

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens
Minutes

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

Regrets: Steve Klein

1. Chair's welcome extended to all including Rebecca Keenan from Councilor Adam Vaughan's office. Tim explained that Councilor Vaughan would be attending the meeting but would arrive late.

2. Approval of agenda

Moved by Gus seconded by Gail. Approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from December 2013 meeting.

Moved by Gus, seconded by James; Approved with revisions regarding committee reports on 7a and Laneways.

4. Discussion items.

a) Community Cookbook - in response to a presentation to the Board at the December meeting by Alexandra (Sasha) Grigorieva, the Board tabled the following motion.

HVRA board expresses their appreciation and congratulations to Sasha for the proposed project and look forward to hearing more about the project as it develops.

Moved by Gus and seconded by Sue

Carried

b) Central Tech – Tim suggested that discussion on this item be deferred until the arrival of Councilor Vaughan. The members agreed and continued with the rest of the agenda.

5. Reports

a) Treasurer – Carmen will bring forward the final full financial report for this past year at the February meeting but she did report the Board realized significant revenues in 2013 and is pleased that it has been a very good year.

Revenues totaled \$37,801 with expenditures reaching \$33,622 leaving a net of revenue of \$4,375 with \$1,181 still to come in from the Litter & Glitter cleanup. The equity position is corrected for revenue for projects at \$20,601 with \$100 of that for HCD.

Gus asked how much is in the Board's account and Carmen stated \$12,884.

Carmen would like to hear from project leaders so that a forecast of expenditures can be made.

On the subject of finances, Margaret asked if Board members had indemnity coverage. Gus responded that the Board is not covered although it had been studied several years ago. After a brief discussion, there was a consensus to revisit the issue. Tim will invite former Board member Leslie Thompson who did extensive work on the subject in the past to the next meeting.

- b) Membership - Gail reported that one person renewed last month but she says the online website renewal module is still not working properly. She has asked Calvin to work on it. Mark said he will also follow up with Calvin on this.

4. Discussion items (continued)

- b) Central tech

Tim began the discussion by suggesting the subject be broken down into two issues. First, is the *process* that has been undertaken and the second, is the *content* of the plan.

Process: Tim felt the flyer inviting the community to a public meeting lacked any information that would make people in our neighbourhood aware of what was being proposed. He felt many people were reluctant to speak at the meeting as it was not properly chaired and controlled. Having made efforts prior to the meeting to ensure a proper consultation, he felt personally betrayed. Adding further insult was the fact that a contract had been signed beforehand.

Tim tabled a motion.

Be it resolved that HVRA censure the TDSB and our school trustee for entering into an agreement with Razor Management prior to community consultation, for avoiding open and effective community consultation about the Central Tech field, for distributing a meeting flyer that did not describe the proposed changes, and for running a public meeting without a chair to give direction and to keep respectful order so that residents felt safe to express their views.

Motion put to a vote.

Carried (3 opposed).

Due to the nature of the discussion, Graham Rempe left the meeting as he felt he might be in a conflict of interest.

On the *content* of the plan, members agreed that the field is in need of upgrading. There was a discussion about how the Board should conduct itself as this issue develops. It was suggested a sub-committee be established to develop strategies as we move forward.

There was a lengthy, in-depth discussion over the issues concerning the proposed project with many members expressing their dismay over the lack of communication

from the TDSB, private for profit use of public space, the lack of solutions to issues of parking, noise, traffic, light and free public access.

Some members had visited Monarch Park and reported back on the traffic and parking issues there.

Councilor Vaughan came to the meeting at about 7:45 and he provided further background on the issue. He said a cork base turf is more permeable than a rubber base and creates less heat but is more expensive and does not last as long. There will be light spillage and noise from the field and we don't know what the night shutdown time will be or the parking solutions.

As a parent of a child who plays on an elite soccer team, he says it is expensive to be involved.

The Central Tech facility will be the biggest regional sports field in the city so it will attract a large number of users.

He feels the TDSB has an obligation to come to the community as they are a trustee of this property. He feels a holistic solution is necessary and possible to achieve but it requires willingness to negotiate.

Everyone agreed that the field is in urgent need of an upgrade, that Central Tech students, residents and kids would benefit from the upgrade and that solutions could be found if there was a negotiation with the TDSB.

The following motion was put to a vote:

Be it resolved that HVRA ask that the Committee of Adjustment to defer this item so that negotiations can take place between the TDSB, the City and the community with a view to making a better sports field and stronger school for everyone concerned.

Failing deferral, we oppose this project as currently configured.

Carried unanimously with one abstention.

Tim will send a letter outlining HVRA position (reasons* and motions) to OMB, Minister of Education, Premier of the Province, Mayor's office & councilors, all members of school boards & school board trustees, City planning, building, parks & recreations, and neighbouring associations

*The size of the permitted structure to facilitate a regional sports operation is too large. A smaller building on site will reduce the size of the scope of the project. The commercialization of a public space and the size and scope of the project. It will have a huge impact on the community through parking, access and noise and traffic.

Due to time, the rest of the committee reports were deferred until the next meeting.

Adjournment at 9:35pm.

