

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, December 13, 2016 - 7:00pm Kensington Gardens**  
**FINAL Minutes**

**In attendance:** Gail Misra, Gus Sinclair, Jane Perdue, Carolee Orme, Sue Dexter, Bob Stambula, Lena Mortensen, Regine Schmid, Andrea Poptsis, Carmen Gauthier, Anne Kerekes, Christian Mueller, Nicole Schulman, Margaret Procter, Tim Grant

**Regrets:** Carlo Drudi

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair welcomed the Board to the meeting and called the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** This item was added to the agenda:

- Letter from Han Dong

Tim moved to add the item to the agenda; Carmen seconded. Agenda passed.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

The Chair presented the minutes from the November meeting. No errors or omissions were noted.

Lena moved to approve the minutes; Tim seconded. Minutes approved.

4. **Motions**

a. **Updating the HVRA Tree Inventory**

Tim reminded the Board that about 8 years ago an initial tree inventory was done for Harbord Village with a follow up by Ryerson done last year. There is an opportunity to see if LEAF might be interested and have funds available to work with residents' associations like HVRA to continue work on a tree inventory. Tim agreed to contact LEAF to bring back more information on the potential to work together.

A motion was presented by Tim to have Tim contact LEAF and the Department of Forestry at U of T to see if there are resources available to update and/or complete the tree inventory of the Harbord Village. Nicole seconded the motion. The motion carried.

b. **Launching a Garbage Bin Reduction Effort**

Tim explained that 30% of residents ended up getting the default garbage bin (large) when bins were initially distributed to residents. The large bin is too big for many residents' needs. As a way to encourage residents to save money, to improve the streetscapes of the neighbourhood and to encourage waste reduction, Tim proposed that we educate residents of the potential to decrease their annual garbage fee by trading their large bin

in for a smaller size. The Board discussed the merits of an e-blast and a flyer to inform residents of this possibility. Given the impending change in fees for garbage collection, it was suggested that we hold off on communicating with residents until the 2017 rates are known. The motion will be deferred until Tim can gather some more information.

Gail suggested that a sub-committee be formed to further explore and report back to the Board on this topic. The sub-committee will consist of Gus, Regine, Tim, Jane and Carlo.

**5.**

**a. Website**

Margaret distributed job descriptions for the Communications Director and the Webmaster. She reminded the Board that there is useful information on the website for area representatives under the “Useful Links” tab. She drew the Board’s attention to the “Development” section which includes information on what to do to prepare for a Committee of Adjustment meeting. Margaret noted that Webmaster was no longer a designated board position, a change instituted in August, after initial approval of the job descriptions, because of concerns about the size of the board. This year, however, both the Webmaster (Margaret) and the Assistant Webmaster (Anne) happen to be members of the board as area reps.

**b. E-Blasts**

Margaret explained that the e-blasts go out to 600 people 2 or 3 times a month. 60% of recipients read the e-blasts. The website includes a link to an archive of previous e-blasts.

The discussion returned to the job descriptions. Most of the job descriptions are on the website now, in a list of links at the bottom of the Constitution page. Margaret wanted to make a few minor edits to the job descriptions for the Communications Director and the Webmaster but she put forward a motion that they be passed with minor edits. This was seconded by Tim. The job descriptions carried.

Margaret noted that she was still fulfilling some of the functions of the Communications Director. For instance, she has created group email addresses for the Board and Planning & Development Committee. These will need to be updated regularly by the future Communications Director. Tim reminded the Board that the two vacant positions, Communications Director and Membership, need to be filled and he acknowledged Margaret’s efforts over the past two years in fulfilling her role.

**c. Newsletter**

Sue explained that the next issue of the newsletter is due to go out in May (early April deadline for content). It is a challenge to think up compelling stories with visual elements since there are no events to talk about. Topics for inclusion in the April newsletter include the Chair’s Report along with Area Reports (100 words or so) for each area.

Some other ideas put forward included:

- Greening
- Heritage homes - more information from Leslie Thompson and a description of the expanded area for the Heritage Conservation District
- Planning report
- Syrian refugee family update
- The bookstore at Sussex and Spadina
- New parks - Margaret Fairley, Doctor's Parkette
- Garbage bins

A discussion was had about the cost and effectiveness of the newsletter as a communication tool. Although it can be costly, it was acknowledged to be a critical tool of the HVRA to communicate with residents, both members and non-members. Carmen and Carlo will investigate ways to contain the cost of producing the newsletter. Some suggestions included introducing a page limit and finding cheaper printing options.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Planning & Development

Sue and Carolee provided an update on two community organized meetings, one for the proposed U of T residence at the corner of Spadina and Sussex and the other for the development at 666 Spadina. Both meetings were well attended and productive.

Gus provided an update on Committee of Adjustment meetings. The Narayever Synagogue application for development ended up being rejected as was the Croft laneway development proposal.

A discussion was had around the role of the HVRA with regard to development projects. Gus explained that the Board and the Planning and Development take a planning perspective when providing support or opposition to a proposed development.

### b. Area Reports

**South Central:** Ann updated the Board on the redevelopment of Margaret Fairley Park.

**South East:** Carmen updated the Board on increased incidents of vandalism (smashed windows and mirrors on cars) in the area.

**South West:** Jane provided an update on the parking issue with Domino's pizza. Neighbours continue to maintain that cars continue to park illegally causing damage to adjacent properties and going the wrong way on a one way street.

## 7. New Business

**Letter from Han Dong, MPP:** Gus read the contents of a communication from Han Dong's office regarding the desire to meet with the HVRA to discuss resident concerns regarding

malfunctioning elevators. It was agreed that the HVRA could not provide any insight into the discussion so Gus was going to respond to the MPP's office indicating as such.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:05pm with best wishes to the Board for the holiday season.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary