

**Harbord Village Resident's Association
Board MINUTES
Tuesday, March 18, 2008 7pm
Kensington Gardens**

In attendance: Tim Grant (acting chair), Wendy Duff, Katrina McHugh, Stuart Schoenfeld, Samiha Sayed, Gus Sinclair, Sue Dexter, David Booz, Jane Perdue, Leslie Thompson (acting secretary)

Guests: Andrew Everton, Steven Webber from Ryerson University

Regrets: Richard Gilbert, Colin Furness, Eva Janecek-Rucker, Bachir Rabbat, Margaret Beare

1. Minutes for February 19, 2008 meeting approved subject to inclusion of the financial report. Moved by Wendy Duff, seconded by Samiha Sayed

2. Development Mapping:

Adam Vaughn asked the Ryerson School for Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of Community Services, to develop some planning tools for communities. Dr. Steven Webber's students (represented by Andrew Everton) have developed a map overlay tool to analyze current and potential development. It can be used to identify where opportunities for change exist and where development is not wanted. The planning students also developed a report card for neighborhoods to use as a development assessment tool and for developers to get a sense of what the community would support.

Andrew described how the project started with property data maps. Then historic structures and infrastructure were added. There are about 13 layers. It can be used by the neighbourhood to analyze potential development. At this stage, the students want to consult with the community to understand what the community values and prioritize so it can be reflected in the structure of the report card tool. Eventually the tool and the report will be "sold" to the communities that are involved for \$500. Adam's office will invoice us. It will be accessible on his website.

Questions:

How will this work with Bloor visioning? It will give another dimension to the map. The info will be incorporated in another layer.

Did they start with the City's plan? The students looked at current zoning in the plan. They wanted to build on the official plan. In their analysis they found that sometimes the opportunities were not used.

In the future Dr. Webber will be looking for other planning projects for the students. He asks HVRA to keep this in mind if there are projects the students could help with.

Dr. Steven Webber lives in Harbord Village and is a member of HVRA.

Committees

Solar

- Downtown West Solar Project meeting tomorrow evening (March 19, 2008) at St. Vladimir's on Spadina. Currently the penetration of solar in the hood is about 8 residents.

Membership:

- Treasurer still cannot get the Pay Pal notices. Gus will work with Leslie to remedy this.
- A member's check bounced. HVRA was charged \$7.00 by the Royal Bank. The Board decided not to take any action.

Zoning:

- 578 Spadina - a house behind a house that violates zoning. Architect submitted a plan 3 weeks ago to the community. The new plan has 3 apartments in the house. A basement door links the 4th apartment, which takes up the rest of the lot. Gus has alerted the Councilor's office and notified the architect, Francis Pointe, that HVRA had problems with the process and the plan.
- Nothing happening with Planetarium so far. ROM is directing ventilation from the restaurants into Philosopher's walk. Adam Vaughn's office has expressed the community's concern.
- Central Tech is putting a big cooler on the roof. Some neighbours are concerned about the noise in the summer. It was suggested that we need to know about the decibel rating from the Toronto District School Board. Neighbors should call Chris Bolton at TDSB.

Communications:

- Newsletter deadline is coming up soon. Updates were assigned as follows: Gus - farmer's market; Sue - U of T and earth hour results; Tim - Pumpkin Night and Treeing Our Village; Michael Kerman - the community dance; Richard Longley - Adopt-a-tree project.
- Spring meeting is also coming up. Agenda topics suggested included: green roofs; the farmer's market and the development planning tool described tonight by Andrew Everton. Adam Vaughn will also be invited to speak.

U of T Liaison:

- Pontarini won the University of Toronto Law School Library competition. The board was informed that there is discussion to protect the Queen's Park vista looking south from Bloor.

Trees:

- Public meeting next Thursday (March 27). Event should be on website.
- Todd Irvine LEAF will lead a tour of trees in our neighbourhood on May 10th 2-4 (Annex and HV). Will be included in newsletter.
- Application was made to Ontario Arts Council for Arts in Community Grant with Leslie Thompson to support the Adopt-a-tree initiative. The artist would make and frame photographs of the tree adopters and their trees, to be hung on their premises and potentially exhibited.

Farmers' Market

- The Farmers' Market will have a soft opening on the first or second Wednesday in June. The official opening party will be at the end of June when more produce is in season. A color flyer (supplied by Bob Chorny) will be distributed in Harbord Village and the Annex. Banners will mark the spot and advertise the event. HVRA will have a booth (and corn roast later in the season). All the produce and raw materials will be from Ontario. The name of the market is not yet determined. Borden below Bloor or B3 was suggested.

4. Problems with Commercial Establishments in HVRA

Comfort Zone:

Raid on Sunday morning at the Comfort Zone: 135 people were taken away, 15 were charged, drugs were found, and money found. It is described in the press as a drug supermarket. Adam Vaughn's office has asked HVRA to send a letter describing the community's problems with the establishment and its patrons such as noise, vandalism, verbal abuse and harassment. HVRA has had meetings in the past about problems with the Comfort Zone. Nothing was done by the police until now. Gus and Tim will write right a letter on behalf of HVRA.

Tiger Bar:

The board asked why the illegal club (Tiger Bar) at Lippincott and College is also allowed to keep going. Their license is for one establishment, but there are two. HVRA has followed up with the police and yet it still keeps going. Jane and Gus will write another letter.

Tati Bistro:

Tati Bistro is one to watch for noise as well, particularly once the patio opens in the summer. The proprietor has had other restaurants closed down.

Reps should be aware of residents who are disturbed by the noise or other problems.

9. How do we tell non-English speaking neighbours about free trees?

We have a \$25,000. grant for trees and we want everyone to be able to participate. The concern is that the non-English language groups are part of the community too. How will we encourage their involvement? The Tree Committee is prepared to get interpreters to translate and knock on appropriate doors. However, it was noted that when the Solar project provided a translation contact, no one took advantage of it. The City website shows us what languages are spoken in the neighbourhood, but does not tell us where for example, to drop off a Portuguese brochure.

Discomfort was expressed by some board members with regards to privacy issues and the potential of unintended consequences of identifying linguistic groups. It was suggested that as an alternative, the Committee translate the brochure into the languages noted in the census information. In addition, it was also suggested that people be invited to get a tree for themselves and their neighbours