

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday March 16, 2010 7p.m.
Kensington Gardens**

In attendance: Tim Grant, Debby Black, Laura Bradbury, Sue Dexter, Colin Furness, Richard Gilbert, Katrina McHugh, Gail Misra, Jane Perdue, Stuart Schoenfeld; Rory Sinclair, Wendy Smith, Mairin Wilkinson, Eva Janecek-Rucker

Regrets: Angie Andreoli, David Booz, Leslie Thompson

1. Chair's welcome

Tim welcomed all present.

2. Approval of Agenda

Approved.

3. Approval of minutes:

Minutes of Feb.16/10 were approved.

Laura Bradbury moved to adopt the minutes; seconded by Gail Misra

4. Treasurer's report

Leslie Thompson submitted a draft statement of financial position to the board for review.

5. Committee Reports

a. Communications

Deadline for submission to the Spring Newsletter is April 5th

b. Website

Nothing to report

c. Environment:

i. Trees:

i. Trees (Dinny Biggs via Tim)

Removing website references to Village Arborist; Collecting photos of heritage trees in HV; Sharing remaining backyard tree monies with other RA's; Next meeting – April 27th

ii. HERO

Final numbers: 134 Audit signups, less 11 people who signed and then didn't proceed for various reasons. 13 furnaces installed by AtlasCare, with 2 more to be confirmed. Several other homeowner bought furnaces from other contractors.

David Booz is finishing up the final paperwork, will issue final HERO grants, and write a final report for the City.

d. Membership:

- Katrina McHugh reported the update of the database is almost complete

e. Community Liaison

- Nothing to report

f. Zoning:

- Gus Sinclair and Sue Dexter reported on a meeting with Councillor Vaughan regarding issues with 23 Major St.

g. U of T Liaison

Sue Dexter reported that UofT will unveil their new plans in April

h. Sally Bird Parkette Report - March 10, 2010

Report submitted by Gail Misra:

On behalf of the HVRA, I attended a meeting called by Councillor Vaughan's office to discuss the revised plans for the parkette, located just north of Harbord, on the west side of Brunswick Avenue. Present at the meeting were the park designer, the project manager, Dale Duncan from Councillor Vaughan's office, and some residents from the area who had clearly been at the first meeting held to unveil the plan.

Towards the front of the parkette, facing Brunswick Avenue, there will be a water play area with one bench; in the middle area there will be two pieces of adult exercise equipment, and the rest of the parkette will have a beam towards the back planted with ground covers and shrubs, which will also be used throughout the space with some sod only being used near the front end of the parkette. The idea is to create a space oriented towards Brunswick Avenue that adults may exercise in and to which people may bring their young children for a short stop. Since there are a number of other parks in the area with children's play equipment, the residents had not wanted to see more play equipment here. The second planning concept for the parkette is to deter Central Tech students from congregating in the park on benches to smoke and generally deter neighbours from using the space.

The new design was generally well received with the following suggestions and comments:

- residents would like to see the two existing lights maintained
- one resident, who was not present, had sent a message that he would like to see the western end of the park closed off to deter Central Tech students from coming in. While discussed, this is not possible for safety reasons as there has to be an ingress and a possible means of escape from the park, and it can only be open at the two ends. The Central Tech end has a fence with a walkway opening, and is not in any event very open.
- a chicane is planned for the west opening to deter cyclists from biking through, but the residents wanted it taken out of the plan. They want the police to be easily able to ride through the park as they provide an extra level of security, and residents felt that there was in fact very little other biking through the parkette.
- residents asked that the Brunswick face fence be maintained as it provides some enclosure so that small children will not run into the street.
- the trees will be pruned, and one may be removed.
- shrubs will be planted on the north and south sides of the parkette to deter graffiti on the houses that abut the parkette.
- residents suggested that the kids splash pad water feature be moved to the north side of the path where there should be more sunshine.
- a dog-height water spout was requested on the water fountain.

Although the project manager indicated that the present plan already utilizes all of the funding for this parkette renovation, and may be a bit over budget, the residents had two other items they would like to see and prioritized them as follows:

1. An inexpensive third piece of adult exercise equipment, like a chin-up bar
2. a second water spout for the splash pad

The City has to prepare the re-design incorporating any possible suggested changes this week; it will then finalize the plan and send it to tender; the plan should be executed by the end of the Fall 2010 as the money must be spent by around February 2011.

i. Mirvish Liason Group

Tim Grant reported that currently there are no major plans and that there is a process in place to engage the Mirvishes and the neighbouring communities if and when a development proposal for the SW corner of Bloor and Bathurst.

j. Chair's Report

Crime Maps for HV: After the police mentioned at our February meeting that their Division could furnish us with maps showing where the reported sexual assaults, break & enters and general assaults, I emailed PC Robert Gris on February 17th and called his office a week later, but have received nothing to date.

