

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday April 16, 2013, 7pm
Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Eleanor Levine, Sue Dexter, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Neil Stephenson, Wendy Smith, Gail Misra, Carmen Gauthier, Graham Rempe, Steve Klein, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch and Eva Janecek.

Regrets: Angie Andreoli, Mark Treleaven, Lindan Toole

1. Chair's Welcome extended to all

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gus, seconded by Gail – approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting

Moved by Graham and seconded by Steve - approved

4. Treasurer's report

Carmen reported that a cheque from the Royal Bank was received and deposited. She asked the members whether more time was needed to review the Annual Budget and Treasurer Reporting Policy circulated by e-mail earlier. There was a brief discussion about the purpose of the document and it was agreed that this document describes how the Board handles money and can be used as a tool to orient new members. The document can be tweaked as necessary. Tim expressed great thanks to the finance subcommittee, Carmen, Gail and Steve for producing this great document.

Steve moved that the policy be approved in principle. Gus seconded. Approved.

5. Discussion items

a. HVRA Table at May 4th Environment Day.

Tim mentioned that 2 board members are needed to staff an HVRA table for 2 hours each from 10am – 2 pm. (An ARA rep will provide company). This is the same day as our 2nd Annual Yard Sale and our first-ever Hike for Hospice. Gail volunteered 10-12 and Carmen 12-2.

b. HVRA Table at June 9th Annex Festival on Bloor.

Three volunteers are needed to staff our table for 2 hours and 20 minutes between 11am – 6pm. (An ARA rep will provide company. HVRA's share of the cost would be \$85.) James, Gus, Steve and Christian volunteered.

c. Police statistics on HVRA website.

The Board discussed how to best communicate police statistics on our web site. It was decided that periodic summaries could be helpful.

6. Chair's report:

i) Parkette Updates. The west end of *Margaret Fairley Parkette* is being demolished, and the Friends group is upset that contrary to repeated promises, all of the Parkette is currently fenced off. Construction of the west end will be completed in June and the east side will be rebuilt in the spring of 2014. Poor communication from the contractors to the Friends group seems to be the root of the problem. Construction of the *as-yet-unnamed Brunswick-College parkette* will begin this summer. It will include "wavy Portuguese" paving, free Wi-Fi, a stand for a large sculpture that will change every year and much greenery and seating.

ii) Sussex Mews Laneway: Late in 2011, the board discussed several "laneway to street" intersections that were deemed to be unsafe. Stuart Schoenfeld, our then NE area rep, proposed that we petition the City to turn the top 75 meters of Sussex Mews laneway into a one way south direction so as to improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists at that location. The impetus for this petition was an incident in which a cyclist was almost hit by a car. The board voted in favour and Tim forwarded the request to Councillor Vaughan. One to two months ago, City staff implemented our recommendation. Almost as soon as the one way signs were installed, the Councillor's office began receiving complaints. Mosaic condo board members, in particular, wondered why HVRA had never consulted them. Tim has since met with the condo board members and they agreed to set up a poll. If condo and other nearby residents indicate a preference to restore bi-directional traffic, Tim agreed to ask the City to make that change.

iii) 3rd Annual Hike for Hospice: Sunday May 5th. Registration for the 2 and 5 kilometer hikes begin at 9:30am at the Kensington Hospice. The hikes begin at 11am. HVRA is sponsoring two Jane's Walks.

iv) Momo's Restaurant will stay open until June

v) New Restaurant at the Messis location will be opening soon but there has not been a discussion with the new owner about plans for the patio. Gus will make preliminary inquiries about the owner's expectations for the patio hours of operation.

vi) Student Essay Competition: April 12th was the submission deadline for HVRA's first-ever Student Essay Competition. Six essays were submitted. Tim asked for volunteer judges. Gus, Steve and Christian volunteered.

vii) UofT Student Council and Spring Meeting: Tim was encouraged to invite representatives from the UofT Student Council to the Spring Meeting and offer to give them time on the Agenda if they wish to participate.

7. Committee Reports

- a) **Yard sale:** James reported that everything is on track; email blast will happen tomorrow; flyer is on the web and hard copies will be distributed shortly.
Tim agreed to send a note to the management of Mosaic Condos suggesting that tenants could set up tables at the Parkette on Sussex & Robert Sts.
Neil and James will distribute flyers to mosaic Condo building.
- b) **Community liaison:** Gus reported that his talk to Blythewood group on Heritage resulted in their very productive activity in this area and he was invited to a party to celebrate their successes.
- c) **Zoning:** No report.
- d) **Communications:** In Mark's absence, Tim reported that Mark is working on his first Newsletter and is hopeful that it will come out on time.
- e) **Website:** Wendy reported that the Spring Clean-up and the Yard Sale information is on the web now and that she is awaiting details on the Spring Meeting. It was noted by the members that checking the HVRA web site is a pleasure as there are always new items to be viewed.
- f) **U of T liaison:** Sue reported that the city's "old" Master Plan doesn't protect the green spaces in the area. The Law Faculty is planning to build a structure that would protrude 27 ft over the Philosopher's Walk. The members supported Sue in opposing this plan.
- g) **History:** Wendy reported that she was hired by the committee to be the webmaster for the project. Eleanor and Richard are working together to create a repository for the up to 100 recorded interviews. A person is needed to visit the homes of those interviewed with a small scanner – supplied by HVRA – and scan old photos. The estimated time is 5hrs/wk for about 3 months. Since most of the grant money has been spent the committee will have to find a way to fundraise. The committee was encouraged to send a proposal to the Board to help with fundraising.
- h) **Spring Clean-Up:** Neil reported that according to 3 weather forecast stations the day of the clean-up should be cool but sunny. \$3,800 cash revenue has been received and \$2,800 is expected to be needed for expenditures, leaving \$1,000 surplus. Neil recommended using this money for the Graffiti Project. Neil investigated special occasion permit for insurance and after negotiations he got a quote for \$206. THA, of which HVRA is a member, offers insurance for free if they'll deem the Clean-Up a low risk. Neil will be notified tomorrow. Neil was encouraged to pay the \$206 if the THA insurance will not be available to us.

- i) **Graffiti:** Sue reported that the next clean-up area will be in Louis Laki Lane and that letters to hardware stores asking for deals on paint have been sent.
- k) **Membership:** Gail reported that after an e-mail blast 10 members renewed; to-date there are 176 paid members. Many renewals were done at the \$20 membership.
- l) **Flowerpots:** Wendy reported that the BIA responded to the committee request for more money and cheque has been received. The planting will include daffodils.
- m) **Neighbourhood disruption:** Tim reported that it has almost been a month since he asked Gus Michaels, the head of investigations for MLS, for an update on his department's progress on new enforcement protocols for the City's current noise bylaw. In addition, HVRA will soon be requesting from AGCO the renewal dates for the liquor licences of those bars that have caused problems.
- n) **Trees:** Sue reported that the City will handle the injections of most front yard ash trees against the Emerald ash borer but that we'll need to communicate with owners of other properties with ash trees to encourage them to hire arborists for similar injections.

Meeting adjourned 9:05 pm