

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday December 13, 2011 7p.m.
Kensington Gardens**

In Attendance: Tim Grant, Stuart Schoenfeld, Sue Dexter, Neil Stephenson, Wendy Smith, Richard Gilbert, Rory Gus Sinclair, Christian Mueller, Eleanor Levine, Carmen Gauthier, James Murdoch

Regrets: Gail Misra, Angie Andreoli, Jane Perdue, Eva Janecek, Graham Rempe, Steve Klein

1. **Chair's welcome** to all. For those who were not in attendance at the last meeting, there was a quick introduction of two new members – Graham and James.
2. **Approval of Agenda**
Moved by Richard, Seconded by Carmen
3. **Approval of Minutes** of HVRA meeting of Nov. 15, 2011
Moved by Rory Gus, Seconded by Eleanor
4. **Treasurers report**

Carmen is working on adapting the books to calendar year reporting from fiscal year. Carmen presented a report on the state of finances and distributed copies of the financial report of revenue and expenses to board members.

Richard Gilbert felt the balance sheet should have a breakout of the funds raised from special events like the Pumpkin Festival. It would indicate how the HVRA interacts with other organizations but since this year was set up differently than in the past, his suggestion was noted.

5. **Committee reports**

a) **Membership:**

Gail via Tim reports the membership records are up to date, but she does not presently know how to ascertain the total paid up memberships. She also had questions about the system of member passwords on the website. Tim emailed Calvin seeking his assistance.

b) **Community liaison**

No report

c) **Zoning**

Sue discussed the public meeting held over 245 College and Temple sites in which the proposed plans were 'dramatically' opposed. Her

report had been distributed and circulated by email. Tim added that the plan for laneways and the possibility of the location of a big box store in the area were brought up at the meeting and that was part of the opposition to the plan.

d) Communications

No report

e) Website

Wendy reports that the winning plan for College-Brunswick parkette design is on the website. She notes the extraordinary input from nine countries and that the competition garnered a lot of attention locally and internationally. The Laneway Naming project is getting a lot of attention with the 'rollover' map being very popular. Gus and Tim mentioned that the project is getting rave reviews. Wendy asked anyone to submit articles of interest to the community so that she may post them to the website.

Rory Gus and Tim talked about money that may be allocated for Parkette development. They expect to hear about the plan soon.

f) U of T Liaison

Sue reports there'll be a meeting Thursday Dec 15 with U of T staff regarding pending Emerald Ash Bore problem. Faculty and students are trying to design a program to rationally respond to the problem which could be adopted by the community. Sue hoped U of T grounds support staff will be involved too. Tim says 6-8 percent of the area community trees are ash. Tim says that by encouraging group involvement rather than individuals to treat trees would be less expensive for homeowners.

g) Heritage

Gus reports that 22 and 24 Brunswick which had been gutted by fire has had scaffolding outside raising concerns that the exterior was being altered without heritage preservation consultation. After further investigation it was found that the work to be done will be all interior. Exteriors are the interest of heritage preservation. Lack of permits for work that changes the footprint of a structure is a whole other issue in which the building department has to be notified. The larger issue is the fact that the Heritage Preservation Society is rewriting the rules as to how they deem heritage. Concern is that it will slow down conservation districts and projects that are currently on the books. Gus mentioned that Major Street is ready to go but any work may have to wait for HPS' new rules. Sue adds that given the complexity of new arrangements we should ask council to authorize preservation services to study the area. If it's done on a street by street basis it will take long

time. Tim suggested discussing this in depth at the next meeting. HV is 11th on the list for study.

Wendy added that heritage designation has made it difficult to receive home insurance as companies don't want to insure as they are not aware of the expense of replacement or refurbishing costs. Richard suggested inviting Insurance Bureau of Canada to speak to the board. Gus mentioned that upgrades to electrical systems costs a lot of money and insurance companies will be demanding that over the next several years and this new heritage designation only adds to the issue. Tim asked if the board should make a motion to send to council regarding extending the boundaries of the study.

Therefore a motion was made:

So moved that the Board of the Harbord Village Residents Association request Councilor Adam Vaughan to begin the process in making the rest of Harbord Village a heritage district study area.

Gus moved, Seconded by Richard

Passed unanimously

Carmen suggested Richard Longley be asked to be involved in addressing the insurance coverage issue. Stuart suggested having Heritage Preservation and Insurance representatives attend future meetings of the HVRA board. Richard suggested inviting each group separately in January and February. Sue explained for those who may not be aware that facades are protected from demolition in the preservation district.

Richard Gilbert moved that Richard Longley be asked to approach representatives with the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario to discuss insurance industry concerns with the board in January.

Then follow up with insurance reps in February.

Wendy moved, Seconded by Sue

Passed unanimously

h) History

Richard reported on a meeting hosted by Eleanor to begin the process of recording oral histories of people in HV. Eleanor wants to have two interviews done by next meeting on January 9. Eleanor asked if photos should be taken of the subjects and many people felt that photos are a good idea. A waiver is being prepared for all participants. Richard mentioned that they will be re-submitting an application to Trillium Foundation for money to help fund the project. This will be a second application as the first was turned down.

i) Clean-up

Neil reported on the success of the cleanup. 150 students from Central Tech took part along with 25 people from the neighbourhood. Eleven

local businesses sponsored the event donating food and resources. Sponsors and prizes are ready to go for the next cleanup in April.

6. Decision items

a) Heritage tours

Tim asks if anyone is interested in participating in the doors open event by opening their homes to people interested in heritage. Bob Barnett and Richard Longley are interested in conducting outdoor tours of the neighbourhood architecture.

b) Laneway safety

Stuart is concerned about blind lane entrance ways pinpointing Sussex Mews and its entrance to Bloor as a specific problem and an accident waiting to happen. Stuart photographed the area in question as backup documentation. Gus added that there are many others in the neighbourhood. A solution may be convex mirrors or one way designation on serious problem laneways. Gus asked to have dangerous lane suggestions sent to him so that he can compile a list or inventory that will be sent to Councilor's Vaughan's office for action. Tim thought it's better to identify five or six problem laneways so that the city can deal with them easier and not be overwhelmed with a large number.

c) City land usage

Tim explains Caplansky's Deli has been asked to deal with refuse, recycling and broken furniture outside the deli at the corner of Brunswick and College. A fence to enclose the garbage is considered an eyesore and is not helping the situation. Despite being asked by the HVRA, the city says it cannot do much to remedy the problem. The issue has been around for two years and nothing has happened. Richard points out that the land the enclosure sits on is owned by the city and he thought that maybe the board could address the issue more broadly by referring to all commercial operations using city land for their own purposes such as patios. A discussion ensued over public space usage and its misuse. Tim asked Richard and Sue, Stuart and Rory Gus be involved in coming up with a plan.

7. Chair's report

- a)** Tim, Gus and Sue will go to the meeting of Resident's Associations January 9th

Adjournment at 9:10pm