

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday April 26, 2011 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens
MINUTES

In Attendance: Rory Sinclair, Angie Andreoli, Laura Bradbury, Carmen Gauthier, Gail Misra, Wendy Smith, Colin Furness, Richard Gilbert, Katrina McHugh, Jane Perdue, Bettina von Lieres.

Regrets: Sue Dexter, Stuart Schoenfeld, Eva Janecek-Rucker, Eleanor Levine.

- 1. Chair's Welcome** to all including the two visitors, Richard Longley and Yvan MacKinnon.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
With the additions to the Agenda,
Moved by Laura Bradbury, Seconded by Angie Andreoli, approved.
- 3. Approval of Minutes** of March 15, 2011 meeting
Moved by Laura Bradbury, Seconded by Bettina von Lieres, approved.

4. Treasurer's report

Carmen Gauthier reported that the Bank balance is \$5,820 plus there is \$20,000 plus in the investment account.

5. Brunswick-College Parkette Competition Report

Richard Longley and Yvan MacKinnon attended as guests.

They made a presentation on the results of the Brunswick-College Parkette design competition. Twenty seven (27) entries were received from numerous countries. The three finalists' designs will be presented in the general area of Kensington Gardens for viewing by local residents and area businesses for three days. The community can vote on the designs. Flyers have been distributed to alert the local area to the opportunity to view and vote on the designs. There are also 5 professional judges.

The three finalists' designs were presented to the Board for review. Once a design is chosen it is unclear how the design would be implemented as there is no current funding for it. Discussions would be held with the City at that juncture, and the Board will have to discuss this further.

While a condition of the competition was that we reserve the right to select and combine parts of the different designs, there may have to be a discussion about whether we should combine ideas from the various designs, and the pitfalls thereof.

6. Committee Reports

a) Membership

There are some additions to the membership list. Katrina, Gus, Richard, Wendy and Calvin will meet to see how to work on the integration of membership onto the website.

b) Community Liaison

The Pocket Neighbourhood Association has contacted Gus for information about how to organize and run a residents' association.

The Palmerston Residents Association has now developed a good membership.

c) Zoning

105 Lippincott/20 Croft St.: The owner is going to the Committee of Adjustments (COA) to seek to sever part of the property, and is seeking greater GFA and density. The HVRA will attend to assist and advise at a meeting, but just at a residents association.

72 Robert Street: This is a detached house, zoned for two apartments, but run as a rooming house. It is up for sale and some area residents were concerned that the property may be being presented as a rooming house. Neighbours are very concerned and want to know what to do. The neighbours have complained to the Councillor's office about this property in the past, and have done so again now that it is up for sale.

Upon review of the listing on MLS for this property it was found that there did not appear to be any misrepresentation about the zoning of the home.

52 Robert: It appears that approximately one month ago this property has become a rooming house, with five persons living there. The neighbours believe that the change to a rooming house was not legally done and have noted that it is unsupervised. The City has been notified and an inspection was done on April 26, 2011.

119 Harbord: This is now Loire restaurant. The owner of the building has a room at the back, currently unused. A COA application has been made by the owner of the building to include it in the restaurant square footage (to go from 150 to 180 sq. m.). The residents plan to attend the meeting and oppose the application. The owner of Loire is not seeking any additional space, so this is an issue only with respect to the property owner.

Moved by Gail Misra, seconded by Colin Furness, that the HVRA support the residents in their opposition, after Gus has discussed the issue with the BIA. Approved.

Lab and Future patios: When the new owner took over the Future property some years ago, there was an issue about patio hours. The owner had several meetings with Gus and the neighbours to try to work out a compromise. A deal

was brokered through the HVRA for hours for the Labyrinth Lounge patio, but the owner rejected it. So he got no patio at the time. He reapplied for patio licences this year. The residents submitted to the community council considering the matter petitions and letters in opposition to the patio licence for the Labyrinth and to an extension of the Future patio hours. The Council rejected the owner's applications. The owner has now banned Keith Sharpe, an activist neighbour, from the Future bistro.

d) Communications: The Newsletter is ready to go out this weekend and will be distributed to the community in the next week. Richard Gilbert and Jane Austen were thanked for their efforts on the newsletter. Richard would be interested in handing off the layout work to someone else in the future, so if there are any volunteers they may identify themselves to Richard.

e) Website: Wendy Smith reported that 3000 unique visitors went to the parkette competition part of the website. There are counters on every page of the website so that it is possible to ascertain traffic to any part of the HVRA website.

f) Heritage: Nothing to report.

g) History Project:

Richard Gilbert reported that the History Project Committee wants to elevate this project by having some financial heft, and while the committee is still working on what the project would entail, it would like the HVRA's support to make an application to the Trillium Foundation. There is no downside risk to the HVRA in supporting the application to Trillium. The committee is currently considering two parts to the project, one an oral history from local residents and the other a more research-oriented approach regarding the history of the neighbourhood.

There have been three meetings so far, but what could get done depends on whether there will be funding or not. Trillium would fund administrative support to a maximum of \$75,000/year for five years, although the committee will not be making a proposal of this magnitude.

Motion: That the Board approve in principle an application to the Trillium Foundation for a grant to support the work of the History Project, subject to approval of a specific proposal by an email canvass of Board members to be conducted by the Chair in early June, 2011.

Moved by Richard Gilbert, Seconded by Colin Furness. Approved.

7. Chair's Report:

Compost Day: An email will be sent out about whether the HVRA should support the compost day in association with the Councillor.

HV Parents Association on Facebook: A parent group is getting started on Facebook. They want the HVRA imprimatur, and it was agreed that the HVRA would lend its support to the endeavour.

Neighbourhood Clean Up: Although the weather was miserable, there was good participation, and pizza and coffee were provided by local businesses to the volunteers.

ARA Cycling Draft position: There is a group discussing a cycling position for our area, and it had been suggested that HVRA should have representatives at the meetings. The hope is to create a policy paper regarding cycling in the neighbourhood. Gus is recruiting two people to represent HVRA (Eleanor Levine is interested from the Board; Tim _____ is also interested). Other residents' associations and BIAs are involved in the discussion group.

Motion that HVRA send two representatives, Moved by Angie Andreoli, seconded by Carmen Gauthier, approved.

BIXI at College and Brunswick: A BIXI location was being planned to be in the middle of the proposed parkette, so a new spot has been found.

Friends of Margaret Fairley Park Committee have submitted their proposal to the City. It was very well done.

The Narayever Synagogue has no immediate plans for expansion, although there was some neighbourhood concern that it may be planning a large building for behind the synagogue. The congregation is however in the process of considering options for its land.

The Election Forum was very good and very well attended. There was a high level of debate.

Aura Lee Playing Field Survey: The HVRA has a date to transmit the survey findings to the University.

Kaplansky's: A discussion about the unsightliness of the garbage on Brunswick Avenue ensued. Some residents will be pursuing this issue with the City and the Councillor.

8. Other Items

Flower Pot Committee: Wendy reported that the Committee held a strategy meeting and then a meeting was held with Neil from the BIA. The BIA had agreed to provide \$700 for the flower pots this year, down from \$1,000. However, it would appear that the BIA is also considering asking the City for new flower pots for Harbord Street, which may be purchased in a joint initiative with the City. The Committee advised the BIA that for the \$700 it can only do a full June planting and a Fall sprucing up. Neil will seek more funding from the BIA for a Winter/Christmas planting.

Spring Meeting: The Laneway Project and the Parkette Design Competition will be the special topics at the Spring Meeting. All Committees can report if they wish to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.