

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING MEETING

May 13, 2008
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. Approximately 50 area residents were in attendance.

Copies of the Treasurer's report were made available before the meeting began.

Copies of the minutes of the October 2007 AGM will be made available at the next AGM meeting.

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

Congratulations to the Tree committee for their great work!

1. There is concern in the neighbourhood about lack of side-walk snow-clearing by home-owners/landlords and shovelling snow in-between cars resulting in a marked decrease of street parking.
2. Graffiti situation appears to be getting worse and so is the road condition of lane-ways in the area.
3. Concern was expressed about the height of buildings as per Bloor visioning study

South East

1. Noise and vandalism in the neighbourhood, especially from the Comfort Zone.
2. 72 Robert St. – an illegal rooming house; neighbors being threatened.
3. Rats

South Central

1. In addition to the above concerns, the residents noted that lamps and hydro posts are covered with many layers of ads and notices. Businesses do not clean them any more.

South West

1. Residents also expressed concern about lack of caring re snow, noise & garbage around houses owned by absentee landlords.

North West

1. In addition to the agreement with all of the above items, the main concern was the increase in graffiti in the neighbourhood.

HVRA Business

Treasurer's Report

Leslie Thompson

We have just over \$16,000 in the bank. The major expenses this year were the web site development. Gus also explained that there were additional (one time) expenses of \$1125 that were already paid by him and asked that the membership authorizes this amount.

Richard Gilbert moved to approve the payment of the “over-draft” of \$1125 plus GST be authorized to pay for the web expenses.

Seconded by Wendy Smith carried

A number of members who are knowledgeable about start-up costs of web-sites noted that HVRA web expenses so far were very reasonable.

Margaret Smith moved to accept the financial report without questions. Seconded by Bashir Rabbat. carried

Committee Reports

Farmers' Market

- Bob Chorney summarized the concepts of “MyMarket”
- The Farmers' Market will have a soft opening on June 4th June. The official opening will be on June 25th when more produce is in season. The last day will probably be Oct 29th.
- Banners will mark the spot and advertise the event. HVRA will have a booth (and there will be a strawberry fest and a corn roast later in the season).
- All the produce and ingredients for baked goods will be produced by the farmers themselves. Farms are from the green belt around Toronto.
- The location is the Lippincott parking lot (Bloor & Borden).

University of Toronto

Robarts Library extension up to Huron St. is planned.

College Street

Work is continuing on the clearway concept to have public space ensured. Any new sidewalk is currently taken over by patios. Minister has to clear the Pilot Project.

Solar Initiative

Sue Dexter shared with the group that her panels will shortly have generated 2,000 kwhr of electricity.

Treeing the City

Tim Grant recognized the extensive contribution of the volunteers on the Tree Inventory project. Their collective efforts made the project possible. Tim reviewed the activities since the last report: backyard tree planting in the fall, Central Tech students & the village arborist.

Community dance

Michael Kerman reminded everyone that the Community dance will take place on June 7th at Trinity St.Paul's Church and that no dancing experience is required.

Adam Vaughan

Councillor Adam Vaughan gave an update on various community issues.

- Efforts to curtail the noise and disruption coming from the night clubs in the area, which are very skilled at skirting the rules, e.g., bar/patios on Brunswick; the Transac Club; Labyrinth & Silver Dollar continue
- Recently there was a largest seizure of date rape drugs in the area
- Garbage and recycling bins are of great concern to a large number of residents; Adam invited residents by various means (incl. e-mail) to contact his office as well as the City to request a review of the available options.

Adam then asked the Ryerson Planning Students to present the Mapping project. A team of 5 students developed a map overlay tool to analyze current and potential development in the ward. These maps can be used to identify where opportunities for change exist and where development is not wanted. The planning students also developed a report card for neighbourhoods to use as a development assessment tool and for developers to get a sense of what the community would support.

The project started with property data maps. Then historic structures and infrastructure were added. There are about 13 layers. It can be used by the neighbourhood to analyze potential development. At this stage, the students want to consult with the community to understand what the community values and prioritize so it can be reflected in the structure of the report card tool. Eventually the tool will be accessible on Adam's website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.