

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 7 p.m., Kensington Gardens

Minutes

In attendance: Gus Sinclair, Gail Misra, Carlo Drudi, Carolee Orme, Sue Dexter, Margaret Procter, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Carmen Gauthier, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Anne Kerekes

Regrets: Bob Stambula, Andrea Poptsis, Jane Perdue

1. Chair's Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda: Added Engineering Students Projects, Fall Fair, Gardener's report. Carolee moved adoption of the Agenda; Nicole seconded. Agenda adopted.
3. Approval of July 2017 Meeting minutes: The Chair presented the minutes from the July Board meeting. Carmen moved approval of the Minutes. Regine seconded. Minutes approved.
4. Business Arising

Green bin follow up: Jane sent out a report regarding her experience in trying to get a smaller green bin, and it would appear that one can ask for the return of a small bin to store organic waste, but the waste must be taken out to the street in clear recycling bags on pick up days.

5. Other Business
 - a. P&D overview – Sue explained what the P & D does, in particular in relation to the process when the Councillor's office sends to the P & D notice of application for variance to C of A. She also explained that appeals are now to TLAP, rather than to the OMB.
 - b. Fall newsletter – Anne is looking to prepare for the Fall newsletter. We will have about 12 pages including: The Chair's message; call to action for AGM; content on Community Builders (to ask for suggestions in an e-blast; P & D topics – maybe one page of content – Sue and Carolee to consider. Green topics: Croft laneway, the planters, Margaret Fairley Park, Tree Inventory; 2 pgs of pictures of the Fall Fair and thanks to businesses who contributed; an article on women's sit-in at Central Tech re the skateboarders (Miriam Ticoll to be asked to write it). Jennette to do a Gardener's report. Board members are to let Anne know if they have any other ideas. Deadlines: Anne will send out an email re the topics and deadlines.

- c. AGM & Community Outreach – Gus discussed who we should invite as a speaker. Possible speakers: Edward Keenan, Christopher Hume. The AGM is primarily a business meeting. An e-blast will come out soon asking for nominations of volunteers for HVRA and we can also ask at the Fall Fair. Short résumés will be requested from each person and a Search Committee will review whatever names and resumes are presented with a view to considering where interests lie. It will be an opportunity for volunteers to see how HVRA events work, and for us to see how they work out. That would create a pool of potential candidates for Area Reps, or for a place on the Board. If people want to be Area Reps, they can stand for election at the AGM. In the week before the AGM, a list of the people who are standing will be sent to the membership.

*** Ensure that on the AGM Agenda, there must be a motion to appoint the Nominations Committee. We also need to ensure that Area Reps are presented. If there has to be an election within an Area caucus, people will be invited to prepare a paragraph about who they are; that information will be sent by email to those who had been present at the caucus, and the election will be conducted by email.

Search Committee: Chair, Vice Chair, one member of the Board. Chair would collect the names; discuss who puts their name forward; then think about who may fit where. The Committee will be comprised of Gus, Gail, and Nicole.

- d. Constitutional Changes: Webmaster & Communications Committee – Margaret had sent out a report regarding the work of the Committee and proposed constitutional changes, which if approved by the Board to go to the membership, would need to be sent out by the end of September. She reported that Regine is now trying out a range of webmaster functions, including having created a new Sussex-Spadina web page, and other development related pages are being updated and expanded. Ann Eyerman is posting stories in the News section of the website on a sidebar, and in consultation with Gail as VC, has revived the HVRA Twitter account. All these vehicles will be used to publicize the Fall Fair. Constitutional changes proposed:

The Communications Committee has consulted by email and in several informal small-group meetings on the proposal to replace Communications Director with Webmaster as a board position, and to recognize the Communications Committee as a standing committee. Position descriptions for Webmaster and the Committee are still under discussion to ensure that they are comprehensive and viable. Margaret moved to approve the proposal for constitutional change. Gail seconded. The Board approved the

motion to recommend the changes to the Constitution and to put them to the membership at the AGM in October 2017.

- e. Engineering Students projects – Carlo reported on the experience overall. He received some material from the students, which will be sent to Margaret for the website. There were three projects undertaken for the HVRA: 1. Noise survey: they ended up offering minimal design solutions; 2. Bike infrastructure, they recommended a design for locks used in Silicon Valley, and a mock-up was done on a 3D printer, and talked to the Harbord BIA re installing some on the street; 3. Bike paths: they recommended a continuous path on Brunswick Avenue. Carlo will do a summary on the two projects that he thinks we should consider further. What he learned is that it would be better not to pose open ended questions for the student projects as they need a deliverable at the end of their course.
- f. Fall Fair – Gus reported that they have a great team, composed of himself and Anne Kerekes, who are organizing the Fair. Anne is working on getting donations for the Silent Auction; there is a Food committee; they have got a new source for tables/chairs/BBQ; music is lined up; teasers are coming out in the e-blast between now and the date of the Fair; organizing the beer is underway. Gail is the emcee for the fair, so she will need help for the membership table, between 12 and 5 pm. An email will go out seeking volunteers for that purpose.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Chair's report (done in course of other items) and Gus had sent out a report from Sandy Smith regarding the progress of the Tree Inventory. She reported that the team made up of the HVRA student and one paid for through the U of T Forestry department has completed all 24 Blocks in HVRA with an overview inventory (i.e. tree presence/absence, location, and a detailed NeighbourWoods inventory of all ash trees), both on public and private land. As well, they have been able to do a complete NeighbourWoods inventory (and location) for all trees in 10 of those 24 Blocks. In the remaining two weeks, Christian Rempe will be inputting and proofing the data for any errors or anomalies to make sure we have a rigorous database to work with going forward.

