

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Spring General Meeting
Tuesday May 17, 2011 7 p.m.
Kensington Gardens**

1. Chair's Welcome

Gus Sinclair welcomed all present. About 70 residents were present.

2. Area Caucuses and reports

The Area Caucuses met and each reported as follows:

a. **North West** (John Liss)

Temporary parking permits are creating shortage of parking spaces for regular permit holders

b. **North East** (Stuart Schoenfeld)

Uncertainty about Robert Street field

Young people hanging around in the laneways (smoking and drinking)

Racoons

c. **South Central** (Wendy Smith)

1. Potholes in the laneways are becoming increasingly problematic in many of our area lanes. There is, for example, serious damage to the paving in the laneway beside/behind Harbord Fish & Chips (just south of Harbord). Drainage is so poor there that a little lake forms after every rain. We would like to know, How can we get the laneway potholes repaired?

2. Graffiti is a continuing problem. We note that the laneway painted over during the anti-graffiti blitz 1-2 years ago is now seeing the return of tagging. We understand that it is expensive and non-permanent to continue painting over the tags, but we would like to search for an ongoing collective solution. Also, members of the Volunteer Flower-Pot Committee in the SC caucus reported that during their meeting with Neil Wright of the Harbord Street BIA in May, Neil offered HVRA the loan of the BIA's high pressure washer where it might help remove tagging. We would like the board to explore this further.

3. Caplansky's Deli on Brunswick continues to inflict its trash on the street, despite complaints by and dialogue with neighbours, HVRA board members, and our city councillor. Members of the caucus reported seeing overflowing trash containers, rodents around the trash containers, and offensive smells. We noted that there have been restaurants at this location for a long time -- including a very busy Harveys some years ago -- but garbage management has never been a problem until Mr Caplansky opened his restaurant. We very much want to find a permanent solution to this problem.

4. One of our members proposed that we talk with Kensington Gardens about a Community-gardens project for beautifying their greenspace (presently grass) along Brunswick. After further discussion it was agreed that -- after settling on the redesign of

the Brunswick College Parkette -- it might be possible to interest Kensington Gardens in extending the landscaping concept north on Brunswick through their greenspace. We agreed to wait for developments on the parkette and will review the idea (of approaching Kensington Gardens) at the AGM this autumn.

d. **South West** (Colin Furness)
Licensing illegal rooming houses
Anti-social behaviour-dumping of garbage
Graffiti

e. **South East** (Angie Andreoli)
Graffiti
Laneways: construction, maintenance and clean up
Traffic flow problems

3. Reports

Chair:

Gus Sinclair reported that:

i/ Neil Stephenson organized a very successful neighbourhood clean-up. Gus thanked Neil for organizing the event and all residents for their participation.

ii/ results of residents' survey (>250 residents participated) regarding issues concerning Robert St. playing field are posted on HVRA web site.

iii/ a new HVRA "History project" has started and that is to capture the past of our neighbourhood.

iv/ Farmers Market will be open again this year every Wed 3-7pm.

Treasurer:

Carmen Gauthier reported that:

i/ HVRA finances are very healthy. This year money was spent on Volunteer appreciation night, Survey Monkey that was used for the residents' survey above, contribution to compost

ii/ the Robert-Sussex Heritage drive was successful; \$ 3,000 was donated. More money is needed and appreciated.

iii/ there are some funds left that are dedicated for trees and flowerpots.

New Parent Group

Jody Miller announced that a parent group was formed to get together moms of young children. They will be meeting on Tue and Thur afternoons and outdoor parties when the weather will get better. Information can be found on face book: HV Parent Association

UofT Liason:

Sue Dexter reported that:

i/ Uof T is actively negotiating regarding a planned 42 storey building on College St.

- ii/ Bloor St. United Church at Bloor & Huron St will be going for a zoning bylaw change to allow for building approx 35 storeys high.
- iii/ UofT bought the post office building on Spadina, north of Sussex
- iv/ Bloor-Sussex area residences are part of a study group consisting of U of T staff, residents' groups, councillor's office and residents of HSRO with a view to the sustainability of the community

Friends of Margaret Fairley Park

Colin Furness informed the residents that a group of residents called Friends of Margaret Fairley Park organized to revitalize the Margaret Fairley Park. Design and request for quotations were submitted to the City. The project will be funded from Councillor Adam Vaughan's office. Construction will start after the Fall Fair.

Website:

Webmaster Wendy Smith reported that:

- i/ the HVRA website is being updated regularly with neighbourhood news and upcoming events. She is looking for a volunteer to help put the park design submissions on the web. Paul Macarico volunteered on the spot.

