

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday September 19, 2017, 7 p.m., Kensington Gardens

Minutes

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

Guest: Jennette Boehmer

Regrets: Andrea Poptsis and Carlo Drudi

1. Chair's Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda: Added Heritage Outreach and the Engineering Students' project report to the agenda. Lena moved adoption of the Agenda. Bob seconded. Agenda adopted.
3. Approval of August 2017 Meeting minutes: The Chair presented the minutes from the August Board meeting. A correction was made to the Green Bins item. Nicole moved approval of the Minutes as amended. Lena seconded. Minutes approved.
4. Other Business
 - a. Report on the Green Master Plan rollout of in-ground plantings at pinch points: Jennette Boehmer passed around an in-street planters status update and two schematics of the planting areas. There have been two meetings about the plans for implementation in 2018 of planters for the intersections at Lennox/Borden, Sussex/Major, Ulster/Borden, and Ulster/Major. Robert Mays was an excellent resource from the City at the meeting. The City's three goals are storm water management; traffic management (and parking and garbage pick up); and street beautification. Concerns have been expressed by some residents regarding the loss of some parking spaces. The City will work on revisions to the design to try to meet concerns, and the revised plans can then be sent to residents in the affected areas. Jennette will prepare a response to one resident who had expressed her concerns in writing regarding parking. Jennette suggested that the Board should write a letter to Robert Mays regarding this project. Regular E-blasts should also go out telling people about the plans, and as well, they should be mentioned at the AGM.

Sue met with Robert Mays regarding what to do next in respect of the Green Master Plan. She suggested the greening of flanking properties along Harbord Street to create parkettes that echo what was done at CTS. The City would like us to create a manual of how we have gone about greening this neighbourhood. It would be similar to the Restorer's Guide. Sue suggested

we could divide up the job: Croft Street, in-ground planters, gardening along fence lines, etc. There are also greening possibilities in the laneways to be discussed.

- b. Heritage Outreach: Leslie Thompson has prepared and sent out to the Board her ideas for heritage outreach. Sue and Gus are on the existing Heritage Conservation Committee of the Board, so it was suggested that Leslie could join that Committee as a community member. Leslie's interest is in who first lived in homes in the HVRA, and she will try to open people to the idea of heritage preservation and Jane's Walks. Such folks may become volunteers in the future.

Margaret moved a motion that Leslie Thompson to be added as a community member of the existing Heritage Conservation Committee, with a focus on outreach to broaden the scope of the work of the Committee, and that a Harbord Village email address be created for this Committee. Seconded by Regine. Approved.

5. Business Arising

- a. Fall newsletter – Anne Kerekes reported that the newsletter is in great shape, and all content has been submitted to be copyset. The next step will be for Anne and Sue to proofread it, and on Sept 29th it will be emailed to the printer.
- b. Fall Fair debrief – Anne Kerekes and Gus. Gus presented the Fall Fair financial report. There were over 30 volunteers involved in putting on the Fair. It was a great day for it, and the profit was about \$4,400. The cost of insurance went up tremendously, but the coverage also went up to \$5 million from \$2 million. In light of our track record of having no problems at the Fall Fair over many years, Toronto Police Service may allow us to forego having an officer at the Fair next year. Christian noted that RBC was the most generous contributor of funds to the Fair, and should be sent a letter of thanks. All the businesses that contributed are already being thanked on the website, and will be again in the newsletter. There was a vote of thanks from the Board to Anne Kerekes and Gus Sinclair for all the work they did to make the Fall Fair such a successful event.
- c. Update on AGM planning – Gus has not yet had any success in finding a speaker as he did not hear back from either of the two options discussed at the last meeting. Jane Perdue knows Christopher Hume and will try to get him to come, and would also contact a possible TO Core speaker, Andrew Farncombe. The AGM is on October 18, 2017. Sue will contact the councillor's office to ensure that Joe Cressy is coming. Chrystia Freeland's

office has expressed interest in coming too, but has not confirmed attendance.

- d. Update from Search Committee – Gus reported that the committee has been working on the search for a VC, a Treasurer and a SE Area Rep. Merrill Swain will be nominated for Membership Secretary and Ann Eyerman for Area Rep for SC.
- e. 2017 Community Builder Nominations – Gus reported on the Search Committee’s review of the nominations. He noted that we do not generally turn down any nominations, and there are no categories that must be filled. We received 12 nominations, so the committee thought HVRA would give some Community Builder awards at the AGM, and some at the Spring meeting. Those given awards at the AGM would be featured in the Spring newsletter. Nominees included 1: Miriam Ticoll and Lynn Brophy for the CTS park/skateboarders intervention; 2. Lisa Edwards, principal of CTS for all her work with the community; 3. Amy Furness and Gary Bloch for the redevelopment of Margaret Fairley Park; 4. Antero Faria, for being a great neighbour who helps people; 5. Andrew Sliwa, for assisting in the engineering student project, and for his community work; 6. A group for the speed bumps on Major Street (Jessica Dee Humphreys, Rebecca Wittman, John Zilcosky, Jennifer Weinberger and Ann Eyerman). We would give awards to Nos. 1, 3, and 4 at this AGM, and then the others at the Spring Meeting. Everyone would be advised that they are getting a Community Builder award, but the second group would be advised that they would receive their awards at the Spring meeting. Margaret questioned the protocol of not giving a CBA to the same person twice. Gus indicated the idea was that it was good to spread the award around as widely as possible in the neighbourhood, and added that it is not given to Board members. Carolee suggested we could recognize people more in e-blasts or announcements.