What is left to do for HVRA is to complete the NeighbourWoods inventory of the remaining 14 Blocks. We should be able to do this much faster though, now that we have an up-to-date record of exactly how many trees there are (previous + new - missing) and where they are located (they have all been GPS'ed).

There were an unexpectedly large number of new trees added to the database this summer, partly because of new trees being planted, partly because many

natural trees are regenerating, and partly because many trees were clearly missed in the first inventory back in 2007/8. Of course, the gain in trees we found in HVRA has been countered by a loss, but it is not yet clear whether the two balance out. Sandy will try to get one or two MFC students summarizing these HVRA data (in the 10 completed Blocks, and for the decline in ash trees over time) for their final capstone projects this Dec. but can't guarantee this, and it may not be until next year that we can have a final report.

To complete the remaining work (14 Blocks) in HVRA will probably take about two more months (max with 2 people) or another full summer (with only one person). She indicated that it would be great if HVRA were able to support again next summer for this with a federal govt program, but she realizes the challenge and will see if she can inspire the Toronto Parks & Trees Foundation to match any community funds we might be able to raise to reduce HVRA costs.

- b. Treasurer's report – Carlo reported we are still chugging through the Tree Inventory accounting and should do a *post mortem* on how it was done, how much work it required, and should think that through in the future before undertaking such a project. HVRA now has a CRA payroll number. Christian Rempe has completed his summer job, and we have to pay him vacation pay and issue a Record of Employment.
- c. Membership report – Gail reported that another reminder e-blast went out, and there was good response. She explained that she is trying to clean out the list of people who are no longer living in the neighbourhood. Gus offered to review the list to tell Gail who he knows is no longer around. There has been much better use of renewals on line, and payment by PayPal.
- d. Planning & Development – Sue had sent out reports, one confidential and one for general reporting. The reports included: 1. 157 Croft Street: On July 25/17 P & D members and 2 neighbours attended at the OMB hearing on the severance and laneway house proposal for that site. HVRA, the C of A, and City Planning dept. opposed the severance as it would create two under-sized lots and the new proposed house would have excessive density and did not fit the built form context. Written closing submissions have been made on this file. 2. TLAB: the Toronto Local Appeal Body held an information session to outline its processes. Sue attended, and in her report outlined in detail what the procedure would be at TLAB. In her view, the advantage of the new system is that there will be full disclosure of documents. However, the disadvantages include that the Residents' Association may not get notified in time to participate; there would be *de novo* hearings; and those participating would have to be computer literate, and able to use PowerPoint etc.

- e. Gardeners' Report – Margaret had sent out a report in advance of the meeting indicating that: 1. Robert Mays has sent detailed plans for the four in-ground street planting beds to be installed at Village intersections in Spring 2018. Meanwhile, the City has donated another shipment of perennial plants for the existing concrete street planters. 2. Several email newsletters have gone out to the 75 people on the Harbord Village Gardeners' email list, compiling gardening tips, photos, and questions sent in by members. They have resulted in at least one informal "front-garden ramble" and several plant exchanges. 3. On August 10, a small but energetic group took part in a plant rescue from the planters in front of Mirvish Village stores, with the cooperation of Westbank's on-site manager in giving us access. Most have been replanted on Croft Street, some in personal gardens.

7. Area Reports (sent out by email in advance of the meeting)

North East – Regine and Carolee reported that the FedEx on Bloor is closing on September 15th; there is a new Bike Share station on the Metro parking lot; and, Sussex-Spadina is coming to Community Council in September so residents are getting organized for that.

North West – Nicole reported on the following items: 1. There is an ongoing legal dispute over the building at 296 Brunswick, where Tilt Bar currently resides. 2. While there is no apparent movement on modifying the problematic greenspace on Central Tech's campus since fences have been erected, there does not appear to be any skateboard activity. 3. There is a proposal to add a two story addition to the one story Laundromat at 172 Harbord, which was opposed by a few residents who wrote to the CoA, and there are resident concerns about the proposal founded upon poor behaviour by the contractors the owner previously employed. The proposal was denied at CoA, although it may be resubmitted in a modified form. It also might be appealed to the new appeal body. 4. There is some concern about the size of the new Green Bins which are perceived as being larger than necessary and difficult to store.

South East – Lena reported on interest in speed bumps on Robert Street, south of Harbord to Willcocks: a resident conducted a poll in which she went to 48 houses, got 43 signatures, two no's, and the poll has been sent to the Councillor's office.

South Central – Margaret reported that: 1. After four years of campaigning by residents and HVRA, the speed humps on Major Street have been installed and seem to be slowing down traffic. 2. Details of Doctors' Parkette are being completed, but many require revision. Richard Longley patrols the park daily and informs the city about problems.

South West – Gus reported that the police had sent a resident a report regarding the homicide on Lippincott last week. 14 Division is investigating. Sue suggested that there should be a meeting with the Councillor, AGCO, etc. to try to address the concerns of

residents about the local bar behaviour. Gus will contact Jane Perdue about whether she thinks a meeting would be beneficial.

8. Adjournment moved by Christian, seconded by Carlo, and approved at 9 p.m.

Prepared by Gail Misra, Vice Chair.