

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 7.00 pm**  
**Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9**

**Final Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Anne Kerekes, Ann Eyerman, Lena Mortensen, Jane Perdue, Andrea Poptsis, Regine Schmid, Bob Stambula, Gail Misra, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Margaret Procter, Nicole Schulman, Gus Sinclair, Merrill Swain

**Regrets:** Sue Dexter, Cathy Merkley

1. **Chair's Welcome.** The chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting which was called to order at 7.02pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda.** One item, the Park People grant application, was added to the agenda. Nicole moved to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Carolee. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of December meeting minutes.** Gus moved to adopt the minutes as written; seconded by Ann Eyerman. Minutes approved.
4. **Other Business**

**a. 2017 Actuals and 2018 Budget**

- Gus presented the 2017 actual results and a draft budget for 2018. The 2017 year-end financials are being prepared by the outgoing Treasurer, Carlo Drudi.
- An effort will be made to clean up some of the project fund accounts for inactive projects; surplus funds will either be returned to the project owners (as appropriate) or funds for projects that have finished will be redeployed to other initiatives. A suggestion was made the remaining funds for the Flower Pot project and the Sussex / Spadina Meetings project be redirected to the Tree Inventory.
- A motion to accept the budget as presented was put forward by Gus; seconded by Merrill. The 2018 budget was accepted with thanks to Gus for all his hard work on the budget and in general for taking on the Treasurer role.

**5. Business Arising**

**a. New Board member orientation - Planning & Development (Sue)**

- This item was deferred to the February meeting as Sue was not in attendance.

**b. Chairs for 2018 HVRA events (Gail)**

- Gail thanked the following Board members for stepping up to lead HVRA's 2018 events:
  - Spring and Fall Newsletters – Anne Kerekes (Chair)
  - Fall Fair Silent Auction – Anne Kerekes (Chair)
  - Fall Fair – Gus Sinclair (Chair)

- Pumpkin Fest – Gail Misra (Chair) with assistance from Ann Eyerman (TBC), Lena Mortensen and Gus Sinclair
- Logistics for the Spring meeting and AGM were discussed. Andrea takes care of planning the logistics while guest speakers need to be secured for both meetings. It was suggested that Gail reach out to David Hulchanski to see if he would be interested in speaking at the Spring meeting. Another suggestion was made to reach out to the author of an article that appeared in the Globe and Mail about rain gardens.

### **In Street Planters Update**

Gail provided an update on the status of the in-street planters being installed in the Harbord Village. With thanks to Jennette Boehmer for following up with the City, according to the City of Toronto, we are on track for work to begin sometime in 2018. Pine Valley has been contracted to do the work but no timeline has been proposed as yet. Revised drawings should be available by the end of February.

### **Trees for Me Grants**

The deadline is approaching for this grant which provides a minimum of 50 trees to groups willing to deploy them in the community. The group must work with a charity who will sponsor the initiative as well as commit to providing seminars to interested tree recipients. It was decided that this is not a suitable initiative for the HVRA at this time so we will not be pursuing it.

### **TD Park People Grants**

Jane brought forward an initiative from TD Park People which is a grant program with a deadline of March 5. It was suggested that Jane apply on behalf of the HVRA in order to get more details about what the grant could be used for. It seemed like we might be able to obtain up to \$2000 to encourage people to spend more time in parks. This sounds like it might be a suitable grant for our annual Fall Fair.

### **c. Parenting Committee name and blurb for publication (Nicole)**

Nicole brought forward the idea for the Parent Consultation Committee (PCC), an informal committee which will bring parenting issues in the Harbord Village to the fore. The PCC will serve as a sounding board for questions that may arise regarding issues that impact parents in the community. It was suggested this might also be a good way to broaden the reach of the HVRA and to get new members involved in HVRA initiatives. Nicole moved that the Parent Consultation Committee (PCC) be established and that she serve as Chair; Ann seconded. Motion carried.

### **d. Tree Inventory motion (Gus)**

Gus put forward two motions relating to the tree inventory project. The first motion was that the Board approve the completion of the Tree Inventory in 2018. The motion was seconded by Bob. Motion carried. The second motion was that the remaining Tree Inventory work be funded by a government grant (Canada Summer Students program), donations from members of the community and the existing funds in the Tree Inventory project account. Regine seconded the motion. Bob abstained. Motion was carried.

