

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday June 21, 2011 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens

In Attendance: Rory Sinclair, Angie Andreoli, Laura Bradbury, Gail Misra , Colin Furness, Richard Gilbert, Sue Dexter, Stuart Schoenfeld, Eleanor Levine, Steve Klein

Regrets: Wendy Smith, Eva Janecek, Katrina McHugh, Bettina Van Lieres, Carmen Gauthier, Jane Perdue

1. Chair's Welcome to all

2. Approval of the Agenda

With the additions to the Agenda,

Moved by Gail Seconded by Steve , the Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of Minutes of April 19th

Moved by Gail , Seconded by Steve , approved.

4. Treasurer's report

No report

5. Committee Reports

a) **Membership:**

Katrina was not in attendance, but Gus reported that the list seems to be in good shape now that some work has been undertaken to remove non-member names, and through an update on the program.

b) **Community Liaison:**

No Report

c) **Zoning:**

DT Bistro: This bistro was not using the upstairs space in the building and the owner, Don, wants to use it for restaurant space. The building abuts residential properties. Two people were initially very opposed, but at Gus' behest they spoke to the owner and worked things out. DT Bistro, Gus and the Councillor's office hosted a meeting with the community on Sunday June 19, 2011 to gauge support, to give residents the opportunity to raise any concerns, and the owners to try to address them. The plan is for no patio, soundproofing of the north wall, a green roof, a stairwell inside the building, and the owners gave undertakings about garbage. The meeting went well as DT Bistro is generally a very well run, and well liked business.

However, the City Planning department has some concerns about the fact that the addition of the space would raise the amount of space used for a restaurant just above the maximum generally permitted in the neighbourhood, and are concerned about what happens if the building changes hands. These concerns could stand in the way of the owner's application. As there is a lot of support for the DT Bistro plan Gus has written a letter to address how those concerns may be dealt with. The application will go to Committee of Adjustments on June 22, 2011. Tim Grant is attending on behalf of the HVRA and will speak in support of the application.

- d) **Communications:** Calvin and Gus have worked on the website and the membership lists. Calvin did a major upgrade to the site. There are still problems with the membership part of the site, but that will be worked on.
- e) **U of T Liaison and other planning matters:** Sue Dexter reported that UTS has been given notice to move, but there may be a question about whether they will actually ultimately move. UTS has been given some options of locations.

On the Part 2 Plan, regarding rezoning on the campus, the University has almost completed its' plan, which it now has to pass, and then send it to the City for review. We may have reservations about the heights of buildings that are being proposed.

There is a plan for the Buddhist Temple site on College Street just west of Spadina. It is for a 5 to 7 storey building and is supposed to be quite a nice plan according to Councillor Adam Vaughan.

On June 28, 2011 there is a community meeting regarding the 783 Bathurst Street Loretto College site. Neighbours will have received notification of the meeting from the City.

- f) **Heritage:** Sue Dexter suggested that the HVRA may wish to think about how to address issues of non-compliance with the Heritage Act in Heritage districts. There have been some homeowners who have made changes to the fronts of their respective homes, with the additions of porches, windows, etc. which are not in compliance with the heritage of the area. Many people do not realize that they have to get Heritage permits, or even Building permits, and are just going ahead and spending money on these changes. There is a question about what the role of the HVRA should be, and it was suggested that an article could be written for the newsletter as to the need to be aware of Heritage status, and the implications of that for renovations to the façade of homes.
- g) **History Project:** Richard reported that the Trillium application was filed on June 20, 2011. We do not know what the chances are of it being successful, but the application looked good.

There are two levels of approval once applications are submitted: the first cut, and then a second level review when Trillium checks references and so on. The organization had been pre-approved, and so now we must wait for two weeks to see if the application makes it past the first cut. The approval process thereafter would be finalized by October.

Motion moved by Colin to thank Richard Gilbert for his enormous efforts in leading this project to the filing of the Trillium Application, and without whose efforts the application would never have been made. Seconded by Gail, Unanimously approved.

Sue Dexter suggested that we should poll the membership to create a skills inventory for the neighbourhood. We could use the Newsletter to speak to the neighbourhood on the subject of the History Project. Another idea would be to commit an Annual Meeting or a General Members' meeting to discussing the History Project.

It was suggested that someone should do a William James article with photographs for the Newsletter (1910 on, pictures of Major Street) to whet the community's appetite for the History Project. Carmen Gauthier may be invited to do this article and get the photos.

6. Chair's Report:

Wendy Rotenberg, Richard Gilbert and Gus met with folks from the Phys Ed dept of U of T to talk about the Robert Street playing field. Our material was provided to them. They are behind in terms of planning for the field.

At Lippincott and College, there are problems with over-serving in the bars, and it is developing into a bit of a club district. MLS is looking into the problem. There was a shooting in the area a week ago. HVRA met with Adam Vaughan, and hence MLS is now involved.

At 139 Lippincott there is an absenteeism landlord, and the tenants are loud, and are drinking on the roof of the house, where there were no railings. Sergeant Zammit has looked into it, and MLS is involved.

Richard Gilbert reported on a similar problem on Major Street. The owner is operating an unlicensed rooming house, and is neglectful of the property. Richard has spoken to the owner and has told him that unless steps are taken, the matter would have to be addressed by the City. The owner has been encouraged to consider converting the building into a legal duplex, which would entail some upgrading, but may also attract a better type of tenant.

Sue Dexter reported on 584 and 586 Spadina, which are not legal rooming houses. MLS has been advised and has tried to visit but were denied entry at one of the addresses. In each case they have many rooms in the basement, the

tenants come into the laneway at night, and then late at night make a lot of noise. Sue Dexter has told Sergeant Zammit, as he can put some houses on the police watch list for the bicycle patrols.

Gus suggested we ask Adam Vaughan how we could deal legally with problem rooming houses, or the HVRA should assign someone to do some research on what avenues are may be available. As a first step, Richard Gilbert will follow up with the City Councillor about available options.

The HVRA was present at the Bloor Street Festival, along with the Annex Residents Association. Gus, Carmen, Gail and Steven volunteered at the booth. The ARA had T-shirts and cloth bags, and were successfully selling memberships as they had a better presence at the booth than did the HVRA, which was difficult to identify as we had no sign of our own. For next year it was suggested that we should have a kit to take to such festivals, along with a banner or sign. We could also consider fridge magnets and T-shirts, and could start by selling them at the Fall Fair. Gus will speak to an artist about designs for a T-shirt or other promotional material that would be useful for residents to keep.

7. Other business:

There is a helicopter that is has been flying all over the neighbourhood and is making a huge amount of noise. It is run as a tourist operation to do tours every 15 minutes out of some location around Ontario Place. Richard Gilbert has been told this is a Federal matter so that it involves aviation. The suggestion was to address the issue to Olivia Chow's office, and Gus will follow up on this matter.

8. Adjournment, at 8:30 p.m.