

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING GENERAL MEETING

May 26, 2009
Kensington Gardens
7 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Gus Sinclair, who welcomed all to the meeting. A record number, over 70, area residents were in attendance.

Agenda and copies of the Treasurer's report were made available before the meeting began.

Area Caucuses: The meeting broke into the Area Caucuses for discussion of local issues, with the following reported back to the entire group.

North East

Concerns raised:

1. The laneway that runs behind The Brunswick House and Kinko's is deeply rutted and almost impassable in winter and is often full of garbage, etc.
2. Garbage pick-up is a problem on our narrow streets and the containers themselves are unsightly
3. Graffiti in laneways is a concern but residents are pleased with the plan to work with police and hire kids who are graffiti artists.
4. Garbage pickers are becoming a problem since they come right up to your house or porch and go through the bins (again highlighting the fact that the bins are too large and not easily stowed on our properties).

South East

Concerns raised:

1. Garbage in laneways and in front of student houses
2. The large size of garbage and recycling bins
3. Noise from tenant-occupied houses on Spadina

4. The slow pace of approval for the HCD on Robert St.

North West

1. Concern was expressed about the rowdyism at bar closing time on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. When there is a police presence, there is no trouble, but when there is not, there is. The 14th Division is notified frequently, but they are focused on the Entertainment District.
One person from the top of Brunswick said she was at the meeting representing a number of residents who are concerned about the rowdyism as well. She said that there are pools of blood on the street and sidewalk on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The young people seem to be fighting with broken beer bottles and so on.
2. The other main concern is the Central Tech high school kids who loiter around the school and in the upper Croft street lane. The police bicycle patrols are effective, but David say that he hasn't see a single one this fall. The students leave litter and vandalize the parking areas and cars of the residents. They can also be belligerent and intimidating for the residents.
3. There is also lots of graffiti. One resident spoke to a school VP about students working off their community hours removing graffiti.
4. There was also some concern about the noise from skateboarders and the garbage bins.

HVRA Business

HERO

Sue Dexter

Gus introduced Sue who summarized the achievements of the HERO projects to date.

Treasurer's Report

Leslie Thompson

Leslie reported that the HVRA account is healthy; no problems to report.

Tree Committee

Tim Grant

Tim requested donations for the tree committee

Community Recognition Citation

Gus Sinclair

The Citation was awarded to Helen Breslaw by Gus. Helen was nominated by Catherine Spears

Garbage Bins

Joe O'Neil

Joe O'Neil of Waste Management, City of Toronto briefly summarized that status of garbage & recycling containers and concluded that "they are here to stay". However he did mention the ability to opt for bags if eligible (assessed by Waste Management staff). Residents had numerous questions and concerns about containers blocking sidewalk access on pick up days, noise, collectors throwing empty containers after emptying them, etc. Mr. O'Neil agreed to take some of the concerns back to his staff.

Toronto Water

Marc Cooper

Marc reported on a City program to replace pipes that might be contaminating water with lead. Houses with lead content of >10ppb have priority.

Residents can get more information on the program and on how to get their water tested from the web: www.toronto.ca/water/lead

Adam Vaughan

Councillor Adam Vaughan gave an update on various community issues.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.