

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2013, 7pm
Kensington Gardens

In attendance: Tim Grant, Eleanor Levine, Sue Dexter, Wendy Smith, Gus Sinclair, Gail Misra, Carmen Gauthier, Neil Stephenson, Graham Rempe, Stephen Klein, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue and Mark Treleaven

Regrets: Eva Janecek, Angie Andreoli, Lindan Tool

1. Chair's Welcome extended to all

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gail Seconded by Gus – approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the January 2013 Meeting

The Minutes will be approved at a later date pending a revision pertaining to wording of the motion to strike a finance committee. Steve suggests the motion reads as follows.

Section 5a: "To strike a finance committee of the Board to review and formally endorse a fiscal 2013 budget which would be tabled by the Treasurer at the Board's March meeting. This committee would concurrently consider and bring forth recommendations addressing Board policy/practice matters, such as one-time project funding; expenditure approval mechanism(s); deficit tolerance (if any), and any other pertinent matters which may arise during the committee's deliberations pertinent to this finance matter.

4. Treasurers report Carmen reports that all debts from the Cleanup have been paid. Minor administration costs were dealt with.

5. Discussion items

a. Survey Monkey subscription renewal. Tim feels the HVRA has under-utilized the survey tool to warrant the annual \$225 expenditure. Mark reports that the Board is about to use the survey tool for the first time this year. Richard Gilbert will be refunded the expenditure for this year by Survey Monkey. There was general agreement that the Board not renew its subscription but continue to use it when warranted and pay per use.

Mark moved Seconded by Gail – passed.

b. That HVRA oppose U of T plans to replace the natural turf on the back campus field with synthetic turf. Tim thought it was worthwhile flagging this issue as there are pros and cons to the synthetic turf discussion. Information regarding this turf is being circulated by a professor at the university accompanied by a petition opposed to the replacement. Gus felt it is important to discuss this further as it is a complex issue. He will get more information about the turf and provide it to Board members

via email. It was decided that a vote will be done by email once all information has been distributed.

c. Subscription/membership renewals. Carmen asked if it was worthwhile to continue renewing memberships to various organizations that the Board may or may not have any interest in or retain benefit from; for example; the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Tim provided background reasoning for membership. Sue added that issues do come up that may have an impact in our neighbourhood and Gus feels it's important to have membership in organizations we have an interest in. Although Richard Longley attends ACO meetings on behalf of the Board and reports back, Wendy also expressed an interest in attending as well.

6. Committee Reports

a) Yard sale:

James, Christian, Steve and Marilyn Martin met recently to formulate plans for this year's sale to be held May 4 with a rain date of May 11. James outlined equipment cost and rental charges to residents, the location of the community tables and logistics. Once costs are taken care of, the remainder proceeds will go toward two charities. The committee asked the Board for help in providing volunteers. Area reps were asked to help find community members who could help with pickup and delivery of equipment as well as table sales and cleanup. Central Tech will be approached for help and Neil suggested frat members who helped with the Fall Cleanup. Tim says he has contacts within frat houses and students in the area. It's felt that both the Cleanup and Yard Sale should have 'equal billing' on the website to help with publicity. A discussion ensued on costs to the Board but any vote was deferred pending a finance committee discussion.

b) Community liaison:

1. Gus reported on an OMB hearing regarding the property at 38 Brunswick. The issue, which has taken over 6 years to come to this point, is whether the extensive renovation carried out at that location is legal. Arguments were presented. In commenting about the hearing, Gus reiterated that precedent is everything when it comes to planning and that backyards are just as important as the street fronts when it comes to neighbourhoods. A decision is expected from the OMB anywhere from 3 months to a year from now.

2. Jane attended an interesting meeting held recently on the subject of civic and neighbourhood sustainability. Guest speakers provided insight on planning issues. There was a discussion over the desired qualities of resident associations such as due diligence, transparency, openness and accessibility, that there be disagreement amongst the board and its residents and be proactive rather than reactive. Engaging renters was raised as an issue that eludes many associations along with coping with changing demographics and embracing diversity.

A discussion ensued about how this Board could engage renters and new and younger families. A suggestion was made to have child friendly AGM's with child care and perhaps a baby picture page in the newsletter and on the website.

c) Zoning:

Sue reported on a meeting with architects regarding proposed changes to a property at 562 – 566 Spadina Avenue. It's proposed the row house be renovated to provide for 36 bedrooms. Sue called the plan outrageous and explained that the changes as presented will never pass heritage and zoning rules and that there are light and privacy issues as well. The owner of the property was not in attendance and it's expected another proposal will be drawn up.

d) Communications:

Mark reports that the Board is about to embark on its first survey of area residents. Christian helped to formulate the questions. It is a follow up to the fall AGM when residents' concerns were brought up at that time. Residents will be asked to prioritize their concerns in the survey.

Mark has asked for material for the spring newsletter. Deadline for submissions is mid March to the 20th. Subjects to include are the graffiti summit, the history project and the survey results and perhaps baby pictures! He has also been busy dealing with technical questions about the History project website. (below)

g) History:

Christian reports that the History project would like to establish a sub-domain of the HVRA website. It will have a different look and feel with images with all files stored in a separate directory for a nominal cost. Wendy and Mark are looking at further options. Gus said it makes sense that the two are housed together. The Board felt they needed the committee to come back with an explanation of the hard costs that will be involved in setting up the sub-domain and archives.

e) Website:

Wendy felt that the various issues have been discussed within other committee reports.

f) U of T liaison: – no report

h) Cleanup:

Neil reports that the Bloor Annex BIA is now onboard as an additional cash sponsor. He says that brings the total to \$2400 this year which will go toward the two excellent Cleanup events. There was a discussion over the use of residuals.

i) Graffiti:

Sue reminded Board members of the upcoming summit on February 27 at Splendido restaurant.

J) Disruption: – no report

k) Laneways:

Gus is finding out when the nameplates are going to be installed.

l) Additional reports:

Emerald Ash borer issue – Sue says three Ash trees have been identified on Major Street and the homeowners are being contacted regarding measures to be taken to ensure their safety against the pest.

Eleanor mentioned that this year marks the 100th anniversary of Central Tech. She said they are looking for people to take part in the celebration. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class.

6. Chair's report

Tim reports that due to our four, very successful Doors Open tours and Jane's walks in 2012; we have been asked to offer them again on the May 4-5 and 25-26 weekends respectively. Tim asked for recommendations of people to act as tour guides.

Meeting adjourned 9:05pm