

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 7p.m., Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Sue Dexter, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Neil Stephenson, Wendy Smith, Carmen Gauthier, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch, Mark Treleaven, Carolee Orme, Margaret Procter, Eva Janecek.

Regrets: Frankie Porretta Steve Klein, Gail Misra, Marilyn Martin.

1. **Chair's welcome** extended to all including Ian Mackenzie, a potential future HVRA Board member.

2. **Approval of agenda**

Moved by Carolee seconded by Mark. Approved.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** from February 18, 2014 meeting.

Moved by Wendy, seconded by James; Approved with correction of F. Porretta's name.

4. **Discussion items**

a. Constitutional amendments – Gus

Gus circulated via email a draft titled "Proposed Constitutional Amendment To Speak to Mutual Obligations between The HVRA Board and its Members". He briefly summarized the main points of the document. Members asked some questions for clarification and there was a brief discussion of the document. Everyone was invited to send suggestions and comments to Gus via email by April 1st. Tim thanked Gus for researching this topic so thoroughly.

b. The Chair's possible resignation this Spring – Tim

Tim let the Board know that he intends to run in the federal elections if the elections are called. It was agreed that Tim will stay on till the elections are called. Once announced, Tim will resign as Chair and the former Chair, Gus, will take over.

c. New Board member

Sue nominated to accept Ian Mackenzie to be a new SE representative. Seconded by Gus. All in favour. Carried.

Tim welcomed Ian to the Board.

5. **Reports**

a. Treasurer – Carmen

Carmen was pleased to announce that she and Nicole balanced the books for the History project. After HVRA's commitment to the History project was paid there is over \$10,000 left in the HVRA account.

Carmen will prepare a financial statement for the Spring meeting.

Wendy requested that the members be shown the details of the financial statements of the History project. Carmen agreed to provide them.

b. Membership - Gail reported via email that the membership renewal notices went out by email on February 19, 2014, and that 24 people have renewed since then. We will continue to try to encourage renewals until April 19, 2014 when, for the purposes of the gift

of a \$50 Metro gift card, a draw will be held with the names of all those who have renewed during this renewal blitz.

c. Community Liaison

Gus reported that he is going to give a presentation to Alexandra Park Association about HVRA

d. Zoning

Sue reported that issues of 484 Spadina (22 storeys, 200 units, some as small as 350 sq ft condo –mini suites) are scheduled to go to OMB pre-hearing on March 25th to determine who the players will be.

A planning study of College Street is underway. Richard Gilbert is joining the working group along with Sue Dexter and other residents. In the future a similar study is planned for Spadina.

e. Communications

Mark reported the 39 residents responded to the survey regarding proposed changes in mail delivery. Majority of responders indicated that it is a bad idea to stop mail delivery to the door, that as an alternative to mail boxes it is a good idea to reduce the number of days to 2-3/week. The survey will be advertised again to increase the number of responders to make the results meaningful.

Spring Newsletter publication is planned to come out in about 4 weeks. A large number of topics were generated by the members. Mark will circulate the list.

f. Website

No report. Wendy will provide visitor stats at the next meeting.

g. U of T Liaison

Sue reported that she and Gus attended a meeting at which there was a presentation of ROM planning gardens on the east and north sides of the building and the NW corner is to have a raised area for an amphitheatre for about 200 people. They acknowledged that there were some innovative ideas but that there is a need to protect the Philosopher's Walk.

h. Heritage

Tim reported that a response from the City regarding the application for Heritage designation of the additional areas has been received. The next step is a walkabout by about 10 people which is scheduled for March 21. This will be followed by a community meeting to get feedback from residents. Major St. has already been audited.

i. History

Christian reported that the committee met and reviewed the accomplishments and the outstanding item, the story posts.

Jane mentioned that recently she was at a presentation where the use of technology to disseminate similar information more broadly was discussed. She will pass this information to Christian, Margaret and Wendy.

Wendy mentioned with sadness that the Reference Library moved and renovated the Baldwin Room but the name was changed. A new name was bought for \$1.5 million.

j. Clean-Ups

Neil reported that the Spring clean-up is planned for April 26th at Splendido. This date corresponds to Mayor's City Clean-up after all as the City changed their date from April 19th. A designer will work on a flyer.

k. Neighbourhood disruption

Jane reported that she heard that there is a plan to extend bar hours to 4am which will further increase the already very problematic situation for the neighbouring residents. Tim mentioned that he chaired a meeting in which re-opening of Lab patio and extending hours of Future Bistro from 1 to 2am was discussed. The attending residents strongly opposed re-opening of the Lab patio.

Tim also reported on a meeting at City Hall (Richard Gilbert and Gordon Brown also attended) regarding curb side patios with pedestrian clearing. In this plan the owners will be able to extend their patios laterally if their business neighbours will agree. Tim thought that it was a good meeting.

l. Laneways

Question was raised whether the City should look into laneway snow removal now that the laneways are assumed. The answer was: no.

Tim mentioned that Helen Mills will be a guest speaker at our Spring Meeting on the topic of green laneways.

m. Flowerpots

No report

6. Discussion items

d. Central Tech – Tim, Gus, Sue

Tim reported that throughout the 4 meetings that the working group had the requests for information has been stonewalled. Monarch Park continues having problems with parking. A study on the parking impact in our area initially suggested severe impact but was later downgraded. However, Margaret pointed out a discrepancy in reported timing (report stated that it was done during night school period but in fact it was done on Dec 5th and night school finished on Nov 30th)

Sue pointed out that hours of operation keep shifting and it is difficult to determine how much time will be available for the community.

Question of safety of artificial turf was raised but not satisfactorily answered. Furthermore, Tim reported that EPA which used to support artificial turf now withdrew its support.

Tim mentioned that a resident offered to put it a special drought resistant grass on top of 8" of soil which would provide a safe surface for students and children to play on. The cost would be \$102,000 which would include 10 years of maintenance. A latest innovation – a hybrid field (a combination of a special artificial turf combined with grass)-was mentioned. Neil agreed with the challenges mentioned but felt that there was some progress in some areas.

Gus moved that HVRA Board oppose the change of use associated with the current proposal by the TDSB to replace grass field at Central Tech with artificial turf and winter dome, and that HVRA continues its efforts find other solutions that improve the school's playing field and running track. Seconded by Margaret. All in favour except 2 abstaining.

7. Chair's Report

No report

| Adjournment at 9:25pm.

