

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Spring General Meeting
Tuesday May 15, 2012 - 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens**

1. Chair's Welcome

Tim Grant welcomed all present. About 100 residents were present.

2. Area Caucuses and reports

The Area Caucuses met and each reported as follows:

North West (Steve Klein)

- 1) Graffiti continues to be a relentless problem and there were suggestions from some of immediately painting over any new graffiti and/or hiring a professional street artist to paint a mural as deterrents to this long standing problem.
- 2) The noise by patrons of the Green Room combined with those from the Brunswick, Features and the Tranzac club continues to plague the residents living nearby and on the neighbouring streets, particularly on or around the closing hours..
- 3) The late-night congregating of youth and local bar patrons on the newly installed benches in the Central Tech school yard between the main and art buildings, and a lack of waste receptacles for garbage use, and
- 4) The apparent increasing mouse population in some areas of the neighbourhood. While the latter was left to be dealt with by the affected residents, the congregating and garbage issues were brought to the attention of CT administration for appropriate corrective actions

North East (James Murdoch)

- 1) Could emergency services, delivery companies and taxis benefit from improved signage at street corners indicating the house numbers contained on each block? House numbering can be confusing especially if a corner house fronts on one street but it has a side entrance on another street.
- 2) There is not enough one way signage at some intersections to prevent vehicular traffic going the wrong way which is a major safety issue.
- 3) Street planters and their condition are an issue – no one seems to know who maintains them.
- 4) Graffiti continues to be a problem in back lanes.

South Central (Wendy Smith)

- 1) One member of our group who lives on Brunswick Avenue said there is a roar of noise coming from the heating/cooling systems on the roof of the Kensington Gardens Centre. The noise keeps her awake at night if she leaves a window open. She suggested that the Gardens management be asked to install sound baffles on the roof to divert the noise upwards instead of down onto the homes and gardens of the Garden's neighbours.
- 2) We also heard that there is a growing problem of street people urinating in the passageways between homes. It was suggested that homeowners be encouraged to add lighting between homes.
- 3) There was also a complaint about a homeowner building out their house beyond the legal limit. We heard later that board members were already addressing this issue.

South West (Jane Perdue)

- 1) Infiltration of commercial activity into the residential area results in:
Bars at College Street and Bathurst (north and south side of College) continue to be a huge problem with noise (music, yelling, fighting) litter, street activity, noise from back patios that are directly across from houses and late night partying in Croft Lane and King Edward School open space.
- 2) Rooming houses – legal or non-conforming are a constant problem for home owners who live next door.
- 3) Garbage continues to be dumped in Croft Lane – residents are encouraged to call City of Toronto at 3-1-1 or on line – www.Toronto.ca

South East (Gus Sinclair)

- 1) Noise is a problem from the alley east of Robert and just north of College, behind Rancho Relaxo, and The Silver Dollar. People tend to congregate in the alley with alcohol and talk loudly until the early morning.
- 2) Car break-ins on Major and the back lane.
- 3) Graffiti is getting worse.
- 4) How to convince neighbours to tidy up yards and pick up trash.
- 5) Rooming houses are getting more numerous and more noisy.
- 6) There is no off-leash park for dogs anywhere near HV.
- 7) Paint arrows on roadways at Ulster and Major and at the cross-walk across Russell at Robert.

3. Reports

History Project

Richard Gilbert reported that 28 out of 100 planned oral histories have been done by Eleanor Levine. She is interviewing people who can recollect life in the neighbourhood between 30 & 70 years ago.

The History committee plans to make the transcription of the interviews available; make a couple of public displays available; re-apply to the Trillium Foundation for a grant for this project.

Richard made a request for residents to contact him or Eleanor with information regarding potential candidates for interviews

Yard Sale

James Murdoch reported that the recent community yard sale was a great success. Forty four tables were rented and community tables where donated items were sold raised about \$1,600 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Volunteer Harbord Street Flower Pot Committee

Wendy Smith reported that the Flower committee members, especially Marilyn Martin and Jeannie Hastie created beautiful flower arrangements in planters along Harbord St (owned by BIA) for Easter that were admired by many.

Fall and Spring Clean-ups

Neil Stephenson reported that both Fall and Spring Clean-up days turned out very well. The Spring Clean-up drew 97 participants. Thirty seven sponsors donated prizes and the participants were treated to a wonderful lunch (donated by local businesses). It turned out to be also a great community builder. A fall clean-up day is planned for mid November.

Farmers Market

Gus Sinclair reported that the Farmers Market will re-open on June 6th. He encouraged residents to visit it as often as they can and support the Market to ensure that it will be back next year.

Graffiti Committee

Tim Grant reported that Robin Pensler, Steve Simpson and Hari Rathod delivered letters to residents of houses with graffiti urging them to clean up the graffiti on their property or use services available through HVRA. Students will do the work @ \$15/hr using a power-washer and/or paint. It was noted that continued cleaning/painting over graffiti does result in a decrease and in some cases even elimination of graffiti. Some residents related positive personal stories.

Gathering History About Your Home - Guest Speaker Gwyneth Pearce

Ms. Pearce, a Major Street resident and volunteer with the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society, delivered an excellent presentation on what information residents can gather regarding the history of their houses and former owners/occupants. She pointed out many resources such as 1/ *resources on history of houses* which include maps and atlases, fire insurance plans, photographs (aerial and street), tax assessment rolls, building permits, and land registry records and 2/ *resources on history of people* which include city directories, census returns, birth, marriage and death records, photographs, newspaper articles, cemetery records, military records and immigration records. Ms. Pearce illustrated how these resources – some of which are freely available online - can be used to obtain remarkable information.

Ms. Pearce recommended that anyone interested in researching the history of their house begin with the resources available through the City of Toronto Archives and the Toronto Reference Library, and listed some key websites to visit:

www.toronto.ca/archives (City of Toronto Archives)

www.torontofamilyhistory.org (Toronto Branch – Ontario Genealogical Society)

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca (Library and Archives Canada)

www.archives.gov.on.ca (Archives of Ontario)

www.torontopubliclibrary.ca (Toronto Public Library)

www.archive.org (Internet Archive)

www.ancestry.ca (Ancestry – free access on library computers)

www.facebook.com/pages/Vintage-Toronto/256041347799190 (Vintage Toronto)

Councillor Adam Vaughan, AGCO, MLS & Police Address Problems of Bars and Rooming Houses.

Councillor Vaughan updated the residents about 245 College St. to the extent possible as U of T is still keeping much of the information secret. As there will be no requirement that tenants of 245 College St. will be students only, in essence this building will be a large rooming house. Councillor Vaughan discussed some issues regarding rooming houses, including licensing. An HVRA Petition re: U of T's Secrecy about 245 College St. was circulated.

Lisa Murray of Alcohol & Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) discussed the issues of bars in the area and made suggestions how residents can get help. AGCO reviews complains (can be anonymous) and they may affect licensing. However, some residents reported that they followed due process and are still waiting for changes resulting from complaints made over 2 years ago. The main AGCO line to register complaints is 416-326-8700. Ms. Murray offered her direct line as well, 416-326-5962.

Joe Maghalies of Municipal Licensing and Supervision (MLS) talked about issues related to enforcement of noise and zoning by-laws, licensing of restaurants and food stores and the complaint process.

Residents related concerns regarding disruption of peace late at night without positive resolution of their complaints. Gordon Reid suggested phoning 416-808-1500 which will trigger a dispatch of a Toronto Police community response unit.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.