

Harbord Village Residents' Association
Minutes of HVRA Board Meeting
January 17, 2006
Kensington Gardens

Board Present: Gus Sinclair, Sandra DeAthe, Jane Auster, Richard Longley, Susan Pfeiffer, Michael Heydon, Stuart Schoenfeld, Maria Perin, Richard Gilbert, David Booz, Sue Dexter

Regrets: Tim Grant, Gord Brown, Margaret Beare

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The meeting commenced at 7:08 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with the addition of the following items under Other Business:

- assault on Major St. – Gus;
- Bloor St. Planning Study – Jane
- MLS (not discussed)

3. Approval of minutes: The minutes of December 13, 2005 were approved without changes, moved by Richard Longley and seconded by David Booz.

4. Portfolio Management Sandra DeAthe

Pursuant to the discussion at the November meeting about dividing some of the work of the Board into portfolios, Sandra presented an Excel spreadsheet, using the noise issue as an example, designed to not only track actions taken within the portfolio, but also to manipulate the data to provide additional perspective. After some discussion, the Board decided that the method was too complex for the issues we deal with, and that the committee assignments were sufficient. We prefer to organize by geography, rather than by issue.

One emerging theme was the difficulty of getting the membership to talk to us about their issues, as we have an obligation to deal with issues that are becoming overwhelming, and are also what the constituents want us to address.

6. AGM Caucus concerns

As this agenda item is related to the discussion under portfolio management, it was moved up in the agenda to this position.

Noise

One thread of concern from the AGM caucuses was noise. This is an issue across Harbord Village, and our impression is that the City does not listen to our complaints. The budget for noise by-law enforcement is 1/3 of what it was in the old City of Toronto. The perception is that noise is a downtown issue, so unless the downtown councillors fight for it, we do not get the money, and the current councillors are not interested. Action: Gus will call Helen to organize her attendance at either the February 21st or the March 21st Board meeting, with Martin Silva. Richard Gilbert will call Martin Silva.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss our concerns with by-law enforcement for noise, as well as graffiti, litter/garbage, and patios. Better equipment is needed to measure noise, and we are interested in discussing with Silva the process of measurement and fines that Ottawa uses. We want to give him the general trend in our neighbourhood for all these issues.

A tally of the issues discussed at the AGM (which represents only those people who came and expressed an opinion) indicated the following breakdown; we should talk to Silva about the top 5:

<u>Issue</u>	<u># of mentions out of possible 5</u>
Noise	3
Real estate issues	3 (e.g., 578 Spadina, Energy Probe)
Traffic	3
Lighting	2
Garbage	2
Graffiti	2

Lighting

Street lighting was a concern in South Central and South West. It is not clear how to approach this issue as there are interests that need to be addressed together, that is the effectiveness of the lighting (safety and functionality), and aesthetics. Discussions should be held with the Councillor.

Robert St.

Gus gave an overview of the issues surrounding the rink and the playing field on Robert Street. U of T owns the land, but the City administers the rink and the tennis courts and has the budget to do so. UTS uses the field and has first dibs on it, the HV residents want access to the field. Action: As a new relationship has been negotiated between U of T and UTS, Gus will follow-up to see what this new relationship is and what the status is on the Robert Street property.

5. Brunswick & College Parkette Richard Longley

Richard will attend a meeting at the Parkette on January 30th to discuss tree replacement; he is hoping to get more than just the replacement of the trees that have died. Parkettes are mooted for Augusta & College and Major & College. There is some debate over the names of the parkettes; the City has a policy of naming them after prominent local people – Walter Houston is one suggestion, as is the Raichler family. Richard will notify Michael and Richard G., who will attend, of the details.

7. Other Business

Assault on Major Street Gus Sinclair

Gus reported that a woman was held up at knife point by two men, and it looks as though the same two men were responsible for another assault on south Lippincott near College. There was discussion

about HVRA sponsoring a workshop in Wendo, a self-defense method intended to inspire confidence in women when out at night

Action: Gus will call 14th Division to find out what the assault stats are for the neighbourhood.

Hate Crime in the area Maria Perin

Two gay men who are living on Major Street have spoken to Maria about threats they have received several times from a neighbour. The couple is not sure what to do, because if they make an official report, the police are required as part of their procedures to speak to the perpetrator of the threats. The couple feels this would put them at even higher risk, and now feel like prisoners in their own home.

It was suggested to Maria that she advise the couple to go to any one of a number of gay organizations to get support, as they are used to dealing with this sort of issue and will know what steps to take.

Bloor "visioning" Study Sue Dexter

The study was approved by Council, and will happen in two phases, 1.) Avenue Road to Bathurst, and 2.) Bathurst to Christie. The Planning Department is getting bids on the work, and there will be two public meetings, no dates yet.

The Board was interested in:

- maintaining the character of Bloor/Spadina to Bathurst
- the forms intensification should take
- zoning by-law updates, and
- coordinated development

Richard L. will be attending a meeting on January 27th to discuss the city's attitude to high buildings.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m. Next meeting February 21st, same time same place.