

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday March 19, 2013, 7pm
Kensington Gardens

In attendance: Tim Grant, Angie Andreoli, Eleanor Levine, Sue Dexter, Wendy Smith, Gail Misra, Carmen Gauthier, Graham Rempe, Stephen Klein, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch, Lindan Toole and Eva Janecek.

Regrets: Mark Treleaven, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Neil Stephenson

Guests: Julia and John, residents of Bathurst St. and Talia Klein, Steve's daughter

1. Chair's Welcome extended to all

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gail Seconded by Eva – approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 18, 2013 Meeting

Moved by Steve and seconded by Eleanor; approved with the following corrections
#5. ...survey tool for the 1st time *this year* and correct spelling "Janecek"

4. Treasurer's report

Carmen reported that late payments from the Environmental Cleanup for 2012 were received. She also mentioned that there were some expenditures from 2012 that were paid recently such as Post box, Corra and Architectural Cons., bank fees, the membership banner, two flyer distributions and a graffiti honorarium charge.

Carmen also reported that the Budget subcommittee met and that they discussed many issues and reached conclusions on 3 points:

1/ it should be the Board that approves the budget; approval should not wait till the next AGM

2/ since the introduction of the concept of separating "project" and "general HVRA" funds, the question was asked "what is a project?" A project was defined as a one-time initiative with an end.

It was agreed that since "Flower Pots" and "Clean-up" are on-going initiatives, they should be moved from "project" to the "general" funds. This would also allow the Board to supplement money should there be a shortfall.

The current projects are: Heritage Districts, Community Trees, Oral History and Friends of Margaret Fairley Park (HVRA plays a role of banker only).

Wendy asked for clarification regarding Flower Pots funds received from the BIA. She was assured that the Flower Pots committee will be able to use all the money received and if needed, the Board will be in a better position to supplement the funds if need be.

Wendy also asked about a discrepancy between budgeted amount and existing funds for Oral History. She was assured that "project" funds are there to be spent by the respective projects regardless of the projected budget.

Steve moved that the Board adopt the budget as previously submitted. Seconded by Sue. Carried.

5. Discussion items (Sequence varied from Agenda)

a. What should be our take-always from the survey results?

Christian discussed the highlights of the recent member survey: about 100 residents responded which represents about 25% response rate. Christian looked at the responses from 2 perspectives: 1/ measure of importance and 2/ measure of intensity.

There were 6 out of 20 items that were rated of high importance (>70%) and 6 items that were rated as top 3 (intensity). The following items overlapped on the importance and intensity:

- i/ U of T plans (77%, 38% top 3)
- ii/ disturbances caused by drinkers
- iii/ illegal buildings (renovations without permits)
- iv/ by-law enforcement

The two that didn't overlap were: construction that threatens heritage trees and trash in laneways.

Members thanked Christian for a very informative analysis of the survey.

Christian agreed to write a report on the survey for the Newsletter.

b. Suggestions for guest speakers at HVRA's Spring Meeting

- i/ Tim agreed to approach the new U of T president Meric Gertler to speak about his vision of the relationship between the U of T and the community.
- ii/ Wendy was asked and agreed to speak about her Toronto Park Lot Project.

c. Vote whether HVRA should oppose U of T plans to replace grass on its Back Campus fields with synthetic turf

As a result of new information a number of members changed their vote from the last Board meeting and therefore the issue was brought back to the Board.

Eva moved that HVRA should oppose U of T plans to replace grass on its Back Campus fields with synthetic turf. Angie seconded. 9 agreed, 1 opposed and 2 abstained. Carried.

d. Should HVRA financially support the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market for \$500?

Gail moved that HVRA should financially support the Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market for \$500.

Eleanor seconded. Carried unanimously.

Suggestion was made to ask Palmerston Residents' Association for donation.

6. Committee Reports

- a) Yard sale:** James reported that several sponsors have been procured; transportation for the tables and a raffle prize have been donated and the flyer is almost completed. Hitoshi corner has been secured and Marilyn received donations of several expensive items for the community table. Ads will be going to local papers and to Wendy for the HVRA website. James will provide Tim with a wish list for volunteers (number and what they are needed for).
- b) Community liaison:** Christian reported on the OMB vs. Toronto at the Ontario Legislature: 2nd reading of a Bill that would liberate Toronto from OMB passed the 2nd reading and is going to Finance Committee.
- c) Zoning:** Tim reported that he canvassed neighbours of 364 Lippincott regarding the >1.3 variance and a garage that was too close to the laneway. The result was that if the variance is decreased and the garage is moved back, there would not be opposition to the application.
- d) Communications:** In Mark's absence Tim noted that the deadline for the Newsletter is March 26th. Mark received 3 baby pictures but more are needed.
Articles for the Newsletter:
Survey – Christian
Market – Eleanor
Pictures of Yard Sale
U of T – Sue
Clean-up –Neil
Graffiti – Sue
Spring Meeting date
History Project update and a request for more volunteers to be interviewed
- e) Website:** Wendy reported that she received the missing September minutes. Items to be uploaded include the pool opening. She is awaiting information regarding the Spring Clean-up, the Yard Sale, and the Spring Meeting.
- f) U of T liaison:** Sue reported that next week there will be 3 days of mediation at OMB regarding 245 College St. The proposed building sits at 24 stories which is too high. There is some move on the part of UofT to have more ownership in running the student life program. The community will get more comfort if the UofT runs it like a student residence. Question "how to capture the discussion and conclusions legally and make it binding on both the University and the developer" still remains. If negotiations break down, July 2 is set for an OMB hearing.
- g) History:** Wendy reported that we have been invited to an event hosted by the

Canadian Union of Postal Workers, launching a poster commemorating Albert Jackson, Toronto's first black mailman. Wendy reminded us that Jackson owned property in HV and we named one of our laneways after him. The ceremony will be this Sunday afternoon (March 24) and will be attended by a number of Jackson family descendents. It promises to be very moving. Wendy will e-mail members the invitation for further details.

h) Spring Clean-Up: Neil filed the following written report:

Finances

I am pleased to report that we have secured 2 new cash sponsorships for the HVRA Community Clean-up: *RBC* and *The Porretta Team at Forest Hill Real Estate*.

