

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting  
Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 6.45 pm, Kensington Gardens  
Minutes**

**In attendance:** Gail Misra, Gus Sinclair, Carolee Orme, Sue Dexter, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Ann Eyerman, Merrill Swain, Bob Stambula, Andrea Poptsis, Jane Perdue, Cathy Merkley

**Regrets:** Carlo Drudi, Anne Kerekes, Margaret Procter

**Guest:** Joan Wilson, Constituency Assistant to Councillor Cressy

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The Chair, presiding over her first meeting, welcomed new HVRA board members – Ann Eyerman, Merrill Swain and Cathy Merkley and guest Joan Wilson from Councillor Cressy's office.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Added update on Pumpkin Fest (to be included in Chair's report) and the notion of establishing a Parenting committee. Gus moved to approve the agenda as amended; Lena seconded. Agenda adopted.
3. **Acceptance of October AGM Meeting minutes:** The Chair reminded the Board that the minutes from the AGM are being presented to the Board for acceptance as opposed to approval as the minutes from the AGM must be approved by the membership. Sue moved to accept the minutes; Nicole seconded. Minutes accepted.
4. **Follow up / items coming out of AGM:** A discussion was had on items that were either brought up in area caucus discussions or seemed to be recurring items from year to year, including:

Road closures south of Bloor when Bloor street is closed: Signs allowing two-way traffic go up on the Friday before the Sunday road closure causing traffic chaos for the weekend of the road closure. Gail to write an email to Councillor Cressy to alert him to the safety concerns of the community.

Laneways: Links to the HVRA report referenced at the AGM were sent out. An e-blast about the upcoming community consultation on laneways (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>) was sent out.

Various traffic issues (e.g. speed, wrong way traffic, parking): The Board discussed the various traffic concerns raised in area caucuses, many of which have been recurring for many years. A Transportation Committee was struck; members to include: Carolee, Merrill, Andrea and Ann Eyerman.

**5. Other Business**

- a. **New Board member orientation (Gail)**

The past Chair reviewed some of the key points outlined in section 11 of the HVRA Constitution, highlighting the importance of good governance and the fiduciary responsibility of board members. New Board members were asked to sign the HVRA Board Expectations Agreement which will be filed with the Secretary. The Chair reminded the Board that the HVRA carries Directors insurance.

The Chair outlined some of the key activities of the Board: organizing the Fall Fair in September, the Pumpkin Fest in November, and in past years a yard sale in the spring (TBC if this will continue). The HVRA hosts 2 public meetings per year, the spring meeting and the fall AGM, and sends out two newsletters per year to all households in the area. The Chair reminded the Board that anyone living in the Harbord Village can be a member of the HVRA but only paid up members can vote.

Nicole mentioned that there is a welcome letter that the Board has prepared that can be used by area reps to be provided to incoming Harbord Village residents along with a recent newsletter as a way to welcome people to the community and to introduce them to the HVRA.

Orientation regarding the Website and the Planning & Development Committee will take place at the next Board meeting.

**b. Process for filing board vacancies – Search Committee (Nicole)**

Nicole provided an overview of the Search Committee process that was used this year to find candidates for open Board positions. The process, which seemed to work well, is summarized as follows:

- Initial outreach via e-blast and newsletter
- Brainstorming by Search Committee – outreach to engage members of the community to solicit suggestions
- Suitable candidates were approached one at a time to gauge their interest; if more than one person was identified for an opening, agreement was reached by the Committee as to the order in which people would be approached to ensure an orderly process

The document prepared by the Search Committee on their process will be posted to the HVRA website to ensure transparency.

**c. Current Board vacancies (Vice Chair, Treasurer)**

The Chair confirmed there are two vacant positions on the Board, the Vice Chair and the Treasurer. The lack of a Treasurer is a more pressing concern than the lack of a Vice Chair. The Chair asked the Board to see if anyone in their network might make a suitable Treasurer. Treasurer must have the ability to use or learn Quickbooks and be available to manage the PO box.

