addressed but not fast enough.

Graffiti and tagging is still a problem; some solutions are talking to hardware store owners not to sell spray-paint to persons under 18 years of age. There needs to be greater enforcement and allow murals in some areas

Subway versus LRT. Councillor Vaughan reiterated the discussion of cost vs capacity & need

Bars capacity in the neighborhood: Councillor Vaughan acknowledged the high density of bars in this area. He said that not only does there need to be a better regulation of bars but there has to be a fundamental change in the culture of young adults and their attitudes toward drinking and entertainment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm