

**Harbord Village Residents' Association
Annual Spring Meeting, May 20, 2014
Kensington Health Centre
Minutes**

In attendance for the Board: Rory Gus Sinclair, James Murdoch, Carolee Orme, Gail Misra, Steve Klein, Ian Mackenzie, Marilyn Martin, Jane Perdue, Margaret Procter, Carmen Gauthier, Wendy Smith, Mark Treleven

1. Chair's welcome extended to all of the approximately 58 people in attendance.

2. Chair's report

Gus provided an overview of the various issues in HV over the past six months including his taking the chair while Tim Grant is involved in the provincial election campaign.

Central Tech field - After public meetings, a Committee of Adjustment decision turning down the TDSB's request and several working group meetings that failed to reach any outcome, the TDSB will argue in Ontario Superior Court that it has the authority to do with the field as it wishes. The case will be heard May 27.

Brunswick College Parkette – Money is now available and work will go ahead in the fall.

A provincial all candidate forum will be held May 27 at Walmer Baptist Church at 6:30pm.

Laneway dedications – There will be a ceremony June 22 for Immergluck Lane.

3. Area caucuses The meeting broke into area caucuses for discussion of local issues. The following concerns were reported back to the group.

North East - James Murdoch

The main concern is the proposed development by the University of Toronto at the corner of Sussex and Spadina. The size of the building, the number of students being introduced to the area and access to the playing field are just some of the issues.

North West - Steve Klein

After street repairs were carried out on Brunswick, Borden and Sussex, the planter boxes have not been returned to their spots and in many cases the trees have been

cut off. Brunswick is badly potholed and so are the laneways. Minor repairs may not be enough. Graffiti continues to be an issue.

South West - Wendy Smith

The intersection of Borden and Ulster is becoming dangerous as cars are not stopping. Suggest police do a blitz and that there be a review of the signage. There is possibly a new townhouse development on Croft Street. Residents would like to find out more of what is proposed. There is a suggestion that HVRA develop more social activities to bring together the neighbourhood and that there ought to be a social director.

South Central - Marilyn Martin

There continues to be a dangerous situation of cars driving the wrong way on one way streets. There is a suggestion to have video surveillance and an increased police presence. There is a concern that some homeowners and landlords are being irresponsible by not picking up garbage bins and not shoveling their sidewalks. There is an issue of construction trucks blocking laneways.

South East - Ian Mackenzie

Graffiti is well under control. There is a suggestion that mirrors should be installed at blind corners in several laneways in the area to prevent possible accidents from occurring. There may be a need for speed bumps on some streets where speeding is a concern.

- 4. HVRA Essay Competition** - Winners were introduced and they read their essays. Madelyn Chen of King Edward School and Zahra Abdi from Central Technical School were warmly congratulated for their work and were each presented with prize money.

5. HVRA Committee reports

a) Treasurer's interim report - Carmen Gauthier

Carmen is pleased to be working with a budget that was implemented for the first time last year. She noted that the Cleanups are no longer part of the HVRA and that this item is being moved to outside projects. She will be working with the group while it is transitioning from the HVRA. Carmen says there will be more to report in the fall once events like the Yard Sale and the Fall Fair take place. She

encouraged everyone to get involved with the Yard Sale. There was a question asking for a definition of Flowerpots. Both Carmen and Marilyn explained the work of the flowerpot committee and the support from the Harbord BIA.

b) University of Toronto - Sue Dexter

Sue reported that it is still early days regarding the proposed student residence at the corner of Sussex and Spadina. The scheme, so far, calls for a 20 plus story building housing 550 students in a dorm style residence. The plan also calls for an extension to the Robert Street playing field with room for a community garden, dog area and town homes fronting Sussex.

Lead contamination in drinking water in area homes is causing a great deal of concern. The city is encouraging homeowners to get a test kit but there is no scheme to subsidize replacement service to homes.

c) Gardeners' Plant Fair - Jess Lemieux, Margaret Procter

This new group was created a couple of months ago and they will stage a plant exchange on June 1 from 1pm to 4pm at Kensington Gardens. People are encouraged to come out and exchange plants and cuttings and ask advice of experts on hand.

d) Community Yard Sale - James Murdoch, Marilyn Martin

Organizers explained that the weather had pushed the date of the event from May 4 to May 31. Volunteers are needed for table delivery and pickup and selling at the community tables at Robert and Harbord Streets. You don't need to rent a table to take part but there is still time to place an order for tables or clothing racks. If you have articles to donate, they can be dropped off on the morning of the sale.

e) Tree count – a group of Ryerson students, lead by James Steenburg, were introduced. This summer they will undertake an assessment of neighbourhood trees. The students will study urban forest vulnerability, and update the tree count and assessment undertaken by volunteers in HV several years ago. There are an estimated 4000 trees in HV.

f) Constitutional Amendment - Susan Pfeiffer, Gus Sinclair

A package of amendments to the HVRA constitution had been vetted by the constitutional committee and circulated to members. Gus moved that the amendments be considered as a package.

Seconded Steve Klein.

Gus explained the changes and how board governance is more serious now and duty of loyalty has to be clearly spelled out to directors. The new bylaws set out to clearly explain personal conflicts. Directors must sign an agreement as to what is expected of them as a director on the board. A discussion ensued and there was disagreement over the direction of the amendments and some opposition to the plan. It was moved that the plan be sent back for further discussion and work.

Gus asked Richard Gilbert and Chana Hoffitz to help in redrafting the amendments. As such, the matter was tabled for the present pending further discussion.

g) Membership Drive Prize draw - Gail Misra

Anyone who had renewed their membership recently had been entered into a draw for a \$50 gift certificate from the local Metro store. Rebecca Keenan from Ward 20 councilor's office was asked to draw the winner. Caitlin Smith was the winner.

6. Ward 20 Q and A - Rebecca Keenan of former Councillor Adam Vaughan's Office.

Rebecca said Adam's last vote was on community council and it was on HV heritage conservation district phase 3.

Lead - If homeowners are concerned about lead in the water at their homes, they are encouraged to request a testing kit. The kits can be picked up from 44 Victoria Street. Steve Klein offered to pick up the kits since his office is across the street. There was a suggestion that the kits could be distributed at the Yard Sale on May 31.

Bike lanes on Harbord Street –a plan for bumpered lanes on one side of the street on the south side will go to council on June 10.

Margaret Fairley Park – the next phase will take place after the Fall Fair in order to keep the park open for the summer.

Brunswick College Parkette - work may begin in the fall.

Liquor license approvals – the AGCO will no longer place conditions on new license applications but they will continue to enforce existing conditions. There can still be conditions placed on patios since patios are under municipal bylaws and liquor licenses are provincial jurisdiction.

Traffic patterns on Major Street south of Sussex will be monitored due to concerns with speeding.

7. Special Presentation: Helen Mills – Greening the Laneways

Lippincott resident Helen Mills provided a lively discussion on ways to green laneways in our neighbourhood. She outlined projects such as water recovery systems, butterfly habitats, garage green roofs and plantings. The initiative has a direct tie-in with the Lost Rivers Project that is reviving interest in rivers and streams that were placed underground with the growth of the city including Russell Creek in our area. She talked about art walks and festivals in various laneways as well. She also showed amazing examples of what other cities are doing.

Adjournment at 9:08pm