Carolee moved that the Board accept the recommendation of the Search Committee to accept all nominations for the Community Builder Awards. Gail seconded. Approved. Gus will notify everyone that they will receive the award, and Gail will tell the nominators that their nominations were accepted.

- f. Follow up on meeting re College Street bar issues – Jane has been away, but thinks the Councillor’s office should be asked by the Board to convene a meeting of the police, City, AGCO, gun control people, etc. This is a question of enforcement and a police presence at the bars on College Street, which have been seeing a wave of violence in the recent past. Jane will draft the letter and circulate it to the Board, and then Gail, in Gus’ absence, will send it to the Councillor’s office.

- g. The Engineering Students Project report – Carlo’s report was received by the Board. Margaret will put a news item regarding this project on the side bar of the website.
- h. Central Tech “Skate Board Park” – Gus reported that the fences have been removed, cleats added to the structures, and the skateboarders have not returned.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Chair’s report (Done in course of other items)
- b. Treasurer’s report – Carlo sent out his report as he could not attend the meeting. HVRA has received \$2,900 in membership dues so far this year. In light of the increased use of PayPal for on-line payments, Carlo suggested that the Board keep an eye on the costs related to this payment format. The Tree Inventory project is complete, but we have not yet received money from the federal government for the summer student grant (\$2,706), so the project is currently in a deficit position.
- c. Membership report – Gail reported that we collected \$990 for 47 membership renewals and 15 new members at the Fall Fair.
- d. Planning & Development – Carolee reported on Knox Church, which is considering building affordable housing and a student residence at Harbord and Spadina. The two old houses on Harbord would be moved back, and a small parkette and green space on Spadina are envisaged. The church has good architects and is talking to the City in a pre-application consultation. 666 Spadina is a good news story – 11 to 12 storey infill in that “tower in the park” site, and the green space at Sussex/Spadina will be used as a public park.
 Bloor Block Study, Four Corners Study, College Street Study, are all under appeal to the OMB by developers.
 Bloor Street United Church has a large condo/residential/United Church head office planned for its Bloor Street site. It is holding a public meeting in late September, 2017.
 U of T, Sussex Spadina will be mediated at the OMB.
 171 Harbord – mixed residential commercial building – the owner wanted to extend a third floor, and build out balconies. A deal was reached with the neighbours to allow him to get the third floor extension, but no balconies, which would instead be substituted with Juliette balconies. There is an old tree that may need protection. C of A accepted the resolution.

Bob suggests that we consider adding to the Green Plan that we try to work on avoiding more hardscaping, which is reducing the areas available for storm water runoff.

Sue reported there have been a number of complicated files for C of A, and it has been hard to put out notices. Area Reps are not experts on what should go into the notices. For the future, Carolee has offered to put out the notice to the members, copied to the Area Reps; Gus suggested that if there is an expression of interest by any neighbours, then the Area Reps would call the meeting and P & D would attend. Not every application will be sent out by P & D, only if there is an issue raised will it go out. However, if an Area Rep hears that there is neighbour concern, they can alert P & D, and the matter can be considered further.

- e. Communications Committee – Margaret sent out a report in advance of the meeting advising of the use of the elasts and Twitter account by Ann Eyerman to energetically publicize the Fall Fair. In response to a member comment, a future eblast will advise the membership of the fact that funds raised at the Fall Fair are used to fund the ongoing activities of the HVRA. The website has had several additions and updates aimed at incorporating new material regarding development matters, gardeners, and the Fall Fair. Margaret will ensure that the proposed constitutional changes approved at the last Board meeting go out to the membership in a timely manner. Two job descriptions need to be approved by the Board.

Nicole moved, seconded by Carolee, that the Board adopt the Webmaster job description and the Communications Committee description. Approved.

7. Area Reports – (two sent out in advance of the meeting)

South Central – Margaret and Anne reported that 1. The speed humps on Major are completely finished and the signs unveiled; Doctors' Parkette is (still) nearly finished. 2. A C of A hearing has been scheduled for a proposed 3rd-storey addition to 26 Ulster. Errors in the first proposal filing were corrected in time for Anne to send out a notification to immediate neighbours. The GFA, height and proximity to neighbours are all significantly above permitted. 3. Secondhand information: the derelict driving-school quarters at Brunswick and Harbord are under renovation, and a workman says the location is being made into an art gallery.

North West – Nicole and Christian reported 1. that the temporary fences have been removed from the grounds at Central Tech, and that all the areas that were being used by the skateboards now have metal braces on them to prevent skateboarding. There are also prominent No Skateboarding signs. The measures appear to be working as no one seems to

be using the area as a skateboarding park anymore. 2. The councillor's office reported that the lawsuit between the buyers of 296 Brunswick and the owner of Tilt has been concluded in favour of Andrew Peek's consortium, and Peek reported that the decision has not been appealed by the other party. Peek reports that construction is scheduled to commence in October and that all but one of the people who were living in the upstairs rooms have been rehoused. It is unclear what will happen to the one remaining tenant, Hamish, who does not want to move. 3. Along Bloor some commercial turnover. The pizza shop Za near the corner of Brunswick/Bloor has folded, and the space is being used for pop-up shops. Hey Lucy, at Borden/Howland, has also folded and the Victory Cafe (formerly of Mirvish Village fame) will be opening in its location.

8. Gus spoke of his year as Chair as this will be his last meeting. He thanked the Board for its commitment. Carmen was also thanked for her long service on the Board as this will be her last meeting.
9. Adjournment moved by Carolee, seconded by Christian, and approved at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by Gail Misra, Vice Chair.