

**Harbord Village Resident's Association
Board Agenda
Tuesday, April 15, 2008 7pm
Kensington Gardens**

Present: Rory (Gus) Sinclair (chair), Margaret Beare, David Booz , Sue Dexter, Tim Grant, Jane Perdue, Samiha Sayed, Bachir Rabbat , Eva Janecek-Rucker

Guests: Rebecca Leigh and Bill Sinclair from St.Stephen's Community House

Regrets: Richard Gilbert, Colin Furness, Stuart Schoenfeld, Katrina McHugh, Wendy Duff, Leslie Thompson

1. Chair's Welcome:

Gus welcomed all present.

2. Capital Campaign – St.Stephen's Community House Presentation

Rebecca Leigh, the chair of the Capital Campaign gave the members an overview of the history and services the St.Stephen's Community House offers as well as some background for the Capital Campaign to renovate the 91 Bellevue Ave. building. Rebecca briefly described the plans, including renovation of the gymnasium and the basement. Overall, the renovations will increase the efficiency of space utilization as well improving heat, light, ventilation and air-conditioning efficiency.

Bill Sinclair talked in more detail about the different groups their organization serves: seniors, pre-school, school children, youth & emigrants of all ages and about the many different activities including English classes, daycare, dances, etc.

The campaign is expected to raise \$1.5M. So far \$378,000 has been collected. HVRA agreed to spread the word through different means such as individually, through pamphlets or electronically, verbally at the Spring HVRA meeting, etc.

HVRA members suggested to keep the renovations as "green" as possible and Rebecca confirmed that it is their intent to do so.

As part of their campaign, St.Stephen's offers tours (open house) to those interested. HVRA members will consider the offer.

3. Minutes from March 18, 2008 meeting were approved as circulated. Moved by Margaret Beare, seconded by Jane Perdue.

4. Committee Reports

Trees:

Public meeting, held on Thursday March 27, was attended by about 30 people.

- Project #1: Discussion of proposed plans resulted in significant changes, such as offering \$20-trees rather than differently prized trees using a formula, getting smaller trees but specially grown (roots infused with oxygen) for faster growth when transplanted, etc.

- Project 2 & 3: flyer (includes Spanish, Chinese & Portuguese information) will be distributed to poll residents re education about trees and hiring a village arborist.
- 4 people indicated interest in taking Tree-tenders Training program
- OK to plant trees in the fall

Solar:

- Downtown West Solar Project meeting on March 19, 2008 at St. Vladimir's on Spadina attracted about 100 people. There was an excellent presentation by the vendors followed by a lively discussion and ~16 sign-ups.

Membership:

- Gus will work with Tim to send a membership renewal reminder

Graffiti:

Gus reported on Colin Furness' behalf that graffiti problem in the neighborhood is increasing. Suggestion was made to apply to the City's "Clean & Beautiful" fund for financial assistance to clean up graffiti in our area. Strategies by members- clean or not to clean- were discussed.

Zoning:

- 578 Spadina - a proposal that appears to put a house behind a house in violation of zoning. Architect submitted a plan 3 weeks ago to the community. The new plan has 3 apartments in the house. A basement door links the 4th apartment, to a house which takes up the rest of the lot.
- 20 Brunswick: Gus attended OMB proceedings recently; decision is expected in about 3-4 months.
- College St.- Adam Vaughn announced that the proposed pilot was put on hold. Gus will pursue the Clear-way Project with Council.

Communications:

- Gus reported that the Newsletter is "in the works"
- Spring meeting is on May 13. Agenda topics suggested included: green roofs; the farmer's market and the development planning tool described tonight by Andrew Everton. Adam Vaughn will also be invited to speak.

U of T Liaison:

- Nothing to report

Farmers' Market

- The Farmers' Market will have a soft opening on the first or second Wednesday in June. The official opening party will be on June 24th when more produce is in season. A colour flyer (supplied by Bob Chorny) will be distributed in Harbord Village and the Annex. Banners advertising the Market will be at posted at Kilgour's and Dooney's. HVRA will have a booth.
- The Farmer's Market advisory committee will meet tomorrow (March 16th).
- Storage for 2 tents, tables & chairs is needed; some possibilities were explored
- Reusable bags will be encouraged in preference to plastic bags
- A Market coordinator will be hired (~\$150/day)

4. Problems with Commercial Establishments in HVRA

Brunswick House:

Gus reported that many merchants in the area are closing earlier due to increase in fights and vandalism. Gus will talk to Adam Vaughn about this.

Tiger Bar:

It was noted that the illegal club (Tiger Bar) at Lippincott and College is still operating. Their license is for one establishment, but there are two. HVRA has followed up with the police and yet it still keeps going.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.

Next meeting: Spring Meeting: May 13, 2008 7pm, Large Board Room; refreshments will be provided