

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 7pm, Kensington Gardens
Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant (Chair), Sue Dexter, Carmen Gauthier (Treasurer), Carlo Drudi, Bob Stambula, Christian Mueller, Margaret Procter, Steve Klein, James Murdoch, Carolee Orme, Gail Misra, Eva Janecek (Secretary).

Regrets: Gus Sinclair, Jane Perdue, Paula Gallo, Marilyn Martin, Caroline Macfarlane

1. Chair's welcome extended to all.

2. Approval of the agenda.

Moved by Gail Misra, seconded by Steve Klein. Approved with additions.

3. Approval of minutes

- a) approval of September 15, 2015 meeting minutes was moved by Sue Dexter and seconded by Margaret Procter. Approved.
- b) acceptance of AGM minutes of October 20, 2015 was moved by Steve Klein, seconded by Gail Misra. Accepted with corrections.

4. Business arising from minutes

- a) Tim Grant confirmed that the \$250 designated for Central Technical School Centennial plaque was donated to the CTS Alumni Association.
- b) Carolee Orme reported that more volunteers are needed for the Christmas Carol event to be held at Trinity St. Paul's Church. Carmen Gauthier and Eva Janecek agreed to help with receiving donations at the door.

5. Discussion items

a) Planning issues

After a lengthy discussion of what the HVRA Board does, what it should do in the future and how it should best function to fulfil its mandate, Gail Misra moved: That a date be set for the Board to participate in a mission and value-setting exercise, leading to a working session to determine the optimal Board structure and configuration of working groups to achieve the Board's ongoing mandate and priorities. That, in the interim for the Planning Committee, the Board endorse the guiding principles of "minimum height/density, maximum separation, good step downs to the neighbourhood, on-site green space, preservation of heritage, ensuring pedestrian realm and adequate infrastructure in the context of a plan for the whole street, developed through adequate consultation"; and, also that in the interim the Planning Committee may utilize as a sounding board the advisory sub-committee it used during the CTS dome proceedings. Seconded by Steve Klein. Carried.

b) Debrief of Pumpkin Festival, Silent Auction and Fall Fair

It was noted that the excellent weather and an empty store front contributed to the overall success of the Pumpkin Festival and Silent Auction. Carmen Gauthier reported that revenue from the Silent Auction was \$3103 including a \$100 donation from the Harbord BIA. The expenses were \$2042 less \$789 credit from Chandlers

and Police services (to be used towards next year's costs) leaving net expenses at \$1253. The overall profit is \$1850.

However, it was also pointed out that there needs to be a better organization of the Silent Auction in general, disbursing the Silent Auction items and the clean-up of pumpkins after the event. Attempts should be made to close Harbord St between Spadina and Bathurst for the Festival.

Many of the concerns expressed were related to lack of volunteers and volunteer coordinators. It was agreed that the Festival is a valuable community builder and that early planning of next year's Festival should alleviate many of this year's shortcomings.

c) **Website study**

Margaret Procter reported that Colin Furness will review the website study report in the near future and that there will be a meeting at which a mock website will be presented.

6. Committee Reports

a) **Treasurer's report** - Carmen Gauthier reported, in addition to 5b information above, that the membership accounts for \$3265 to-date.

b) **Membership** – Gail Misra reported that there are 113 members paid up for 2016. Gail also mentioned that 56 people renewed their membership at the AGM and one new person signed up. Twenty-one people renewed and 2 new signed up at the Pumpkin Festival.

c) **Community liaison** – no report

d) **Zoning** – no report

e) **Communications and website** - Margaret Procter reported that graduate student, Liz Martin, has finished her study of the HVRA website and that her supervisor Colin Furness will review her report soon. It will then be circulated by email to Board members. Liz and Colin will present a mockup of potential website structures in the near future.

f) **U of T liaison** – no report

g) **Heritage** – no report

h) **Flowerpots** – Marilyn Martin reported via email that she started the winter planters with cedar trees and dogwood and will likely add to them a bit over the week if the materials are available. She asked that if anyone has winter greens to share, to let her know.

i) **Gardeners** – no report

j) **Area reps report** - Margaret Procter reported that the resident's initiative to slow down traffic on Major St. from College to Ulster has resulted in the City's agreement to install speed bumps. This is a change from the previous plan to have cars parked in clusters alternating on both sides of the street. However, the decision to install

speed bumps needs to be confirmed through a city-administered formal mailed poll, in which 50% of residents must mail in their ballots, with 60% of ballots voting yes.

Bob Stambula reported that several residents and Board members were at a very hastily put together meeting with the owner of the Brunswick House. The owner appears to be willing to work with the residents to: respect heritage values, lease the space over 20 years to a community oriented franchise - Boston Pizza, greening of the area. There were some contentious items such as the 72-76 seat patio on Brunswick Avenue and the hours of its operation. It's hoped that a town hall meeting will be called by the owner.

James Murdoch reported that fundraising for the Major Street Refugee Initiative has reached \$42,000. However, the group would like to reach their goal of \$50,000 for sponsoring a Syrian family. Details will be sent to residents via e-blast done by Margaret Procter.

Gail Misra noted that there are other groups in the community sponsoring Syrian families.

7. Chair's report. Tim Grant reported that

- a) a cider bar is taking over the former Loire Restaurant location on the SE corner of Major and Harbord. A meeting between the new owners and neighbours on Major Street will take place on December 16 from 7-9 in the boardroom at 25 Brunswick.
- b) Brunswick-College parkette tender is complete and is ready for fall construction. Naming will be done in collaboration of the City and the community.
- c) the Volunteer Appreciation Night is postponed until January 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm moved by Gail Misra, seconded by Carmen Gauthier