Both *RBC* and *The Poretta Team* will be taking Gold Sponsorships which will result in an extra \$1400 of cash revenue for 2013.

With the addition of *Bloor Annex BIA* as a Silver Sponsor as well as increased sponsorship fees from *HSBIA*, *Scotiabank* and *CIBC*, the HVRA Clean-up is projected to raise \$3800 in revenue for 2013- up from \$1400 in 2012.

I have submitted a budget forecast to Carmen for the 2 events in 2013. I estimate that I will require \$2800 of this money for our 2 events in 2013 (this is a conservative estimate and I hope to spend less). It is therefore expected that we will have at least a \$1000 surplus for 2013.

I fully support Carmen's view that these funds should be credited to the HVRA General Account- and not be held in a special Clean-up Project Account. The reason is, as I commented at the last Board meeting, that these revenues are sponsorship fees that HVRA is earning through the provision of good and valuable consideration to our sponsors. These monies are not donations. As such, it is legally correct that this revenue should come into HVRA as general revenue and it is HVRA's prerogative to spend this money as it deems fit.

While that is the technically correct position from the legal viewpoint, the next question is: how should this surplus be allocated?

It is the view of the Clean-up Subcommittee (where this issue was specifically discussed at our first meeting last week) - that this surplus money should be directed toward HVRA's graffiti initiatives. Our reasoning was as follows:

1. Both HVRA's clean-up work and its anti-graffiti work are closely related.
2. Both activities seek to improve HVRA's overall environmental cleanliness.
3. None of our cash sponsors would have any philosophical objection to the idea that surplus money from our clean-up revenues might be used to support anti-graffiti initiatives.

Our committee however felt that the HVRA anti-graffiti effort cannot and should not exclusively rely on surplus monies from the HVRA clean-up events. We envision this surplus money for

2013 as providing "seed money" for a new "HVRA Graffiti Fund" - which can hopefully be "topped up" by *HSBIA* and by other donors, sponsors and funders. Adam Vaughan and Neil Wright both indicated at the recent Graffiti Summit that they could assist in securing money for this new Graffiti Fund.

Spring Event

As mentioned above, a new Clean-up Subcommittee has been struck. It is made up of the following people:

1. Myself (Chair)
2. Steve Barnes
3. Stephen Simpson
4. Robin Penslar
5. Frankie Porretta
6. Lucas Treleven

We held our first meeting on March 12/13 and various roles and responsibilities were assigned.

The next event will be held at *Splendido* on Sunday, April 21 in deference to the HV Jewish community, who requested a date change to allow their participation. However, if we are rained out on April 21, the rain date will be the following Saturday, April 27 at *Splendido*. (same timings)

The event on April 21 will involve another red carpet production with full support from *NAGs Players*. A script has been sent to *NAGs* (similar to last time) and a jazz quartet has been hired for the after-party.

The latest draft of the HVRA flyer will be submitted to Tim for approval next week and then in for printing and distribution shortly after that.

i) Graffiti: Sue reported that the Summit went well. Councilor Vaughan suggested that a letter to be written to all hardware stores in the neighborhood requesting that spray cans not be sold to teenagers, especially toward the weekend. Another suggestion was made to have residents strike a graffiti committee that will have a connection to the Board. Details to be determined. There is a plan to reclaim lane by lane with area reps to call a meeting of each lane in question. Sue acknowledged that cleaning up graffiti requires hard work and persistence but they are seeing good results in her area. So far there have been 2 arrests and one case is in the courts now. POSER, the most notorious offender has been arrested along with FARIO, another prominent tagger. Home Hardware will be approached to help with paint supplies.

k) Membership: Gail reported that there is a glitch with the program. When Gail sends an e-mail blast re: membership renewal, the system sends e-mails to members who have already paid despite Gail updating the information. She will notify Calvin.

I) Additional reports:

Emerald Ash borer issue – Sue says three Ash trees have been identified on Major Street and the homeowners are being contacted regarding measures to be taken to ensure their safety against the pest.

Central Tech anniversary - Eleanor mentioned that this year marks the 100th anniversary of Central Tech. She said they are looking for people to take part in the celebration. Next year will mark the 100th anniversary of the first graduating class.

7. Chair's report:

a) We now have tour guides in place for Jane's Walks on May 4 and 5 and Doors Open on May 25 and 26.

b) On March 4, twenty people attended a meeting at Q Space to provide feedback about their upcoming patio application.

c) Momo's Restaurant will close April 15, and I will organize a neighbourhood thank you dinner soon. The new owner of the building is wavering between keeping a restaurant or restoring the 3 original basement apartments in that space.

d) April 12 is the submission deadline for HVRA's first-ever Student Essay Competition.

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm