

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday January 17, 2012 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens

In Attendance: Tim Grant, Angie Andreoli, Carmen Gauthier, Gail Misra, Sue Dexter, Richard Gilbert, Steve Klein, Eleanor Levine, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch, Jane Perdue, Graham Rempe, Stuart Schoenfeld, Rory Sinclair, Wendy Smith, Neil Stephenson, Eva Janecek

Regrets: none

1. Chair's Welcome to all, especially our guest Laura Auquilla Pesantez, Constituency Assistant to Rosario Marchese

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gus, Seconded by James, the Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of December 13th, 2011

Moved by Carmen, Seconded by Eleanor, Approved.

4. Discussion items

a) Richard moved that HVRA asks the City NOT to sell TCHC's scattered houses, such as those on Beverly Street, north of Dundas ; seconded by Gus; all agreed except 2 abstained. Gail will write the letter

Laura encouraged board members and the residents to sign a petition regarding this issue: rosariomarchese.ca/TCHC petition

b) Proposed motion: In view of the toxicity of road salt and the City's need to save money, HVRA asks the City to return to its pre-amalgamation practice of salting residential intersections but not residential roadways.

After a discussion of pro and against, the motion was withdrawn but it was agreed that a reminder for all residents to clear their sidewalks be included in the next e-blast.

c) Tim brought a sample of Martha Cronyn's alternative to toxic road salt and suggested that residents be informed of this via email to HVRA members. It is available in the store at the corner of Robert and Harbord Sts.

d) Tim suggested that Area Rep reports be added to our monthly agendas

e) Looking ahead: what projects should we be taking on? How can we better engage tenants and university students?

Suggestions: i) HVRA organize a giant yard sale to support local charities modeled after "Planet Palmerston"

ii) Local dinners in laneways

iii) Uof T ash tree report

f) HVRA Awards: Procedures for nominations for community builder awards was reviewed. There are 3 categories: community builder, heritage renovations, and front yard gardens.

5. Treasurer's report

Carmen reported that the HVRA is in good financial position: ~\$6,000 in cash and \$15,000 in investments. A \$10,000 one year, higher rate GIC was purchased.

6. Committee Reports

a) Membership:

Gail reported that the updates to the membership list are completed. There are 521 names on the list. We now have the ability via e-mail to encourage non-members on the list to become members. Suggestion for enlisting residents are welcome, especially for residents in apartment buildings.

b) Community Liaison:

No report

c) Zoning:

No report.

d) Communications:

Richard reported that Calvin is doing an excellent job.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is at the end of March.

Richard also reported that Gordon Brown through his excellent presentation at the City Hall got the committee to stop or at least slow the InfoPillars (i.e. illuminated sidewalk billboards).

Sue moved that: HVRA extends our thanks to Gord Brown for his leadership, considerable research and the very persuasive presentation he made on behalf of HVRA at the January 4th PWIC meeting. Seconded by Gus; all agreed except 2 who abstained.

e) **Website:**

- f) Wendy informed the group that in 2011 there were 8,666 visits to the HVRA web site and 21,000 page views. The Parkette design competition drew the largest number and the Laneway naming project was close second. Visitor peaks were seen just before the Pumpkin Festival, indicating that people are checking our website for information in advance of events -- so we should aim to have up-to-date information in advance of all upcoming events.

g) **U of T Liaison:**

Sue reported on the progress of discussions about the emerald ash borer problems. It is estimated that about 6% of ash trees will be affected. Two graduate students will be funded to find what are viable solutions. Councillor Vaughn's office agreed to wait till Uof T will have a report before cutting trees. It is expected that Uof T will be able to share with the residents information and remedial actions.

HVRA's role in this is publicizing information.

h) **Heritage:**

No report

i) **History Project:**

Richard reported that Eleanor completed 7 one hour interviews.

The plan is to re-submit the project to Trillium Foundation. This time, we will only request \$20,000 for 1yr for transcription of oral histories. There was a discussion of using other venues to collect information from residents. Request was made for the committee members to think of volunteer translators who could help during the interviews.

10. Chair's Report:

See discussion items #4

- a) Our February meeting will feature a special discussion on insurance for heritage-designated homes with Pete Karageorgos of the Insurance Bureau of Canada, Rollo Myers of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and Danny Sgro of Jones DesLauriers Insurance Management Inc.
- b) Last week, Rebecca Hewitt acknowledged receipt of our request that City staff be asked to take steps to improve safety where laneways meet main streets, and specifically whether the first 100 metres of Sussex Mews (i.e. running south from Bloor) can become one way south.

c) Bloor Hot Docs Cinema has applied for a liquor licence.

d) Brunswick College Parkette. A December 16th meeting with KHC and City staff confirmed that the renovation of this parkette is now included in the City's 2012 budget and will be discussed during today's budget debate. Once the 2012 budget passes, an outside design professional will be chosen within 3 weeks. By April or May, a public meeting can review a pre-design. 2-3 months of detailed design work will follow, after which 4 months will be required to develop a construction package, including all permits. Construction is likely in Spring 2013. The renovation is expected to cost between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Lots of \$ is available for this, and will remain available for 2 years.

e) St. Stephens, a fellow 2012 Doors Open participant, has offered HVRA the use of 91 Bellevue as a gathering or finishing place for our walking tours. They have public washrooms and will be serving refreshments and holding children's activities, so they've suggested it might be a good fit for tired walkers.

f) Tim reported that Gus, Christian and he went to a meeting of 30 people representing 10 residents' associations. The purpose of the meeting was to share the activities each association is involved in and potential collaboration. Councillor Vaughan was at the meeting.

11. Clean-up report

Neil reported that the Dec 2nd clean up was very successful. The next one is planned for mid April. Neil already has 18 sponsors lined up. Among others: tickets for David Mirvish production, 3 month membership in a fitness centre, 2 tickets to movies etc. Neil is canvassing more sponsors to participate.

Adjournment at 9 p.m.