Volunteer Harbord Street Flower Pot Committee:

- ii/ Wendy Smith reported that committee reps met with Harbord Street BIA chair Neil Wright in May to discuss this year's pot planting project. (The pots belong to the BIA but are planted and cared for by HVRA volunteers.) Neil Wright offered the committee \$750 for purchase of plants, etc. for 2011, reduced from the \$1,000 received last year; but he indicated the BIA was looking into ways to add more pots or other planters to the street, and that they would review their financial contribution later in the summer. Wendy invited volunteers to help with pot planting and maintenance.

Central Tech:

Susan Purvis a resident of HV and a volunteer at Central Tech thanks all for helping to save the pool. It open to the public on Sat 2-4. She also invited residents to come and participate in "Discover Central Tech" on June 4th. Activities will include talks on how to renovate – electrical, carpentry tips, art and technology and much more.

History Project

Richard Gilbert presented the History Project that involves developing "something" to do with the history of our community. It could include getting oral history from our community "elders", architectural history, human theme, environmental theme (how residents interacted with their environment – garbage disposal, deliveries, etc) An application to Trillium Foundation for \$160,000 over 3 years for a project coordinator is considered. If association's own money is part of the proposal, there is a better chance to get the grant.

Richard Gilbert moved that :

over the next three years HVRA contribute up to \$5,000 towards an HVRA project to produce a history of Harbord Village, as described in the Spring 2011 newsletter, subject to the following:

- a) Success in securing funds from the Trillium Foundation, to which an application for funding in the amount of \$165,000 for this purpose will be made in June;
- b) A requirement that all expenditures of the so-encumbered \$5,000 be approved in advance by the HVRA board.

Seconded by Colin Furness

Agreed unanimously.

The committee will document and be accountable for this spending.

Comments:

Sue Dexter: This will capture the quality of life in this community

Stuart Schoenfeld: This neighborhood has reinvented itself many times. It is a pedestrian-oriented neighborhood which is expanding beyond Harbord Village; to be emulated by other communities.

A vote was taken and the committee was granted the \$5,000.00.

Community-Builder Awards

1) Dinny Biggs

Engaged volunteers to make things happen, i.e., the tree project. She organized well and was fun to work with.

2) Anita, Beverley, Bruce Simpson

Restored the house, 60 Brunswick, to its beautiful original state

3) Yvan MacKinnon & Richard Longley

Development of Brunswick College Parkette. They made it possible to have the competition

Rebecca from Adam Vaughan's Office:

Members present brought up the following -

-Traffic pinch-points Major/Ulster/Brunswick

-Lanes with major potholes

-Need more street garbage bins

-Colin Furness – municipal licensing and standards. What is being done with the illegal clubs, garbage, noise? Asking for communication with us. Rebecca responded that their office is short of staff and that they will become more responsive

Tim Grant – speed bump Sussex Mews Laneway. There are already speed bumps there. Need more. Do not need a traffic study.

Garbage collection west of Yonge Street. It will be privatized. There is a bid committee. Every bid must demonstrate the cost-savings. There will be an audit in 1 year to ensure that it is better than the status quo.

Richard Gilbert– the giant bins block the sidewalks making it difficult for pedestrians and impossible for wheel chairs and strollers.

Bixie Bikes – new maps

Environment Day. 9 July from 10a.m – 2 p.m.

Naming Laneways

Must be after people who have died. They must have lived in our neighborhood

There are approximately 50 lanes. Three have been named: Parretta, Kosower, Louis Laki. There are 23 more lanes to name.

Using Survey Monkey: The maps will be put on the HVRA website. Anyone who is recommending a name will inform us of (1) the name (2) why that person/those people (3) whether his/her house butts on to that lane.

If there are a lot of repeats, that name will be used.

The final decisions will be made at the next general meeting

Rose pointed out that having names adds to the safety of the lanes. She gave an example of a house being robbed and the police apprehending the robbers because the neighbours could name the lane.

There was a suggestion that this be done after completion of the history project.

A vote was taken; the decision was to move ahead immediately.

Brunswick – College Parkette: Richard Longley and Yvon MacKinnon, U of T Masters degree student, School of Architecture

Contest (Time Grant's idea) – exciting response: There were 27 entries from 8 countries. There were 3000 hits. Five professional judges from the field of Landscape Design.

Yvan had drawn the parkette as it is.

The 5 winners were on display

Because no design is perfect, we reserve the right to combine features from different designs.

Practical: simple, not expensive, easy to erect, easy to maintain, well lit, plant perennial & draught resistant plants that would not catch garbage. Also avoid hiding places.

Richard and Yvan asked for ideas, comments and questions from members at the meeting: put the 27 designs on the website, questions about timing of implementation, question about Kensington Health Centre's response, could we have agreement and backers from The Centre, painting on the east wall of the Health Centre, opportunity to bring back the heritage of that location.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.