

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday August 16, 2011 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens

In Attendance: Rory Sinclair, Laura Bradbury, Gail Misra (Minute Taker), Richard Gilbert, Sue Dexter, Eleanor Levine, Steve Klein, Wendy Smith, Bettina Van Lieres, Jane Perdue, Carmen Gauthier

Regrets: Angie Andreoli, Eva Janecek, Katrina McHugh, Colin Furness, Stuart Schoenfeld

1. Chair's Welcome to all

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Steve, Seconded by Laura, the Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Laura , Seconded by Richard , Approved.

4. Treasurer's report

Carmen reported that only \$900 was spent last month, and itemized those costs. The HVRA's cash position is currently over \$8,000. There are still some small amounts being held for the Margaret Fairley Park Committee and others. Carmen recommended that the HVRA should have an investment strategy for its funds rather than rolling GICs on a monthly basis, which yield very low interest.

A number of Board members expressed a concern about investing in any market based funds, but rather the view was that any investment strategy proposal should be based on safe investment vehicles. Carmen will bring an investment proposal to the Board at a future meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a) Membership:

No report

b) Community Liaison:

No Report

c) Zoning:

76 Lippincott and 414 College: Gus reported that these two addresses are part of the same business, and had been operating a patio and serving alcohol thereon without permits. They have been told by the City that they must get permits, but appear to still be serving illegally. The patio on College has been removed, and the business is apparently now applying for the necessary permits.

d) **Communications:**

The Newsletter: Richard reported that the Committee is looking at the week after Labour Day as the deadline to have all submissions in. Richard will send out an e-mail to remind everyone who had indicated that they would prepare submissions. The newsletter will go out in October in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

Steve requested ideas for a new business in the area to write about. A suggestion was an apparently thriving new business on College selling skate boards.

The newsletter may include an article on Heritage Conservation projects that have been done well in the neighbourhood and may seek nominations for future awards. Mention may be made of some noteworthy buildings that could lead to awards being given out at the AGM. The Board will also consider instituting an award annually for Heritage Conservation. If awards are to be granted, it was agreed that we should advise the local media so that the Heritage Conservation message gets wider publicity.

Interest was expressed in including an article in the newsletter to encourage homeowners to conform to Heritage standards, to provide some practical information about where the standards may be found, etc.

Gus and Sue will work on an article on Heritage Conservation, with assistance from Wendy.

e) **Website:**

Richard reported that while Wendy, as webmaster, does the content and general matters on the website, she is not responsible for the membership part of the site. As has been previously reported, the website has been revamped to remove the non-members, i.e. The Russians who had been hacking into the site. In solving the security problem, the membership area has become worse than ever to work with, and Katrina was finding it extremely cumbersome to update member information. Calvin has been asked to provide an estimate on reprogramming the membership part of the site with a view to making it more workable. It should not cost more than \$500 for the programming to achieve this goal.

One feature identified as a real need is a method of sending out automatic renewals for memberships. Steve raised that there are inexpensive programs available, and perhaps should be considered. He will work with Gus and Richard to share some information about membership programs.

Brunswick-College Parkette Design Competition submissions: Wendy reported that she had heard from Paul Macarico, who had volunteered to organize the Competition submissions into web pages that could be incorporated into a section of the HVRA website. Mr. Macarico sent an email apologizing for his delay in getting to this project but confirmed his commitment. Mr. Macarico mentioned getting credited for his work, as a promotion of his computer services business. Wendy replied that she was unsure of his expectations, but advised him that while there might be a note in the Parkette section identifying him as a volunteer who worked on that section, there is generally no promotion of an individual volunteer's business on the HVRA website. She has not yet heard back from Mr. Macarico. The Board confirmed that Wendy's understanding is correct

f) U of T Liaison:

Sue reported on the matter of future heights of buildings on the U of T campus. The University has created a master plan, and has indicated heights on the buildings on that plan. Sue had believed that the heights would be negotiable at the time that their respective construction would be imminent, and had provided no agreement when first shown the plan. However, when she raised the 245 College Street building height problem at a community meeting, the architect had quoted the heights as coming from the U of T. Sue subsequently asked the University about this and was advised that the U of T believes that the heights it has indicated on its master plan are the accepted heights for its proposed buildings.

Sue and Gus reported that heights were not negotiated in the tri-partite committee and the HVRA is not giving its blanket acceptance of the heights just because they are within the campus envelope. The Board was of the view that we should go on record to clarify that the HVRA did not sign on to these heights, and does not support them in the U of T's master plan.

Sue reported that the U of T has stated that there will be no more public private partnerships.

g) Heritage:

Richard Longley would like to nominate the newly renovated and completed Kensington Hospice to the Ontario Architectural Conservancy for an award.

Moved by Carmen, Seconded by Steve, that the HVRA supports the nomination of the Kensington Hospice to the Ontario Architectural Conservancy for an award. Approved.

h) History Project:

Richard reported that there is no news on the Trillium application, and that is apparently a good sign.

6. Chair's Report:

Laneway naming: The pertinent parts of the City's guidelines for naming streets were circulated to the Board members prior to the meeting. There were about 160 entries. Double names for laneways will be discouraged.

Moved by Steve, Seconded by Bettina, that the Guidelines for the Jury for the Laneway naming Project in Harbord Village be adopted. Approved.

Fiscal Year: Richard advised that when he was completing the Trillium application it became clear that the HVRA's fiscal year is not compatible with what is generally expected. He therefore recommended that we should change the HVRA's fiscal year to January 1 to December 31.

Moved by Richard, Seconded by Laura, that the Board support a motion to be made at the AGM to change the HVRA's fiscal year to January 1 to December 31. Approved, with one abstention.

7. Other business:

Fall Fair: Laura reported that she has received conditional approval for the licences and permits required for the Fall Fair. Gus reported that items needed have been ordered and rentals arranged. On the day, September 11, 2011, volunteers will be needed to staff the membership table for one hour at a time, and Board members were encouraged to participate.

8. Adjournment, at 8:13 p.m.