

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Sue Dexter, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Steve Klein. Neil Stephenson, Wendy Smith, Gail Misra, Carmen Gauthier, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch, Marilyn Martin, Mark Treleaven, Carolee Orme, Margaret Procter, Eva Janecek

Regrets: Frankie Porretta

1. **Chair's welcome** extended to all including Leslie Thompson, a former HVRA Board member and expressed regrets about Graham Rempe's resignation from the Board.

2. **Approval of agenda**

Moved by Steve seconded by Gail. Approved.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** from January 14, 2014 meeting.

Moved by Gus, seconded by Gail; Approved.

4. **Directors liability** – Leslie Thompson. Leslie summarized her email sent to the Board a few days prior to the meeting. She defined Directors' Liability Insurance and mentioned reasons for such insurance. She identified questions that the Board has to ask, namely: *Does HVRA have situations that could potentially put its Directors at risk, What kind of harm to volunteers, government bodies, suppliers or the general public might arise from those situations?* and *Does HVRA currently have the capacity to mitigate the likelihood and or impact of those risky situations?*

Leslie also provided a quote she obtained as part of her research several years ago.

Since HVRA is already incorporated, the estimated amount would be under \$500.

It was agreed that it is desirable to have Directors' Liability Insurance for HVRA Directors.

Carmen and Steve agreed to get quotes from 2 different brokers.

5. **Reports**

a) Treasurer – Carmen

Carmen distributed HVRA 2014 Budget plan prior to the meeting. She noted that Oral History numbers are still under review. The project will continue but there are no plans for generation of further funds nor for asking HVRA for more money.

Suggestion was made to change "Member's Module" to Website Improvements", to increase Contingency Fund to \$1000 from \$500 and to foot note Flower Pots expenditures as dependent on externally generated money.

Steve moved to adopt the Budget with amendments. Seconded by Margaret. Carried unanimously with Carmen abstaining

Tim thanked Carmen for excellent work.

b) Membership - Gail reported that 133 out of possible 600 members are paid up. She also noted that the online website renewal module is still not working properly. Calvin is working on it.

c. Community Liaison

No report

d. Zoning

Sue reported that issues of 484 Spadina (22 storeys, 220 units, some as small as 380 sq ft ; condo rather than residence) are scheduled to go to OMB on March 25th; requesting that status be "participants" rather than "party" ;

A planning study of College Street is underway. Richard Gilbert is joining the working group along with Sue Dexter and other residents.

e. Communications

Mark will send an email re Spring Newsletter information

f. Website

Wendy informed the members that Margaret has agreed to learn Wendy's methods for managing the website so that she can be a backup for Wendy if need be.

The members applauded Wendy's great work.

g. U of T Liaison

Sue reported that she and Gus met with the new UofT president Mr. Meric Gertler.

Words of praise and optimism for future interactions described the meeting.

Tim reported on his attendance at the recent Huron Sussex Residents Association meeting UofT plans for changes in the area were revealed. They include building of laneway houses with treeing and pedestrian areas, and 8 and 13 storey buildings East of Spadina.

h. Heritage

No report

i. History

Christian reported that the Ontario Trillium Foundation had granted a one-year extension for the final report of the Oral History project. Outstanding items are story posts (locating the signs on City property is proving to be challenging; private locations are being explored) and "what to do" with hundreds of photographs collected. Margaret has been working on organizing and labelling all the photos, in preparation for their future use on the website or elsewhere.

j. Clean-Ups

Neil reported that a 1st meeting of the committee is planned in about a month time.

Spring clean-up is planned for April 19th at Splendido. This date corresponds to Mayor's

City Clean-up. It was pointed out that this date fall on Easter and Passover. Neil will check with the City if they took this into consideration and potential change in date of HVRA Clean-up will be discussed at the next meeting.

k. Neighbourhood disruption

Jane reported that 2 neighbours recently sold their houses and moved from her area due to noise problems from the surrounding bars and the consistent lack of action to curb the problem.

l. Laneways

Question was raised whether the City should look into laneway snow removal now that the laneways are assumed. The answer was: no.

Tim mentioned that Helen Mills will be a guest speaker at our Spring Meeting on the topic of green laneways.

m. Flowerpots

No report.

6. Discussion items

a) A proposed motion in response to Canada Post's plans: HVRA recommends that Canada Post offer twice weekly, door to door mail delivery to cities that request it, instead of replacing door to door service with group mailboxes.
It was agreed that a survey of members will conducted; Christian agreed to help with the survey using Survey Monkey

b) Applying for up to \$25,000 for a Live Green Toronto community grant for 10, iconic mid-block bicycle racks? (April 7th is their deadline for expressions of interest.)
Wendy moved that Tim prepare a proposal and bring it to the next meeting. Seconded by Gail Carried unanimously

c) Board responsibilities

Tim and Gus summarized the responsibilities and expectations of board members, focusing on conflict of interest rules on volunteer boards. There was a lively discussion around the conduct of board members regarding issues which had already been decided with majority agreement. The following motions ensued:

i) Since the position of "Central Tech School Liaison" was incorrectly constituted, the Board moves to vacate the position at this time. Moved by Gus seconded by Wendy. Carried unanimously.

ii) It is the wish of the Board that if Neil Stephenson wishes to continue to participate in the Central Tech Working Group as an individual that he must in the future recuse himself from any and all HVRA board discussions and communications (eg. board emails) concerning the CT file. Moved by Gus seconded by Wendy. Carried unanimously.

iii) It is the Board's wish that when a board member speaks in public in opposition to a Board position, that he/she should not invoke the name of HVRA or divulge their board

membership, and must recuse him/herself from all HVRA Board discussions and emails concerning such a file (including the Porter Island Airport file). Moved by Steve and seconded by Gail. Carried.

7. Chair's Report

No report

8. Other

Addendum:

On February 6, 2014, our Chair Tim Grant sent an urgent email to board members regarding activities surrounding our response to the TDSB/Razor Management dome proposal for the Central Tech playing field. He reported:

1. that the TDSB rezoning application (permitting a commercial dome on school property) was returning to the Committee of Adjustment on February 19;
2. that he had appointed Gus/Rory Sinclair, Sue Dexter, and himself as the HVRA's representatives on the just-created Central Tech Working Group; and
3. that only these three individuals were to speak publicly on behalf of the HVRA on matters relating to Central Tech.

Tim's email requested board members to ratify these decisions. His email continued: "In light of the decisions I have made on the Central Tech file, and in light of the fact that one Board Member has expressed dissatisfaction with at least some of those decisions, it is my opinion that we need to minimize any possible confusion around HVRA's position on this important file. I therefore wish to seek the Board's ratification of the decisions I have made to date on this matter."

The board members were asked to choose one of the two following options, and to forward by email their votes to board member Gail Misra:

A: Yes, I agree with the decisions made to date by Tim Grant, HVRA Chair, on the Central Tech file.

B: No, I do not agree with the decisions made to date by Tim Grant, HVRA Chair, on the Central Tech file.

Gail reported the results of the vote on the afternoon of February 8:

13 of a possible 17 board members voted -- all in favour of Option A, ratifying Tim's decisions to date. There was also one abstention.

Adjournment at 9:35pm.