

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday August 20, 2013, 7pm
Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Steve Klein, Christian Mueller, Gus Sinclair, Mark Treleaven, Neil Stephenson, Wendy Smith, Carmen Gauthier, Gail Misra, Graham Rempe, and Eva Janecek.

Regrets: Angie Andreoli, Sue Dexter, Eleanor Levine, Jane Perdue, James Murdoch, Lindan Toole

1. Chair's Welcome extended to all including guests: Chris Bolton and Neil Wright

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gail, seconded by Graham – approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the July meeting

Moved by Graham and seconded by Gail - approved

4. Discussion items

a. Central Tech Field

Chris Bolton, our public school trustee and TDSB chair, presented an update about plans for artificial turf on the Central Tech playing field including an inflatable dome for 5 months in the winter. The facility will have the same dome and turf as Monarch Park (and be paid for by the same company) which has been in operation for about a year. He expressed his wish that his presentation be just the beginning of a conversation between the project team and the Board and the community. Razor Management, associated with Ryerson University, will not only manage the project but will also maintain the facility for 21 years. There will be a reserve fund so that there will be no burden on the schools or the community to maintain the facility. Actual work is planned for next spring. Questions from Board members included what kind of turf is planned, parking and community access to the track and field, heat island effect and use of geothermal technology. Mr. Bolton agreed to provide Tim with the turf specifications, assured the Board that there will be community access to the facility and said that paid parking is under consideration.

b. Harbord Street BIA's concerns about bike lanes

Neil Wright, head of the Harbord Street BIA, recapped BIA's historical position regarding the bike lanes on Harbord St. as cooperative and open to discussion about change.

He noted that current bike lanes appear to be working and that BIA has hired university students to assess the availability of car parking on Harbord and neighbouring residential streets. He expressed concerns from businesses on the north side, such as Harbord House and Caversham, whose deliveries would be seriously affected by taking more time and expose the delivery staff to dangers while crossing the street. Neil presented petitions opposed to the City's tentative plans with 259 signatures, which he said included many cyclists. He noted that he had spoken to bike couriers who expressed their need to travel fast and their concerns that bi-directional lanes may cause them delays and expose them to risks. Since Harbord St. is an Emergency Route, BIA requested that the City provide them with a plan if bi-directional bike lanes are put in place. So far they have not received a response.

Mr. Wright made available copies of a "Say No to Danger Lanes" pamphlet and a letter from Hamish Wilson to local Councillors, opposing the bi-directional lanes.

Tim summarized the benefits of bi-directional lanes that he gleaned from the City's public information meeting on June 27th, but agreed that the bi-directional bike lanes and not without challenges and hazards. Concerns regarding safety, especially at Borden St and Major St with respect to traffic turning north be re-iterated. Gail initiated discussion about what the other groups are doing that are affected by this project between Parliament and Ossington. The BIA is going look into this. Wendy reminded everyone that this project was not initiated from the community but it came from top down (that is, initiated by the City administration).

c. Free memberships for students

Tim distributed a draft of "free student membership cards", the final version of which would be distributed by area reps before September, so that they could deliver them to "student houses" early in September.

d. Harbord Village Branding

As part of a discussion about making our neighbourhood better known to the City around us, Christian suggested that the Board investigate what needs to be done to add "Harbord Village" to signs in the area. Gus summarized the growth of the association and its increased visibility since its beginning 13 years ago. Neil brought a copy of Toronto Life Magazine and pointed out the inaccuracy of the map in the Toronto neighbourhood rankings article. Neil will draft a letter to the editor and Christian and Gus will edit it. Gus will call the police regarding the latest map.

e. Draft t-shirts Design

"Thanks" were expressed to James for starting the process by sending 2 drafts by e-mail. Steve offered to take the drafts to his design team.

5. Treasurer's report

No report.

6. Committee Reports

a) Membership:

Gail reported that she will not be at the Fall Fair and that someone else will have to mind the membership table. Tim will look after it.

b) Community liaison:

No report.

c) Zoning:

No report.

d) Communications:

Mark will set "due dates" for the newsletter.

e) Website:

Wendy reported that the website now has the notice of the Fall Fair and hopes to receive a Dragon Boats article soon for posting.

f) U of T Liaison:

No report

g) History:

Christian reported that >90 interviews are done, including one by him. Eleanor later specified that 101 people have been interviewed and that 84 interviews have been done.

h) Clean-Ups:

Neil reported that next "Trash Flash" is planned for late September (Date TBD) and that, in respect of the main fall "Litter and Glitter" clean-up event, there is a second rain-day (additional to Nov 24th at Tranzac Club) on Sunday, Dec 1 at the Annex CSI at 720 Bathurst Street just south of Randolph Academy.

i) Graffiti:

No report

l) Flowerpots:

No report

m) Neighborhood disruption:

No report.

n) Heritage:

Letter acknowledging HVRA application was received.

o) Laneways

Gus agreed to write a Newsletter article on laneway naming celebrations using material from participants.

p) Fall Fair

Gus reported that all preparations for the Fall Fair are going well.

7. Chair's report:

Tim asked for volunteers to attend the following meetings:

- i) A Mirvish Village visioning meeting with PARA and possibly SVRA and ARA reps on a weekday or afternoon between Sept 9th & 20th
- ii) the First Annual RANACA (Resident Association Neighborhood Assoc Community Association) Meet & Greet to be held in Lobby Lounge of 59 East Liberty St. on Sept 28th at 1pm for drinks and discussion

Tim asked on behalf of some residents whether HVRA should ask the City to install some of its "Quiet: Residential Area" signs on streets adjacent to problem bars. It was decided that Tim will send an e-mail blast asking residents for feedback.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 pm