**d. Brunswick plaque event (Gail)**

Richard Longley approached the Board to discuss the potential for a plaque event at the Rexall on Bloor. Since an event had already been hosted at the Rexall, the Board will not pursue another event.

**e. Engineering projects 2018 (Gail)**

The HVRA has been approached by the U of T Faculty of Engineering to see if we are interested in taking part in their student projects program. It was decided that the newly formed Transportation Committee would discuss the possibility of taking on some student projects. Gail will email the U of T to see if the call for project ideas can be circulated amongst HVRA residents.

**f. Parenting Group (Nicole)**

Based on the success of the Harbord Village Parenting Group, Nicole posed the question to the Board as to if there would be interest in seeing if any members of the community would be interested in heading up a Parenting Committee. The Board was interested in the idea but wanted more information on what the Committee would do to engage parents in the community and how the Board could be involved. Christian mentioned the Tranzac had expressed an interest in finding creative ways to utilize their space such as hosting after school programs. Nicole and Andrea agreed to bring some ideas to the Board at a future meeting about what the Parenting Committee (name to be confirmed) could do.

## **6. Business Arising**

**a. Follow up on College St. bar issues & related violence (Jane)**

Jane confirmed that the Green Room is moving to College in the old Crown and Tiger space. A letter is going to Councillor Cressy asking for more support and to convene a public meeting related to the violence and other bar-related issues on College. She has also been speaking with the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU) who expressed frustration with the lack of resources at their disposal. The recommendation from the CPU was to continue to bring resident concerns forward.

**b. Update on Government of Canada summer student funding (Gus / Carlo)**

Gus reported that we haven't yet received the money from the Government of Canada for the Canada Summer Student program but that he would follow up with Tim to see what the status of payment is.

Sue mentioned that to complete the Tree Inventory project next summer, the Board will need to raise additional funds. Gail raised another issue which is that the project has lost its champion (Tim) and that someone will need to liaise with the students next summer should the project continue. Sue agreed to follow up with U of T (Sandy) and report back to the Board at a future meeting on what is needed to complete the study.

## **7. Committee Reports**

**a. Chair's report**

The Chair reported that Pumpkin Fest was a huge success. A small amount was spent on the event (\$200 – 300) although the invoice from Her Father's Cider Bar has yet to come. Gail thanked the members of the Board and broader community who pulled the event together. This year saw a greater number of vendors participating in the event. Special thanks were given to Gus and his trio for providing lovely entertainment for participants. Sue moved a motion to have the Secretary to pen a letter of thanks to Her Father's Cider Bar noting their incredible support of the event. Merrill seconded. Motion carried.

**b. Treasurer's report**

The pro-tem Treasurer was not present at the meeting and as a result no report was provided.

**c. Membership report**

The new Membership Secretary, Merrill Swain, gave an update on membership. As of November 21st, there were 210 fully paid up (to the end of 2018) members, there were 210 not fully paid up members and 67 members expiring by December 2017. The Fall Fair and the two meetings provide an opportunity to collect dues in person and there is the ability to renew memberships online which is becoming more popular.

The Board discussed the availability and use of membership lists by members for communications. Gus reminded the Board that the information contained on membership lists is strictly confidential and should be treated with the utmost respect for member privacy. The lists of members sorted by area are primarily used to send out P&D notices and notices related to Committee of Adjustment matters. Some Board members expressed a desire to allow area reps to use the lists to get to know their neighbours and to communicate with members on specific localized matters (e.g. King Edward parking issues, speed humps on Major). The Membership list will continue to be given to Carolee for communications related to P&D matters and will also be made available to area reps on an ad hoc basis as required by the area rep. It was suggested that a protocol be developed on how the Membership list will be used. It is proposed that the Membership Secretary and Chair work on a draft.

Merrill asked that we add a membership drive to the agenda at the December meeting so that the Board could discuss ways to increase membership. The suggestion was also made that a meeting be convened with Area Reps along with Membership to talk about strategies to boost membership. Nicole reminded the Board that a welcome letter is on the Board area of the website to be used by Area Reps to welcome new residents to the community (along with a copy of a recent newsletter).

