

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, Dec 17, 2013, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Gus Sinclair, Gail Misra, Graham Rempe, Sue Dexter, Neil Stephenson, Christian Mueller, Carmen Gauthier, Wendy Smith, James Murdoch, Marilyn Martin, Frankie Porretta, Jane Perdue, Carolee Orme, Margaret Procter, Eva Janecek

Regrets: Mark Treleaven, Steve Klein

1. **Chair's welcome** extended to all, especially Frankie Porretta, a new Board member.

2. **Approval of agenda**

Moved by Graham, seconded by Gus – approved

3. **Approval of the Minutes** from Nov 20, 2013

Moved by Gail and seconded by James – approved

4. **Discussion items**

a. Presentation of Community Cookbook Project by Alexandra (Sasha) Grigorieva. Sasha, a food writer and historian is collecting favourite family recipes and stories with the intent to publish a Harbord Village Community cookbook. She distributed a survey of nine questions and asked the Board to participate and "spread the word". The website, <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/harbord-village-community-cookbook> describes the project and ways to contribute.

b. Items of concern arising from the area caucuses at the AGM which the Board wants to address. It was noted that many of the concerns voiced by the residents are already on the Board's agenda. The Board members selected the following additional items to be addressed in the future:

- i. surveillance cameras
- ii. graffiti
- iii. how to deal with "wrong way" traffic
- iv. noise and property damage associated with night clubs.

In order to proceed with a discussion of surveillance cameras, a call to 311 is required to gather information on how a community can acquire and use them.

Graffiti is already being addressed by individuals in the community. Some are spending significant amounts of personal money (\$300-5000) on paint-outs. A question was raised whether "graffiti" should become a project and how to get funding.

It was agreed that only previously approved expenses can be reimbursed.

So far, the HVRA's role is to bring people together, support those involved and help coordinate the efforts.

5. Reports

- a. **Treasurer** – Carmen reported that 2013 has been a great year financially. She will present a full report and present a budget for the next year at the January meeting. Tim expressed “thanks” to Carmen for her excellent work.
- b. **Membership** –Gail reported that there are 118 paid members. Renewal notices will be sent out in January.
- c. **Community liaison** – Gus – no report
- d. **Zoning** – Tim reported that a case regarding the owner of a house on Willcocks who wants to build an outside staircase is going to the OMB.
- e. **Communications** –Tim brought up a question of doing a survey asking residents what are the 10 issues they would like to have addressed. He noted that even though the Board gets some issues at the AGM, the majority of residents don't come to the AGM. Christian pointed out that it is important for HVRA to demonstrate that not only are the questions asked but these concerns are acted upon. A summary of actions which resulted from residents' concerns in a previous survey will become a preamble to any future surveys.
- f. **Website** – Wendy provided the following website visitor statistics for the HVRA website to date in 2013 (Jan 1 - Dec 15):
 - 19,349 page views
 - 9,141 total visits
 - 6,499 unique visitors (individual visitors)Web pages most popular on the HVRA website were: the homepage (6,713 page views / 5,103 unique page views), the laneway naming project (1,282 / 1,098), the pumpkin festival (1,001 / 840), neighbourhood clean-ups (862 / 617), heritage conservation/heritage directory (449 / 382), contact us (451 / 369), HV history (435 / 326), and HV in the news (373 / 338).

The new Oral History website <http://harbordvillagehistory.ca> project drew 438 unique visitors to the homepage (and 1,513 unique page views through the entire website) in the month since its launch in mid-November.

Wendy also discussed her new role on the Board as "Webmaster", ratified at the autumn General Meeting. (Wendy has been the HVRA's volunteer webmaster for several years, but previously was on the Board representing South-Central.) As part of her new Board role Wendy has been trying to resolve some of the websites' hosting and registration issues. When the HVRA and ORAL HISTORY websites were originally launched, the domains and hosting were registered with Richard Gilbert as "owner". Richard left the board a year ago and has asked to be relieved of responsibility for the sites. Wendy recommended that ownership be transferred to our Chair, Tim Grant. Wendy also reported she had changed server passwords and provided copies of the password to Tim, past-chair Gus Sinclair and Treasurer Carmen Gauthier.