Brunswick contra lane: Councillor Vaughan's office will invite all Brunswick residents to a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss establishing a "**contra**" bike lane on the west side of the street from College to Bloor this Summer. (A contra lane allows cyclists to safely ride the "wrong" way on a one way street.)

Harbord Village Solar Share project: Two weeks ago, David Booz and I met with officials from the Toronto Renewable Energy Co-operative and the Toronto District School Board to discuss renting school roofs for large arrays of solar electric panels, paid for by neighbours, who will earn a decent return on their investment. A TREC proposal will be sent to the TDSB this week. If approved and the roof of either King Edward or Central Tech schools is determined to be solar-ready, we will be asking for the board's endorsement of a **Harbord Village Solar Share** project.

Bathurst and Harbord traffic study: Dale Duncan informed me that Transportation Services staff did a review of this intersection 5 years ago at Councillor Pantalone's request, but did not recommend that changes be made. She will follow up with Councillor P's office and Transportation Services, likely requesting that a new study be undertaken.

6. Other Business

a. HVRA Website Manual for Legalizing Existing Basement Apartments

Colin Furness summarized his reasons for suggesting a guide for legalizing basement apartments based on his personal experience.

It was agreed that as a 1st step, the Chair will send a letter to Chief City planner, with a copy to Councillor Vaughan, requesting clarification of the process.

b. Endorsing the Efforts to Honour W & M Huston

Tim Grant's report: Oscar-winning actor Walter Huston and his mezzo-soprano sister Margaret lived at 11 Major Street with their parents from 1894-96. Richard Longley would like a formal endorsement of his efforts to promote the Toronto roots of these cultural luminaries, culminating in a statue at the Major-College parkette.

Tim suggested that if the board agrees, he would provide Mr. Longley with a general letter of endorsement on HVRA letterhead that he could submit as needed to various cultural bodies. All except one member agreed.

c. Topic & Speaker Suggestions for Spring meeting

Green roofs – Steven Peck will be approached
Termites – Richard from Aetna Pest Control Ltd. will be asked

d. Graffiti

Colin Furness summarized last Oct. efforts – 24 student volunteers from Police Academy – great job. Two main things learned: a/ need oil primer & b/ there is evidence that if graffiti is painted over, the problem is greatly reduced.
Colin's recommendation is education of residents & asking manufacturers to donate paint. The Chair and members thanked Colin for his great efforts.

e. Co-sponsoring and cost-sharing a Mayoralty Debate in May

Tim Grant asked the members about HVRA participating in the May 12/13 event. The cost to HVRA would be about \$200. The potential venues are Trinity St. Paul or the Great hall at Hart House. All were in favour.

f. Volunteer Appreciation motion - Richard and Gus

After some discussion, the board reaffirmed that the motion would be put before the members at our upcoming Spring meeting, without indicating how many board members were in support or opposed to the motion.

g. Advertising political and cultural events

The board had no comments to make about the events that had been included in the Chair's monthly email blasts.

h. Design Competition for Brunswick-College Parkette:

On March 10th, Richard Longley and Tim Grant met with Councillor Vaughan and staff to discuss their co-sponsoring a design competition for this bleak parkette. While it will be 4-5 years before City funding is available to rehabilitate this space, a design competition - open to architects and architectural students at York, U of T and Ryerson - could create a buzz that attracts non-City funding, and/or generates inexpensive ideas to that could be used to animate the parkette over the next few years. Vaughan agreed to co-sponsor the competition, and suggested St. Stephen's as a partner that might operate a business there, such as a magazine kiosk. St. Stephen's is interested.

i. Fall Fair

Laura Bradbury reported that she filed the application with the City and they confirmed receipt.

j. Harbord St. Volunteer Flower Pot Committee

Wendy Smith has volunteered to revitalize the old Harbord Street Volunteer Flower Pot Committee to take over care of the neglected large flower pots in front of businesses on Harbord Street. The pots are owned by the Harbord Street B.I.A. and in the past the volunteer committee was organized through the BIA. HVRA has permission from the BIA to take over care of the pots, and the BIA has agreed to reimburse us for related expenses. It was agreed that bills will be submitted to our Treasurer, who will forward them to the BIA for reimbursement.

Meeting adjourned at about 9pm