

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens
Minutes

Present: Tim Grant, Rory Gus Sinclair, Sue Dexter, James Murdoch, Paula Gallo, Marilyn Martin, Christian Mueller, Steve Klein, Carlo Drudi, Margaret Procter, Carmen Gauthier, Gail Misra, Eva Janecek

Regrets: Bob Stambula, Carolee Orme, Caroline Macfarlane

1. **Chair's Welcome.** Tim welcomed all, especially Henry Wiercinski (refer Item 4 below) and Larry Smokorowski (guest).
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Moved by Gus, seconded by Marilyn - approved
3. **Approval of March 17, 2015 minutes** –Moved by James, seconded by Marilyn - approved with typo corrections
4. **Guest Speaker** Henry Wiercinski, a board member of the Annex Resident's Association talked about the coalition "Rail Safety First" whose purpose is to educate and advocate for safe, transparent and accountable rail traffic, particularly of crude oil. The coalition consists of about 10 associations from Oshawa to Burlington largely bordering on railway tracks.
Henry mentioned the increased number of serious disasters caused by derailments and expressed concern about the significant increase in oil tank cars moving along Dupont St. (500 in 2009 vs. 160,000 in 2013).
If there was an explosion, the blast area would reach from Bloor to St.Clair. One of the objectives of "Rail Safety First" is to urge the Federal government to come up with standards for safety and effective inspections because self-regulation by the industry hasn't worked.
There was a short discussion about the role of HVRA.
Sue moved that HVRA support the objectives and purpose of "Rail Safety First" in principle. Seconded by Marilyn. Carried.
HVRA was invited to the next meeting of the coalition (representation still to be formalized).
Tim thanked Henry for his presentation and raising the awareness of potential risks of rail transport if safety practices are not improved.

5. Discussion Items

a) Directors' liability insurance

In preparation for today's discussion Tim emailed a memo from Leslie Thompson, a former board member and James distributed slides from a

webinar presented by the Ontario Non-profit Network on the topic of “Directors & Officers Insurance: The Right Coverage for Non-profits”.

James briefly summarized the information from the webinar and after a short discussion Steve moved that HVRA get at least 3 firm quotes for \$2 million coverage with and without coverage for existing events (e.g. Fall Fair).

Seconded by Gail. Carried.

Carmen agreed to get the quotes and with James, Steve and Tim’s help prepare recommendation for the Board to be circulated ASAP. The desire is to have this readied for review and adoption at the Spring Meeting.

b) The question: “should HVRA request the City to allow downtown residents a choice in the size of green bin they use?” generated discussion for and against. City Council is to consider a proposal to convert to taller green bins on May 5. Board members felt it was too late to influence that decision, so decided on consensus not to act.

4. Committee Reports

a) Communication & Website

Newsletter

Carlo thanked Wendy Smith for her contribution to the preparation of past newsletters. He brought a few test copies which Christian, James and Margaret agreed to proof-read.

Website, Twitter & other social media

Margaret reported that 230 people opened today's e-blast about Constitutional amendments, and 16 have actually opened the link to the Amendments.

Sue and all other members complemented Margaret on her e-blasts.

b) Treasurer’s report – Carmen distributed the proposed 2015 budget prior to the meeting. Steve moved to adopt the budget. Seconded by Margaret. Carried.

Tim thanked Carmen for her work as treasurer and for preparation of the budget.

c) Membership – no report but a comment that information on how to become a member needs to be more accessible. Tim asked Gail to prepare a letter to those not on email, in order to encourage them to renew their memberships.

d) Community liaison – Margaret reported on a campaign to get traffic calming added to Major Street south of Harbord Street. It was started over a year ago by several parents with small children. A traffic study was done but did not

show a sufficiently high volume or percent of drivers speeding to necessitate City action. After repeated requests to the Councillor's office, the Traffic department suggested staggered parking during the summer only, which has been shown in other areas to be effective in reducing volume and speed of traffic. Residents will be encouraged to involve neighbours to work together in resolving this issue.

e) Zoning – Carmen reported that she attended a meeting of Toronto and East York Community Council regarding 562,564 & 566 Spadina Rd. A negotiated settlement was reached prior to an OMB hearing. The new units will have 2 and 3 bedroom apartments and will be a great improvement from the current rooming houses. Protection for tenants was confirmed by community council.

Gus added that there is some activity but no specific details on Waverley Hotel and Sue mentioned 316 Bloor St. West condo.

f) U of T liaison – no report

g) Heritage – no report

h) Flowerpots – Marilyn reported that she spent \$300 for daffodils. Members thanked Marilyn and commented on how nice the planters look. Marilyn will continue looking for more planters.

i) History Project –Margaret reported that most of the story posts are up. Christian pointed out that mounting the story posts was the last activity that was required to complete the History project. In addition to a launch, The Gleaner is prepared to publish a series of stories related to the posts.

j) Yard sale – Marilyn noted that volunteers are needed for various functions and that a truck is needed for delivery and pick up of rental tables. The e-blast resulted in only 3 volunteers signing on to date. Marilyn will email members a description and number of people needed for each volunteer function.

5. Chair's Report submitted via email:

- Carolee and Tim have been mediating between Harvest Kitchen's owners and local residents who want their back patio to be less disruptive this year.

- Sharoni Sibony is confirmed as our guest speaker at our Spring Meeting, which will now be held on Tuesday, May 26. Also invited but not yet confirmed are Joe Cressy, Han Dong and Adam Vaughan. Each has been invited to

Speak for 5 minutes at the end of our meeting and take individual questions from 9pm onwards.

- With the May 2nd Yard Sale, May 26th Spring Meeting and June 14th Bloor Street Festival, HVRA lost banner needs to be replaced. Should we also order T-shirts, so we can offer a reasonable selection of sizes? Tim said he would address these issues after the meeting.

- Tim attended the first Ward 20 Council meeting on March 26th, along with reps from a dozen other RAs and BIAs. One valuable take-away was the Community Checklist found at <http://www.wellingtonplace.org/developments/>. The Wellington Place association use this to evaluate proposals for large development projects in their area.

- Role of liaisons should be discussed at the June meeting

6. New Business

At a fundraising function Carolee, Gail, Jane, Sue and Tim discussed ideas on greening our laneways to attract birds, bees and butterflies. Ideas for the project included e-blasts with information, requests for donations, getting and distributing milk weed and other perennial seeds to make our laneways more attractive places. Moved by Gail, seconded by James. Carried.

Sue raised a package of 5 initiatives we could work on with the City which would expand the greenspace in our neighbourhood, including mandating pinch point planters and the repurposing of sites flanking main streets and the greening of parking lots. Sue moved that HVRA contact Councillor Cressy to consider using HVRA as a pilot project for greening public spaces. Seconded by Gail. Carried

Adjournment at 9:00pm