

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 7pm
Kensington Gardens

Attendance: Tim Grant, Gus Sinclair, Jane Perdue, Sue Dexter, Neil Stephenson, Carmen Gauthier, Richard Gilbert, Wendy Smith, Eleanor Levine, Christian Mueller, James Murdoch

Regrets: Eva Janecek, Gail Misra, Graham Rempe, Stuart Schoenfeld, Angie Andreoli, Steve Klein

1. Chair's Welcome

2. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Gus, Seconded by Richard

3. Approval of minutes of February 21, 2012

Moved by James, Seconded by Carmen

4. Treasurer's report

Carmen reports HVRA is in a good financial position with a cash balance of \$3908, plus 2 GICs, each worth \$5000. Meanwhile, she reports IT improvements have cost \$1850 and renewed subscriptions for the new year have reached \$392. On-line Hosting and a renewal of our annual subscription to Survey Monkey, PO box and memberships to ratepayers associations and bank fees have been reported. A move from fiscal year reporting to calendar year is almost complete. There was a discussion over projects' cost accounting. It was agreed that a separate accounting breakout for granting projects be made and included in account reporting.

Richard moved, Seconded by Wendy.

5. Committee Reports

a. (Membership) – Gail reports that renewal notices will go out in April.

She is working on getting a renewal system in place for early April. Richard pushed for website interface for membership renewal. Tim will meet with Gail first week of April to organize.

b. Community Liaison – Tim reported on plans for a new building at U of T on Devonshire.

c. Zoning – no report

d. Communications – Richard has asked that the HVRA renew its subscription to the polling company Survey Monkey. He suggests a twice yearly survey of residents – before the fall AGM and the spring newsletter. The renewal was agreed to but it was suggested to wait and sort out what the questions or focus of the survey could be. Christian felt a survey could improve events. Carmen felt it could help to focus on issues facing residents like graffiti or the dealing with the Ash bore beetle. Christian will lead a

committee to learn surveying. He feels priorities have to be established so that we are selective, targeted, focused and effective.

Richard pointed out that the Newsletter deadline is end of March. Items to be included are a Cyril Greenland tribute by Gus. Richard Longley will be asked for a look at the plans for the Brunswick-College Parkette. There will be a Laneway update by Gus. U of T report by Sue. A History project update will include anecdotes by Eleanor. Yard sale plans and Community cleanup.

e. Website – Wendy reports meeting minutes are up to date. James will get the rest done. There was a discussion on whether to include resource information for residents on legalization of basement suites.

f. U of T Liaison Sue reports the 245 College proposal is going to OMB – A report on the Emerald Ash borer has been done by a student and its determined that all ash trees are on city property. Collaboration with the city to battle the bug is being explored. Issues have been raised over neighbourhood disruption with the U of T and New College.

Tim reported on a meeting with University of Toronto Schools in which an idea was floated to use a part of Robert Street field for a three or four story building. Discussions are very preliminary on this.

g. Heritage – Sue informed us we're on the list on heritage expansion district as it's going to council. Wendy flagged the issue of insurance impact from heritage designation.

h. History – Eleanor reports 21 people have been interviewed so far. She feels people are happy to be interviewed and like to share anecdotes about their love for the neighbourhood. Richard wants to attempt to get a more substantial report about the heritage project in the newsletter. Richard proposed spending some money to get some interviews transcribed. He will be working on a application to the Trillium Foundation for more transcriptions. The board authorized an expenditure of up to \$500 to provide the some interview transcriptions.
Moved by Sue, seconded by Wendy.

i. Spring Clean-Up –Neil reports 34 sponsors are on board. Merchants have responded well. Publicity is key now and to spreading the word - crucial. Recruiting is a priority. He also reports all three schools are on board to do something on the day before the event. Richard liked what Neil has done but feels there is an intrusion on the Fall Fair contributors and the struggle to acquire items for the silent auction. Neil prefers to not upset the current sponsor contributors so far by diverting some of their donations to the Fall Fair. The Board agreed it is important from this point on to keep lists of who has been asked to contribute to what HVRA cause.

j. Spring Yard Sale – Christian, James & Steve report Saturday May 5 and rain date of May 12 will be the day for the first community yard sale. Tables are to be rented to residents who need them. For those who have items but do not have a yard, they can

either donate the items to a community table or sell items from a central location to be determined.

k. Graffiti – Tim reports that a new model to control graffiti has been explored. A crew can be hired part time for cleanup involving power wash and paint over. They will work in the neighbourhood block by block and create a process to manage the graffiti. It was pointed out that it can't be eradicated but it can be controlled somewhat. If homeowners work on covering tags, it takes longer for them to come back. The project will need volunteers. Residents will be encouraged to pay a minimal charge to use the service.

m. Laneways – Gus reports five lane names are going forward for approval. The rest will be reworked to gain approval. Gus will be consulting with those involved. Some others may need renaming.

n. Neighbourhood disruption – Sue reports that March 17 brought many complaints about rowdy and threatening behaviour from rooming and student housing on Spadina Ave and Robert Street. Trespassing, drunken behaviour, broken glass and property damage had residents asking for help to deal with the problem. Police did not respond to complaints for 20 hours. There are a number of forms of student housing including university residences, campus co-op housing and off campus rooming houses. Student co-ops are exempt from rooming house bylaws. Sue would like to form a working group to explore special zoning in the catchment area for housing. Neil thought civil litigation against landlords could be an outlet to solve the issue and that police have to be held accountable. Jane feels that the College and Bathurst area needs special attention in this area as well as businesses need help to deal with rowdy behaviour late night on weekends. Richard felt the change could be brought about through enforcement of fire regulations.

Richard is to discuss a joint patrol with MLS on illegal rooming houses in the area. It was agreed that an email requesting the support of the councilor be sent.

6. Chair's Report

Tim says that a presentation on researching house history will be given at the Spring meeting.

Adjournment at 9:20