

**Harbord Village Residents' Association**  
**Minutes of HVRA Board Meeting**  
**February 21, 2006**  
**Kensington Gardens**

Board Present: Gus Sinclair, Sandra DeAthe, Gord Brown, Susan Pfeiffer, Jane Auster, Richard Longley, Sue Dexter, Margaret Beare, Mari Perin, Michel Heydon, Richard Gilbert, David Booz

Regrets: Stuart Schoenfeld, Tim Grant

Guests: Máirín Wilkinson, Helen Kennedy, Lin Wong, Martin Silva (8:00 p.m.)

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The meeting commenced at 7:06 p.m. The guests were introduced, Helen Kennedy and Lin Wong from Martin Silva's office, and Máirín Wilkinson, a resident.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** Richard Longley moved the approval of the agenda, seconded by Margaret Beare. Carried, with the addition of the OMB by Sue Dexter (not discussed).

3. **Approval of Minutes:** Susan Pfeiffer moved the approval of the January 17, 2006 minutes, seconded by Jane Auster. Carried.

4. Business Arising and Committee Reports were handled next as Martin Silva was not due until 8:00 p.m.

a. Treasurer's Report Gord Brown

The quarterly report (from the AGM to January 17, 2006) was presented (statement attached), and all was in order. Gord reiterated that the \$1000 verbal pledge by Neil Wright of the Harbord Street BIA continues to be excluded from the financial statements. If a fire-related program is developed, HSBIA will be contacted to re-confirm the pledge. Treatment of the donation and related expenses will be decided at that time. Richard Longley moved the report be accepted, seconded by Michael Heydon. Carried.

b. Membership Maria Perin

Nothing to report.

c. Community Liaison Sue Dexter

U of T is pressing the City and HVRA to support a traffic light at Russell and Spadina Circle on the east side. The University is upgrading the building and there will be more pedestrian activity. The City fears possible TTC delays. U of T always wanted a crosswalk, which the Councillor's Office has never supported because there was no data to support the need.

d. College Street Gord Brown

Gord continues to liaise with City staff about the pilot project for the sidewalk clearway; action was promised in January, but nothing has happened so far. The next Council meeting where this would be discussed is in May, so we have lost another year to see this pilot implemented. Gord will be meeting with the Director of Planning for the City. The normal procedures do not seem to be working for this issue; the suggestion was made that we might want to take it to the press.

e. Graffiti Michael Heydon

Harbord Street is the main target for June clean-up weekend; 14 Division will be involved.

Graffiti continues, even in cleaned up areas. The Croft Street mural has been defaced.

f. 578 Spadina Sue Dexter

Sue found this a very good negotiations process, one that kept the parties talking to each other.

Taking the solutions/suggestions "back to the community" kept the personal aspect out of the situation

and kept parties at the table. This is a good model for discussing intensification issues, one that moulds to the needs of the community, and provides a community driven resolution, not a planning solution. In this case the owner and the community are happy. Instead of 19 rental units, there will be 5 condos.

The same thing is being tried on Croft Street, by the developer is not accommodating. Helen is arranging a meeting in early March.

**Action: Helen Kennedy will send Committee of Adjustment results to Gus on a regular basis.**

g. The Longley Reports      Richard Longley  
Dogs in Margaret Farley Park.      New regulations are coming out in the next month that will standardize dogs in parks across the city. Sandy from Helen's office is handling this, and it was suggested that she attend and HVRA meeting.

College Brunswick Parkette      Two dead trees will be replaced, and there may be planting under the trees; every 2nd bench will be removed. Chess tables have been requested, and Bill O'Neil of Kensington Gardens will plant in the adjacent beds.

Lighting      Hydro does all the lighting, it is no longer the City since January 2006.

Augusta Parkette (SE Augusta and College)      The group from the area called Red Pepper Spectacle and the City Planning Urban Design department have developed mosaic benching, and a landscaped garden, incorporating a trellis. They are looking for funding, and will have to check first with the public to see if the design is liked.

5. Cloak and Dagger      Michael Heydon

This club is located on the north side of College between Borden and Croft. They have applied for a back patio, to seat 50, where there are back yards within a few feet of the proposed patio. The Alcohol & Gaming Commission is ready to approve the patio; Helen will get us the details. There is a public meeting about the patio next Tuesday, February 28th; the area has been papered with the application and meeting details, and a petition form that can be signed to object to the patio.

## **6. Other Business**

Miscellaneous information:

- a. The Brunswick House has changed hands, and the new owners have applied for a patio and a renovation to make the building larger. The past noise violation convictions are for \$5000, and the new owners have been charged with more violations.
- b. Environment Day is April 1st at Central Tech.
- c. Wen-do is in the works for March.

Martin Silva

We had an opportunity to discuss with Silva our most pressing concerns; these are abbreviated here:

- The most pressing matter at the moment is the back patio application by the Cloak and Dagger. Silva will arrange a support letter for us.
- Our frustration with MLS; this is a big problem, particularly with noise enforcement.
- College clearway pilot project between Spadina and Bathurst. We have approval for this pilot; if the pilot is not possible, we would like at least the current rules enforced.

Silva has 10 months in this position, which he called a caretaker position, and he can't present a long list to Council. He will continue with issues that are already started, and finish them where possible. He has set himself two goals:

- To see a policy implemented for cross-city parking using tickets purchased at any meter. This would benefit those whose cars are a working tool.
- To start negotiating with the federal administration about changing cell phone charges so callers and receivers share charges. Presently receivers pay charges.

Silva feels that he will continue Olivia's approach and voting tendencies, and that his views would be parallel Olivia's most of the time.

Tax increases are of concern to HV residents; Silva said the City is still faced with the consequences of amalgamation and the downloading of provincial programs, as well as the tax freeze that devastated the City. The Board supported the idea that if it is a choice between cutting services or increasing taxes, increase the taxes.

Things we pay for aren't working, we want a city that works well. A particular problem for the Board is the behaviour of City staff. The attitude of staff has undergone a change, and has grown worse and worse over the last three years; they are contemptuous of councillors and even more so of citizens. Silva has noticed this himself, and when asked if he could make this a mission, said he would reflect and address the request. He pointed out that City staff have endured major cuts and upheaval, and a changed political systems.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. Next meeting March 21, 2006, same time, same place.