Having done some research into hosting alternatives, Wendy advised that it was probably best to stay with the present server, ASmallOrange, but to switch to a package that offers 15 GB of storage per year.

It was moved by Wendy that HVRA should stay with the present server "asmallorange.com" at a cost of \$240/14 months. Seconded by Gail. Carried.

- g. **U of T liaison** – Tim reported that the residents' associations did well in the 245 College presentations at the OMB but it is too soon to tell what the results will be.

Councillor Vaughan chaired a meeting of about 60 residents who were asked to present their "wants" and "don't wants" regarding the Spadina-Sussex proposed UofT development. Tim reported that it was a good meeting.

Representatives of area residents' associations will be meeting with the new UofT president Mr. Meric Gertler in the near future.

- h. **Heritage** – Sue – no report

- i. **History** – Christian and Wendy reported that the Oral History Project was successfully launched in mid-November with the new website followed by the November 24th opening of the exhibition at the JCC. The website will feature 24 "Story Posts" (sound bites from the interviews) -- 19 are already online -- and the project committee is working on the creation of plaques with QR codes so that people with smartphones can read the QR codes and allow users to listen to the StoryPosts. The committee is looking into where in the neighbourhood the plaques can be located as permission must be obtained from the City, Toronto Hydro and/or property owners.

- j. **Clean ups** - Neil reported that the November 23rd event went very well as per his previously circulated report. Sixty two participants responded to the Survey Monkey questionnaire. The majority of the positive responses related to community building and the negative ones to long line-ups for food. The planners of the event will take all the comments into consideration.

Following Neil's report there was a discussion about soliciting donations for different causes. It was agreed that some coordination would be beneficial for all involved.

- k. **Neighbourhood disruption** – Tim - no report

- l. **Laneways** – Gus reported that 2 more unveilings will take place in 2014.

- m. **Flowerpots** – Marilyn reported that she planted a few daffodils in a flowerpot as an experiment to see if they'll survive the winter.

6. Chair's report – Tim- no report

7. Other

- a. **Report on Central Tech field** –Sue and Neil attended a follow-up meeting on the field testing results. Sue reported that the 0-15 cm drill-hole samples inside the field showed no contamination. The periphery on the east and west sides showed heavy metals and higher than allowable standards of PCH. Two other sites adjacent to the school also showed contamination. However, it was noted that the land is stable and that there is no risk of this contamination spreading. The follow up solutions are either adding 15cm of top soil or paving the area over.

The follow-up public meeting to discuss the dome project is scheduled for January 9th and the Committee of Adjustment meeting to change use from “education” to “other” designation is scheduled for January 22nd.

Chris Bolton will be approached to expand the circulation of notices for public meetings beyond 150m perimeter.

Tim mentioned that he got many emails regarding the dome and that 3:1 are against it.

Tim encouraged as many people as possible to attend the Jan 9th meeting. In preparation for the meeting, Tim suggested visiting the following web site

<http://www.monarchparkstadium.com/>

- b. **Process of getting some traffic calming on Major St.** – Margaret reported on speeding and people driving the wrong way on Major St. between College and Ulster. It is a very busy street which changes from a 2-way to one way street. This street is home to many families with small children. Residents started a campaign to get ideas to slow down the traffic and prevent wrong way driving. Councillor Vaughan's office was contacted about speed bumps but it was suggested this solution would take too long and be very costly. Other ideas were: painted arrows on the road, staggered parking and making signs more visible. Signage in the area is really bad and some signs are defaced.

- c. **Neil's email**

Neil sent an email prior to the meeting expressing his concerns about the process at the November meeting that lead to a vote in support of the "NO Jets" campaign opposing the expansion of the Island airport.

Neil, who strongly supports the airport expansion, was absent during the board discussion of this matter because he was attending another Harbord Village-related meeting. He requested that the board re-open the discussion of the HVRA position on the airport issue. After an open discussion of the November meeting's process and acknowledgement of his feelings, Neil decided against making a motion to request re-opening the vote. He offered to share with board members information he has regarding the island airport issue.

Adjournment at 9:30pm