Gus and Sue will figure out the funding / fundraising that might be required for this project. Gus will also ask Sandy Smith to find candidates from the U of T Forestry department who might be interested in doing the work.

**e. Snow Removal motion (Bob)**

Bob presented background on the issue regarding snow removal on our downtown streets and sidewalks. This is an ongoing pain point for residents of the HVRA and other downtown communities. Bob put forward the following motion: *"Let it be resolved that the HVRA calls on our Councillor, the Mayor, and City Council to provide an equal level of snow removal services for all sidewalks within its borders."* The motion was seconded by Carolee. Jane abstained. Motion carried.

Bob agreed to create a letter from the text he provided in the background materials that would be circulated to other Residents' Associations to encourage them to contact their City representatives about this issue. Ann agreed to include in the next eBlast a reminder that certain residents (e.g. over 65, those with a disability, etc.) are entitled to snow removal services from the City.

**f. Membership drive (Merrill)**

Merrill provided a membership update: 215 paid up members; 205 unpaid members and presented several interesting data points on the composition of the Harbord Village community. The data helped to inform a discussion about what HVRA could do to boost membership and diversity amongst its member population. Merrill put forward a motion to set up a Membership Committee consisting of the Membership Secretary plus a board member representing each area caucus. Christian seconded. Motion carried.

The Committee will convene over the next few months to come up with some strategies to boost membership with a view towards having 2018 be the year of a big push for HVRA members. The goals of a membership drive could include achieving better diversity amongst the membership and seeking to engage members of the community that have not been active in HVRA activities before. Electronic membership renewals were discussed and will be one of the many strategies that the Committee will discuss.

**6. Receipt of Reports:**

Gail thanked board members for sending their reports in advance. The following reports were received:

**a. Area Reports:**

- North East: Super Fresh Market on Bloor is closed for renovations (or perhaps for good, TBC); Cobs Bread is also renovating. A new cannabis inspired café has opened on Harbord next to the Almond Butterfly café. Several members of the north east area are preparing to be parties at the OMB mediation about Sussex/Spadina development.
- South East: Petition for speed bumps on Robert St. has been processed and is with the Office of Transportation Services, who are working on a report. New venue "The Dessert Kitchen" is set to open soon, in the former location of Red Fish Blue Fish Café.

- South West: Snow clearing issues are ongoing. The Green Room has so far proved to be a quieter occupant than previous bars operating in the space.
  - North West: The City of Toronto is inquiring whether the Fall Fair will be held again in Margaret Fairley park (yes). The park will be reserved for Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Snow shovelling continues to be an issue in the north west. Narayever is going to the OMB for its third and hopefully final hearing. Renovations continue to the space above Tilt although it is not clear what is being done.
- b. **Website:** We intend to discontinue our contract with A Small Orange (ASO; servers in the US), as of February 2018. We have switched to Web Hosting Canada (WHC; servers in Montreal and Vancouver), who houses our files (including Membership contact information) in Canada and also provides much more reliable service and more helpful support. The website continues to be subject to a flood of searches for non-existent pages. The HVRA site remains secure but additional measures may be taken to reduce this nuisance.
- c. **Communications Committee:** The website, eblasts, and Twitter account are all operating as intended. The eblast reaches the most readers. Between 260 and 280 people on the list of 470 open their messages each week, generally the same people. The Twitter account now has 230 followers. Between 20 and 80 unique users visit the website each day. The Committee has worked on drafting the requested policy on the use of HVRA letterhead, but needs to consider both its scope and its details before bringing it to the Board for approval.
- d. **Planning and Development:** Sue provided an update on the efforts of the Planning & Development committee. Due to the confidentiality of material in the report, details in the report cannot be made public at the time of writing.

## 7. Other Business

Jane suggested that the HVRA send a card of condolence to Caroline Macfarlane on the death of her brother. She agreed to do this on behalf of the Board.

8. **Adjournment:** Gus moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Nicole. The meeting ended at 8:50pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary