

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday September 15, 2015, 7 p.m., Kensington Gardens
Draft Minutes

In attendance: Tim Grant, Gail Misra, James Murdoch, Marilyn Martin, Carlo Drudi, Gus Sinclair, Margaret Procter, Steve Klein, Carolee Orme, Sue Dexter, Caroline Macfarlane, Bob Stambula, Carmen Gauthier

Regrets: Christian Mueller, Paula Gallo, Eva Janecek, Jane Perdue

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Tim welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Approval of the agenda**

The All Candidates Election Forum was added to the agenda for discussion under Committee Reports.

Moved by Gus Sinclair, seconded by Gail Misra, that the agenda be approved.
Approved.

3. **Approval of the minutes**

The Aug 18/2015 Board Meeting minutes were discussed. In Item 4(b) a change was made in the names of those who had undertaken to contact speakers. The minutes should reflect that Carolee Orme was responsible for Complete Streets.

The minutes should also be amended to say in Item 5(j) that Marilyn Martin reported that the businesses along Harbord have not been watering the planters sufficiently.

Item 5 (k) should be amended to say that Margaret Procter reported that several people noted that plants were stolen from the concrete planters at pinch points.

Moved by Steve Klein, seconded by Marilyn Martin, that the Minutes of the August 18, 2015 Board Meeting be adopted as amended. Approved.

4. **Discussion items**

(a) A Christmas Carol:

Carolee Orme attended as an invitee a Trinity-St. Paul's United Church meeting about this year's edition of A Christmas Carol at the church. The church would like to have a more community-based event, and asked if the HVRA would like to become co-sponsors, possibly along with the ARA. The HVRA would be expected to help with promotion and volunteers on the event night, December 7, 2015. The church would also like more community readers, especially celebrities, so any help in generating possibilities would be welcome.

Moved by Gus Sinclair, seconded by Carlo Drudi, that the HVRA will participate in the 2015 presentation of A Christmas Carol at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church.

(b) CTS Centennial plaque:

A plaque was posted in CTS with the HVRA name, but we have now heard that the HVRA should have been asked to pay \$250, which was the rate for non-profits to get their name on the wall, rather than the \$100 that was initially quoted. It is believed that the money goes to the Alumni Association.

Moved by Gus Sinclair, seconded by Steve Klein, that the HVRA pay a total of \$250 to CTS for the posting of the plaque, with the understanding that Tim Grant will check to ensure that the money is going to the Alumni Association. Approved.

(c) Yes In My Back Yard (YIMBY) Toronto:

Marilyn Martin reported that this is a movement in Toronto in opposition to NIMBY attitudes. They will be hosting an event on October 31, 2015 at the Ted Rogers School of Management Ryerson, 55 Dundas St. East, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. People can attend free of charge. There is a \$35 charge if the HVRA wanted to have a table. Following discussion it was decided that this information would go out in an email blast so that anyone who wishes to attend may do so.

(d) Purchasing lawn signs for the Pumpkin Fest:

Tim Grant reported that for the Fall Fair the HVRA had signs made up – 25 for \$165, and arranged for Board members, along with residents with corner lots, to get one to put up a week before the event. The question was whether we should get similar all weather signs for the Pumpkin Festival. The sign would say November 1, would be a part of a branding exercise for the HVRA, and can be re-used year after year. The Board was advised that we may not be able to use the same printers we used last time as they took much longer than had been anticipated, and as such, it may be more expensive to print the signs this time through another printer. It was decided that we should set an upper limit for the cost, aim to have the sign done with some colour, and HVRA should approach the BIA to see if it will help pay for the signs. The Board discussed getting the signs instead of doing the usual flyers, especially as the Newsletter will be going out soon before the Pumpkin Fest.

There was a discussion about whether we should defer this issue till the Board had a chance to discuss revenue considerations since we do not have the Fall Fair revenues to pay for things in the coming year. A discussion ensued about the cancellation of the Fall Fair, which also led to a report being given by the Treasurer.

(e) Treasurer's Report:

Carmen reported that there is \$3,600 in the bank, and the HVRA owes about \$700 in bills. HVRA also has a \$5,000 contingency fund. We have used some of the budgeted contingency fund for the year (\$1,000), and have about \$300 or \$400 left in that account.

Carlo suggested that the HVRA consider amortizing some of its expenses on assets over more than one year, e.g. the lawn signs.

In the late Fall, Carmen will convene the budget committee again this year to prepare next year's budget.

Carmen would like to follow up with the Oral History project to get a final report as there is currently about \$3,000 still remaining in that project's fund. The HVRA had contributed \$2,500 from its own equity funds to that project. As well, the project received an award of \$1,000 and may get another one. All government commitments through Trillium have already been satisfied. Margaret Procter advised that the History Project committee is going to meet at the end of the month to discuss what they would like to do next, so the Board will wait to hear what the committee wants to do.

Carmen reported receiving an email from PayPal to verify information. She was encouraged not to respond unless others check the email too because there has been phishing going on.

(f) Cancellation of the Fall Fair:

Tim Grant reported that we had to cancel the Fall Fair due to impending bad weather. The cancellation of the Fall Fair is going to cost the HVRA for such items as the permit, BBQ rental (\$115), \$200 for flyers, \$165 on the lawn signs, all of which had to be paid for despite the cancellation of the event. However, all food was returned, most other companies agreed that there would be no charge for cancellations, and the lawn signs will be reusable in future years. Lost revenues included the usual membership renewals, food and alcohol sales, the bake sale, and the silent auction, which brings in between \$2,000 to 3,000 per year.

Five people had gone out to businesses to promote the Fall Fair, get items for the silent auction, and to advise businesses how they would get recognized – that names of the businesses would go into the Newsletter, and on the website. A lot of items were collected for the silent auction, and a discussion ensued about what to do with them in order to raise funds for the HVRA's various projects.

Following considerable discussion it was decided that the HVRA would seek an empty storefront on Harbord for the Pumpkin Fest to set up the silent auction, membership table and cider stand.

The silent auction will commence at the AGM on October 21, 2015; the highest bid on each item will be posted on the website thereafter, with a

contact email should anyone wish to make a further bid until November 1, 2015, at which time the silent auction will move to the Pumpkin Fest, where the bids will be closed. This will give people ample opportunity to participate, and may increase the number of potential bidders to include those who attend the Pumpkin Fest.

The silent auction will be publicized on the front page of the Newsletter, along with thanks to the donors, and notice that HVRA will also have a membership table both at the AGM and at the Pumpkin Fest.

HVRA received a pair of TFC tickets for September 26/15 and a photograph to auction. Given the timing, this item will be publicized on two email blasts, beginning as soon as possible. Caroline Mcfarlane agreed to have her email address used for the bids.

Steve Klein's suggestion that HVRA host a February indoor event that is more like the Fall Fair was tabled for now.

Following the discussion about HVRA finances and the silent auction, the Board returned to the question of whether we should purchase lawn signs for the Pumpkin Fest.

Moved by Gus Sinclair, seconded by Marilyn Martin, that HVRA purchase all weather lawn signs for the Pumpkin Fest, at a cost of up to \$156.
Approved

(g) Introductions by all Board Members:

It was agreed that this would best be done once the new Board has begun meeting. In the meantime, Steve Klein undertook to prepare a tool by which all board members could indicate their respective skills in a chart format, which could be updated as needed.

5. Committee Reports:

(a) Communications and Website:

Carlo Drudi reported having found someone to do the newsletter layout, but he has not received articles from a lot of people. If he does not get an article by the end of the week, it will not get into the newsletter. He would like a paragraph about A Christmas Carol, which Carolee will prepare.

Tim reported that the person who did the layout for the last newsletter was unable to do it again. As another person who did the ARA newsletter was also unavailable, Carlo found a college student, who has agreed to do it.

Moved by Sue, seconded by Carolee, that the HVRA give the layout volunteer an honorarium of \$100 after she has completed the layout of the newsletter. Approved.

Margaret Procter reported that a meeting was held with Colin Furness to discuss a new website. The committee agreed that the HVRA needs a new website rather than trying to tinker with the present one. Furness' graduate student will work on identifying the HVRA's needs this Fall by doing interviews, and will create a design. The design would then have to be implemented into a new website as the next stage. We may discuss an honorarium for this person once she is done her work, although she cannot be paid as the website design is part of her course work.

(b) Membership:

Gail Misra reported that there are 626 people on the current membership list; 222 renewed their memberships in 2015; and, 18 have renewed for 2016. We missed our major opportunity to renew memberships as a result of the cancellation of the Fall Fair, and this may impact membership renewal for 2016. Efforts will be made to ameliorate this.

(c) Community Liaison:

Gus Sinclair reported that the Federal All Candidates Meeting will be held on October 2, 2015 at 7 pm, with debate beginning at 7:30. It will be held at Bloor Street United Church. Five debaters have been confirmed, but the Conservatives have not responded, and are unlikely to participate.

Carolee Orme reported that residents in the Sussex/Spadina area are concerned about the U of T's plans for Sussex and Spadina. The University may have decided to go ahead with a proposal, but nothing has been confirmed at this time.

(d) Zoning:

Sue Dexter reported that for Beverley and College there is a new proposal for a 35-storey building.

The Honest Eds redevelopment group has set up a showroom to answer questions for walk-ins. The problem with that plan is that there is too little green space planned as presently envisaged.

The TOCore master plan is moving forward, and our area is trying to secede from being considered part of the downtown core.

There may be a planning regime developed for Bathurst and Bloor – which may have an impact on the Honest Eds project.

U of T wants to do shared streets. Robarts Library is doing an extension, but the plans include maintaining trees wherever possible. On Huron Street, the U of T may create a planning regime for the west campus.

(e) Heritage:

The City has listed a number of houses to be designated as heritage protected, and therefore saved, as part of the Honest Eds project in the Bathurst and Markham Street area.

(f) Gardeners:

Margaret Procter reported that Leslie Thompson has produced lovely little signs for the concrete planters. For the Fall Fair she had prepared a display of photos of the concrete gardens and the people who worked on them, and would like to bring that display to the AGM. It was agreed that she should be invited to do so.

(g) 3 Bs Project:

Sue Dexter reported that we may have a link with the Forestry Department at U of T to do a planting plan for the neighbourhood. Kahlin's plan is under revision for Joe Cressy's office, who calls it a Green Master Plan for Harbord Village. The goal would be to make the 3Bs project operational for the City in this neighbourhood so that if anyone is digging on a neighbourhood street, we can get pinch points and so on built, starting with the parkette at CTS, and then maybe rolling the planting plans out along Harbord.

6. AGM Schedule:

Tim Grant advised that we cannot have all the usual reports given at the AGM because of the time constraints created by having two speakers, along with the Councillor, who is always invited to speak at the general meetings. The Board decided that we would keep the Noise Bylaw speaker, and cancel the Complete Streets speaker.

Tim requested of Board members that if anyone does not wish to run again, to please advise him within the next two weeks.

Margaret Procter reminded the Board that we need to find a Director of Communications as that position was vacated by Wendy Smith earlier this year, and has not been officially filled since. Margaret has been doing a lot of the communications work since Wendy left. It was agreed that we should look for someone to fill the Director of Communications role as we begin to develop the new website. Caroline Macfarlane, who is already involved with the design committee, was invited to consider the position, and will do so.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Moved by Carolee Orme, seconded by Carlo Drudi

Minutes prepared by Gail Misra