

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday December 18, 2012 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens
Draft Minutes

In Attendance: Tim Grant (chair), Angie Andreoli, Sue Dexter, Gail Misra, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch, Wendy Smith, Neil Stephenson, Graham Rempe, Steve Klein, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Mark Treleaven, Lindan Toole and Carmen Gauthier

Regrets Eleanor Levine, Eva Janecek

- 1. Chair's Welcome** extended to all with a welcome to new Board member Lindan Toole.
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**
Moved by Sue Seconded by Gail - approved
- 3. Approval of the Minutes** of November 2012 Meeting
Moved by Sue Seconded by Gail – approved
- 4. Discussion Items**

a. Treasurer's report

Carmen presented the first budget based on a fiscal calendar year. She provided three Excel spreadsheets representing the financial statements; projected expenditures, revenues and ongoing investments for Board activities.

Carmen expressed a need to keep expenditures in line with the budget. A discussion regarding various specific expenditures ensued including carrying deficits and the approval process of expenditures. Sue and Gail felt that the budget should be presented to the Board before it is presented to members at the AGM. It was felt that further discussion is needed to develop a presentation plan with a spring AGM and to ensure the passing of the budget. Carmen was congratulated for her work.

b. Alexandra Park Scholarship

Tim presented a motion.

"Proposed the HVRA contribute \$250 annually and ask its members to contribute towards a \$1000 - \$2000 university scholarship for a high school graduate from Alexandra Park." (Scadding Court Community Centre would handle all the details, including the provision of tax receipts for donors.)

Tim explained that there are other programs that will match donations and this is a way to reach out to other areas of the city. Gail suggested that revenues from activities such as the Yard Sale could go toward this venture and everyone

agreed that this idea is worth pursuing. Tim will rework the proposal and bring it back for consideration.

c. HVRA Suveys

Tim would like to take advantage of the boards' account with the online polling company Survey Monkey. He asked board members for topics. During the discussion, it was felt that issues brought to light by members at the AGM could form the basis of surveys and that tracking participants can be done respecting privacy.

d. Bike Parking and unobstructed sidewalks

Tim presented a report from Richard Gilbert and Gord Brown that deals with bicycle parking. The report puts forth the idea of establishing large amounts of bike parking via bike corrals in the 50' portion of streets adjoining Harbord, Bloor and College. The plan would see the elimination of the familiar bike rings on sidewalks.

The report was accepted.

5. Committee Reports

a) Membership:

Gail reports renewals and revenues are up and that a banner is being completed to be used at events for a membership recruitment table.

b) Community Liaison: No report

c) Zoning

Tim reports that an application at Committee of Adjustment for renovations at 203 Major Street has been withdrawn.

d) Communications: no report

e) Website:

Wendy was complimented for her recent work on the website.

f) U of T Liaison:

Sue reports there will be a meeting January regarding the Emerald Ash borer.

f) Heritage: no report

g) History:

Christian reports that the history committee will need to hire a webmaster to design an online exhibit of the oral history project, as budgeted in the Trillium grant. The committee is considering hiring HVRA's volunteer webmaster (& board member) Wendy Smith for this job and wanted to know whether the board saw any legal or ethical problem with this. A discussion continued on this question and it was noted that there was a precedent, as David Booz,

while a board member, had been paid \$10,000 by the HVRA to manage the HERO project. The board agreed that hiring a board member was not a problem per se. The history committee will do its due diligence and develop a credible hiring process. Wendy did not participate in any discussions on this matter.

Wendy reported that she and Tim had invited representatives of the Toronto Historical Association -- an umbrella group of neighbourhood and city history groups -- to address the Board at the beginning of the January meeting regarding the work they do and how they may be of assistance to the HVRA's history and heritage projects. Wendy noted that the history committee members have been invited to attend the THA's presentation to the board.

h) Cleanup:

Neil reports that all donated materials have been returned, and all sponsors thanked with photos and media links sent to each. Fall event generated 6 media items- up from 2 last spring. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and constructive. Red carpet concept worked well and NAGs Players and Ryerson are keen to do it again. Neil notes that for the next event, he will need sub-committee to assist with workload. He also noted that the processes for registration, prize collection and prizewinner documentation need to be improved. The HVRA should decide next year if they will expand the clean-up to other neighbourhoods on an ongoing basis. Other option is to have HV-only event in spring- and perhaps a bigger event in fall. Neil noted that he anticipates higher revenues for 2013 which will allow for 2 excellent events, plus leave a surplus of several hundred dollars for general HVRA purposes. Gail commented that membership desk at event was not worthwhile.

i) Neighbourhood disruption:

At a recent meeting with the Fire Department, Tim was informed that they no longer use their enforcement authority to ensure proper conditions are met in premises such as illegal rooming houses. He reports the MLS is working on an enforcement protocol policy. Jane says it's a matter of access. She reports they are no further ahead in dealing with bars and unruly patrons. Efforts by the local MPP to introduce a Private Members bill dealing with tougher enforcement may be misconstrued as anti-business and may not get approval.

j) Laneways : no report

k) Flowerpots:

Wendy reports that the Flower Pot Committee has recently received a \$500 payment from Harbord Street BIA towards the 2012 winter/holiday decorations of the flower pots. A budget of \$750 has also been approved by the BIA for the 2013 season. Wendy noted that this contribution would likely cover the spring/summer/autumn plantings but that the BIA would probably have to be asked for a further contribution to cover the 2013 November/December decorations. Carmen suggested asking local residents for garden greenery trimmings (eg cedar branches trimmed from hedges) to help in the winter pot decorations in order to keep costs down. Wendy confirmed that indeed the flowerpot committee members routinely taking plantings and trimmings from their own and neighbours' gardens -- and suggested that the board communicate to residents the committee's interest in using cedar branches and other such yard trimmings when available.

Discussion Items continued from above

e) Graffiti Wipeout proposal

Sue submitted a report on an initiative by her and her neighbours to eradicate graffiti and prosecute offenders.

The Board welcomed, from Toronto Police Services 14 Division, Sean Bowers and Dan Shipke; neighbours Sylvia Porretta and her son Frank and Robin Pensler and Stephen Simpson.

Sue explained that Sussex Mews lane south of Harbord has been completely cleaned of graffiti and that the plan they have laid out could work community wide. It requires neighbour cooperation and organization, painting, monitoring and incident reporting to the police. Their recent efforts have resulted in the arrest of a well known area tagger. He has been charged with 17 counts of mischief and although he has been released to a bond surety, he has been given a number of bail conditions while he awaits trial.

The graffiti paint out proposal may require financial support for initial rollout and for materials and labour. Sean Bowers explained that for the most part, paint will be free if it's available. Other hurdles include neighbourhood involvement, apathy and an overwhelming sense that graffiti will never be eradicated. Given the recent success, plans are underway to hold a summit in the spring to provide the impetus for rolling out the plan in the community. Sean reiterated that reporting new tags and offensive graffiti to the police at 416 808 2222 is necessary to build files and cases for perps. Tags should also be reported to the city by calling 311. A thick file of photographs depicting offensive graffiti was circulated. A discussion ensued regarding the problems of graffiti and excitement that something can actually be done about it.

On behalf of the Board, Tim expressed his appreciation for the work done already and concluded that this is a great start.

Adjournment at 9:10 p.m.