Gus reminded the Board that nothing can go out on HVRA letterhead without sanction from the Board. This resulted in a discussion around what kind of approval process should be in place and if delegations to Area Reps or Committees could be made. Bob suggested that some communications, namely matters pertaining to local issues, could be delegated to Area Reps. The Communications Committee was tasked with taking this item away for further discussion and bringing recommendations to the next Board meeting as to the protocol to be followed for communications on HVRA letterhead.

**d. Planning & Development report**

- Five buildings on College west of Spadina have passed heritage designation at Community Council. This will now go to City Council in December.
- City planning has responded to the University of Toronto's application to update the St. George Campus Master Plan, which sets up the zoning and other land policies on campus. The City position was welcomed by the adjacent residents' associations and reflects HVRA positions on the University proposal. These can be found on our website in communications we had with the University President, Meric Gertler, outlining our responses to walkabouts with campus planning staff and experts.
- Neighbours and HVRA are working to understand an application to build a third storey at 18 Croft St., and change its zoning designation from residential to artist studio. This will come before C of A on Nov. 22, 2017.
- An application to C of A for a third storey extension on 24 Ulster St. was approved. It was formerly a corner store, now being converted to two large apartments.
- An application at the adjoining house at 26 Ulster St. is forthcoming. It was deferred about a month ago at Committee.
- Planning and Development met with the Councillor and City Staff Wednesday. HVRA made proposals to change the Committee of Adjustment process to ensure more effective consultation, better transparency, less time pressure. Mandated consultation would be possible with planning, the proponent and the councillor. We are reaching out to other RAs for their views.

**e. Communications Committee report**

- Effective use of e-blasts and website content generated a lot of traffic on the website for the Pumpkin Fest.
- The Communications Committee is recommending that the Board rely on the Board Area webpage to ensure continuing secure access to files not otherwise available online, some of which may be useful for board work for years to come. Board members working on group projects may still want to create their own file-sharing sites (as Planning and Development has done). This will allow us to phase out the use of Dropbox which was implemented as a stop gap measure.
- A Facebook group, Friends of Harbord Village, not be sponsored by HVRA, has been established to promote online discussion of local issues, buy-and-sell notices, and notes about local news.

**8. Area Reports**

**a. North West**

- Christian met with the Tranzac Club President, Collette Savard, in order to explore areas of mutual interest between her organization and the HVRA. In addition, the Tranzac fills a unique position within the Harbord Village as our only full-time arts-and-culture incubator. Potential areas for collaboration: enhanced communication, information exchange and cross-promotion via our respective websites; community gardening; and anti-graffiti murals, specifically in Alan Powell Lane and William James Lane, like the one already put up near the Tranzac.

**b. South Central**

- Kensington Hospice has received provincial government money to expand by 9-10 more beds. To accommodate this need, they are re-designing space in the Kensington Gardens north building next door.
- In October, meetings were held with the Kensington Gardens and Hospice staff and volunteers and the designers of this new space.
- From these initial discussions, it does not seem that there will be any major construction being done on the outside of the building that could affect the neighbourhood.
- An update on design will be provided as details become available. Completion date is Spring, 2019.

**c. South West**

- Croft Greening overnight vandalism mostly around Croft and Vankoughnet. 10 large bins were knocked over making most of the earth and plants fall out. This was very disturbing vandalism but neighbours rallied to clean up. Reports were made to police from residents as well as on behalf of HVRA.
- The Crown and Tiger is under renovation and will be replaced by the Green Room. Jane will approach management to discuss previous issues with the hope of avoiding future issues.
- Crime Prevention Officer for our neighbourhood is Constable Clarke at 416 808-1400. Our neighbourhood/community officers are: Constables Kolankowski, Hoy and Bassett. Call them at 416 808-1469 for ongoing monitoring.

9. The meeting was adjourned at 9:02pm.