

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 17, 2015, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens  
Minutes

Present: Sue Dexter, James Murdoch, Paula Gallo, Marilyn Martin, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Steve Klein, Carlo Drudi, Margaret Procter, Carmen Gauthier, Gail Misra, Eva Janecek

Regrets: Tim Grant, Rory Gus Sinclair, Bob Stambula

- 1. Chair's Welcome.** In Tim's absence, at his request, Margaret assumed the role of the Chair and welcomed all.
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – Moved by Gail, seconded by Steve - approved
- 3. Approval of February 17, 2015 minutes** –Moved by Steve, seconded by Carmen - approved with typo corrections

#### **4. Discussion Items**

a) Speaker for Spring meeting

In the Chair's notes Tim sent 2 suggestions: Jamie Watt to speak about 1000 Dinners Project and Sharoni Sibony to speak on Narayever Synagogue's 100 Years. After a short discussion there was a general agreement to invite Sharoni Sibony. James agreed to contact Sharoni.

It was also agreed that Joe Cressy, Han Dong and Adam Vaughn should be invited and given 5minutes to speak and 5minutes to answer questions.

#### **5. Committee reports**

a) Communication & Website

Newsletter

Carlo Drudi has agreed to edit and coordinate the Spring newsletter with Curt Oliver handling the layout. Carlo laid out each article with their assigned writers. Deadline set no later than April 7.

Central Tech field	Gus and Sue
Brunswick Parkette	Richard Longley
Area development	Sue
Narayever anniversary	James
Plant Fair	Margaret
History project	Margaret
Postman play	Gus
Lord Lansdowne	Steve (maybe Fall edition)
Dragon Boating	Christian
Chair's message	Tim

#### Website, Twitter & other social media

Margaret reported that she is updating the website, including posting of 2014 minutes. After a discussion of different issues regarding HVRA communications and use of social media, Gail moved to create a social media communications subcommittee to develop a media strategy and guidelines and report to the Board at the September meeting. Seconded by Steve; carried.

In the interim, Caroline agreed to manage the Twitter account with Tim's and other members' help.

b) Treasurer's report – Carmen reported that she will email the 2015 budget for comments and questions. There was a discussion regarding the disposition of a remaining \$2,500 from Palmerston Area Resident's Association intended for mediation expenses. Gail moved to use the funds left from OMB mediation to pay the council of Dewart Gleason who provided vast amount of work pro bono. Seconded by Carolee; carried

c) Membership – Gail reported that there are 175 "paid" members compared to 133 at this time last year. Also, there are more members who have paid \$50 compared to last year.

d) Community liaison – no report

e) Planning- Sue reported that major development projects are now a regular feature of our neighbourhood landscape. Spring 2015 has the following developments underway:

i) A condo proposal at the Waverley Hotel, north of the corner of College and Spadina, remains under negotiation at the Ontario Municipal Board. Impacts of concern are shadowing on Lord Lansdowne School, intensification, green space and other infrastructure, and sympathy with the existing built-form.

ii) At the northwest corner of Sussex Spadina, a public-private partnership is under negotiation between the Daniels Corporation and the University of Toronto to build a residence. No plans have been submitted so there is no formal City process underway. There have been meetings between residents the University, HVRA and the City. The community wants a mixed student population, not solely first year; no cafeteria onsite; no housing on the Robert Street playing field; the entrance on Spadina among other ideas. The University is to get back to the community after its arrangements with Daniels

are finalized.

iii) An application has been submitted for 361 Bloor St. West, on the property presently occupied by the Restaurant Association. At a crowded public meeting April 2, 2015, the developer was told by the community, the councilor and City Planning staff that its ideas were incompatible with City policies and the neighbourhood. The proposal is for 535 units, between 270 and 650 square feet in 42 to 45 storeys. The current zoning bylaw allows for three times coverage, the proposal is 22.5 times coverage. Its height is 137.3 m. The site is currently zoning for 18 m. Estimated population is 611 persons. There would be 29 parking spaces, 7 car share spaces and storage for 535 bikes. A city planning study is underway for the area which will be finished in November. The owner could not guarantee that he would not take his plan directly to the OMB without waiting for the study. This raised questions at the meeting regarding the usefulness of negotiations. It was left for the proponent to give a final answer on his intentions to Councillor Cressy.

iv) At Central Tech, plans will now move ahead given the settlement which has been reached with a proposed smaller dome and more community access. It has been conditionally approved by the Ontario Municipal Board. Still to come, the final traffic and parking study report which will deal with impacts on the neighbourhood. The proponent, Matthew Razienne, of Razor Management is working closely with Councillor Cressey to change the artificial turf to a new generation of field which does not use recycled rubber pellets. This would be a major improvement as it would substantially reduce health concerns. Before shovels hit the ground, Councillor Cressey and Razor Management will hold a public briefing on the construction protocols, to give residents a clear understanding of what the process will be, and who to call if there are problems.

vi) In early March, Westbank development from Vancouver, unveiled its first big ideas for the revisioning of the Honest Ed's site at Bathurst and Bloor. Project details include 1000 units of rental housing, a large internal market, six main building blocks with varied window treatments suggestive of Victorian main street facades. Heights on Bloor include buildings of 21, 22 and 29 storeys. The proposal includes some heritage preservation on Markham Street, an alley which would feature micro-businesses and startups, some live-work accommodation, and a host of other ideas. At a subsequent working group meeting, the community raised concerns about the density and intensity of the project, as well as heights on Bloor.

f) U of T liaison – see ii) above

g) Heritage – no report

h) Flowerpots – Marilyn reported that she is waiting for the thaw to be able to remove the winter branches and plant spring flowers.

i) History Project – Margaret reported that there is agreement in principle to put up the story posts but documents have to be signed. Launch date is proposed for April 11<sup>th</sup>. Trillium will be invited.

j) Yard sale – James reported that plans for the sale are underway. The proposed date is Saturday May 2 and alternate day is the last Saturday in May. A letter will be distributed to residents reminding them to save items for the sale. Volunteers are needed for various functions. Marilyn discussed the Cowanation Yard Sale which will take place at the end of the month in Parkdale. There was a discussion over whether Harbord Village do something similar.

#### 6. Chair's notes submitted via email due to Tim's absence

Guest speakers for our Spring Meeting on May 19th? So far, two names have been suggested. Sue suggested Jamie Watt speak about 1000 Dinners Project. Isme Bennie suggested Sharoni Sibony speak on Narayever Synagogue's 100 Years. Other suggestions? Is someone willing to contact the preferred speaker? Do we also want to invite our Councillor to give a "State of the City" update?

Now that Wendy has taken a leave, we'll need someone to take over our Twitter account and tweet for us on occasion.

Curt Oliver has agreed to layout the Spring Newsletter in late April.

Since Tim still not had the time to contact any of the 10 or more people who volunteered at our Fall AGM to help coordinate aspects of the Fall Fair or Pumpkin Festival, nor share with the world our alternative to Canada Post's plan to install super-mailboxes throughout downtown neighbourhoods like ours is there someone who would like to help with any of these tasks?

Tim suggested addressing the question of whether to purchase directors' liability insurance at our April board meeting.

Adjournment at 9:00pm