

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday January 19, 2010 7p.m.
Kensington Gardens

In attendance: Tim Grant, Angie Andreoli, Debby Black, Laura Bradbury, David Booz, Sue Dexter, Wendy Duff, Colin Furness, Richard Gilbert, Katrina McHugh, Gail Misra, Rory Sinclair, Stuart Schoenfeld, Wendy Smith, Leslie Thompson, Mairin Wilkinson, Eva Janecek-Rucker

Regrets: Jane Perdue

1. Chair's welcome

Tim welcomed all present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved.

3. Approval of minutes:

Approval was deferred; minutes with changes will be re-circulated.

4. Treasurer's report

Leslie presented a draft Financial report. No changes since the last meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a. Environment:

i. Trees:

- Nothing new to report

ii. HERO

- Final flyer was distributed to residents; since then 20 people expressed interest and there were 3 calls for furnace
- 11 furnaces were sold

iii. Graffiti:

- Nothing new to report

b. Membership:

- Application form for new/renewal membership will be added to the HVRA web site

c. Community Liaison

- Deferred

d. Communications

Richard Gilbert informed the committee that the next deadline for submitting articles for the Newsletter is April 15th.

e. Website

Webmaster Wendy Smith reported that the updating and redesign of the website is almost complete; it is almost time for our chair to send out an "e-mail blast" inviting the public to check out the site. She requested suggestions for refreshing the news on the homepage, and asked for a rewrite of the "About Our Hood" page (taken on by Gus). It was agreed that news on the recent success of the Phase II conservation district process should headline the homepage. And Gus will put together a new section on the Laneway Naming Project when he gets a bit further into the process.

f. Zoning:

- No report

g. U of T Liaison

- Deferred

6. Other Business

a. Special events permits

Laura Bradbury reported that the Fall Fair committee recommended that serving alcohol should continue for 1 year on a trial basis. Laura agreed to do the necessary work to obtain the needed permits.

b. Business partnership (e.g. Escarpment Program)

Deferred

c. How to kick-start the laneway naming process

Gus put forward a proposal (contained in Appendix A to the minutes). The proposal was adopted by the Board.

d. Establishing a Heritage Committee

The Board notes that the Heritage Conservation District designation mandates a neighborhood committee. The membership of this committee will be reviewed by the Board.

The Board is open to the committee to create a broad vision of heritage in Harbord Village and that this visioning be coordinated with the proposed city planning sustainability project.

e. Robert St. Heritage

Sue reported that no appeal to the OMB was filed against the City-approved Robert St. HCD, thus removing the final hurdle.

f. Chair's update

i. Pools at Central Tech and Kensington schools will re-open after the TDSB agreed to have the Toronto Lands Authority take over their operation and develop a business plan for their use.

ii. Harbord - Bathurst intersection: The board's request for an advanced left hand turning lane was sent to Councilor Vaughan's office, which forwarded it to Transportation Services for their review.

iii. Cycling lanes: A report by the Ward 20 Cycling Committee was approved by the City's cycling committee. It calls for bike lanes on Bloor and Harbord Streets and a contra lane on Brunswick from College to Dupont.

iv. UoT engineering students: Several residents submitted project ideas within the short timeline offered to us. Eva reported that she had a student contact her but due to circumstances it was not possible to meet to discuss the project

v. Daycare parking at Lord Lansdowne school: A proposed day care at the school would require 8 parking spaces be made available for parents to drop off their children. A meeting of those living adjacent to the school along with TDSB officials will be held January 25th.

g. Smash & Grab and General Vandalism on the Streets

Concern was expressed that there appears to be an increase in the incidents of vandalism near Lippincott and Harbord. It was agreed that Tim would contact Margaret Beare, HVRA's police liaison, to discuss this at the next liaison meeting.

h. Affiliation with the Toronto Area Conservation Network

Since no one on Board is familiar with the organization, Stuart agreed to find out about it and bring the information to a meeting in the future.

i. Topic for the Spring Meeting

Suggestions: green roofs; update on laneways

Meeting adjourned at about 9pm

Appendix A

The Naming of Laneways in Harbord Village: A Proposal

Background:

In the summer of 2009, at a meeting with Police, The Bloor Annex BIA, Harbord Street BIA, ARA, and HVRA concerning a swarming incident at Bloor and Bathurst, talk moved towards things that could be done to make the job of the Police and Fire Departments easier.

The Police described some barriers to quick response from citizens reporting emergencies in their neighbourhoods especially in back lanes. Without the lanes being named, there necessarily ensues some discussion of which exact lane requires the attention. For example, saying that the emergency is in the lane between Robert and Major south of Harbord is insufficient to get an accurate response as that lane is not continuous... it is blocked for about 10 houses just south of where Ulster meets Major before continuing on down to the lane behind the stores on College.

Several small and unofficial discussions were held with some members of the community: both Board members and non-Board members and the idea of naming the lanes was met with much positive feed back. Preliminary discussions have also been had with the Councillor's office as well as with the appropriate city department.

Rose Rodrigues on the east side of Major Street (just south of Harbord), started the process of naming the laneway behind her house after her father. She followed the protocol laid down by the city and is I believe one step away from having the official change and the sign put up... It will be Louis Laki Lane.

We also have found out that the lanes in Cabbagetown have all recently been named and they did it with the theme of Canadian song Birds.

What is clear at the moment is that should HVRA hold a process that gets buy-in from our members and other residents, it will be possible to have this done as a single package i.e. we can take the naming of all HV laneways as a single proposal to the city

A Possible Way Forward

I would think it essential to engage our members as much as we can.. We do this A: to gauge their interest in the project and b: to get buy-in for the idea and c: to get some volunteers to do some of the legwork.

The first thing to be done would be to notify our members by email blast and all residents by flyer that this project is testing the waters for feasibility..

At this point we can ask for suggestions as to names, themes for names or whatever comes to the minds of local residents.