

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9
FINAL Minutes

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

Regrets: Lena Mortensen, Cathy Merkley

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

- 1. Chair's Welcome.** Gail welcomed the members present and noted that we had quorum.
- 2. Adoption of Agenda.** Gus suggested grouping the finance related items together at the top of the meeting and moved approval of the Agenda, seconded by Jane; revised agenda adopted.
- 3. Approval of February Minutes.** Bob noted that his name was omitted from the attendance list and he also suggested another edit to the 76 Lippincott patio extension item; Gus moved approval of the minutes as amended, seconded by Bob; minutes approved.

4. Business Arising

a. Financial Items (Gus)

i. HVRA Membership in the Toronto Historical Association (Gus)

The Treasurer indicated that the HVRA could become a member of the Toronto Historical Association (THA) for an annual membership fee of \$40. Nicole moved that the HVRA join the THA; Merrill seconded. All in favour.

ii. Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses for the work of the Planning and Development Committee (Gus)

The Treasurer described how members of the Planning and Development Committee has been incurring expenses (e.g. printing, binding, paper, transportation, meals) out of pocket for P&D related activities. After some discussion on how best to reimburse P&D for their expenses, it was agreed that P&D should be reimbursed for all expenses related to P&D business that are substantiated with a receipt. A revised motion was put forward by Andrea asking that P&D members be reimbursed for P&D related expenses upon the presentation of receipts related to these expenses. Merrill seconded. All in favour.

The Chair asked that the Board review the P&D spend in 6 months to evaluate how big of a budget item P&D related expenses are / will be and to consider if the Board should undertake additional fundraising to offset the expenses.

The Chair thanked the P&D Committee members for all the work they have done in the past and continue to do for the community. She also recognized the fact that they have not asked for reimbursement of expenses to this point resulting in not only a substantial contribution of time but also money. The contribution that P&D Committee members have made to our community does not go unnoticed.

i Status update on closing out 2017 financial year end (Gus)

The Treasurer shared the 2017 financial results with the Board. A discussion was held about the potential for improvement in the presentation of the results to allow for greater clarity. Andrea offered to meet with the Treasurer to discuss further before the next Board meeting.

iii. Webmaster proposal (Margaret)

To ease the burden on the Webmaster related to the increased level of security threats to the HVRA website, Margaret asked the Board for an additional \$455 to provide for additional security supports and resources for the website. This investment will improve the security of the website and ease the burden on the webmaster for maintaining the site. The Chair asked that the website team report back on the spending related to website security in six months. Margaret moved the motion for the increased investment; Bob seconded. All in favour.

The Chair thanked Margaret and Regine for all the work they have put into maintaining and securing the website.

iv. Membership calling card (Merrill)

Merrill presented a calling card designed by Leslie Thompson that could be used as a marketing tool to encourage membership in the HVRA. It would cost approximately \$80 to print and ship the calling cards. Merrill moved that the Board approve up to \$80 for the calling cards. Ann Eyerman seconded. All in favour.

The Chair thanked Leslie Thompson for her assistance in designing the calling card.

v. 2018 budget (Gus)

The Treasurer agreed to update the 2018 budget to reflect the additional items approved at this Board meeting. Andrea offered to review the budget format with the Treasurer to see if improvements could be made on the presentation of the budget.

b. Update on speaker for Spring Meeting (Gail)

The Chair reported that the speaker for the Spring Meeting has been confirmed. A representative from Community Resilience to Extreme Weather will speak. The Board was asked to start thinking about a speaker for the Fall Meeting.

c. Spring Clean Up Event follow up (Gus)

Gus put forward a motion that the Board support the Litter and Glitter event in an effort to bring the community together to clean up the Harbord Village. Specifically, the Litter and Glitter team is seeking our support with e-blasts out to the community publicising the event along with requests for volunteers. Nicole seconded the motion. All in favour.

d. Membership drive update (Merrill)

Merrill advised that introductory email messages sent out by 3 out of 5 of the area reps to members of the community resulted in a handful of renewals. The Board agreed to keep people on the distribution lists who had moved out of the area but still wanted to stay in touch with the HVRA. It was agreed that these people should be noted as non-resident members of the community in the distribution lists.

e. Spring Newsletter (Anne)

- i. Timeline - Anne presented the timeline for the production of the Spring newsletter.
- ii. Format – The Spring Newsletter will have an updated and refreshed look that will be more modern and in keeping with the style of the HVRA website. It was agreed that 1500 black and white newsletters would be printed, after the costs for colour printing were presented and determined to be too high.
- iii. Ideas for potential articles
 - Transportation issues (Nicole)
 - Fort York Food Bank (Jane)
 - Business Comings and Goings (Ann)
 - Oscar Winner in the HVRA (Gus)
 - List of HVRA Committees to be added at the back

f. Membership in the West Side Community Council (Gail)

Sue moved that the HVRA join the West Side Community Council in a show of support for our west end sister Residents' Associations. Jane seconded. All in favour.

g. Community Builder Awards (leftovers from Spring Meeting) (Gail / Gus)

Gail reminded the Board that the second set of Community Builders left over from the fall nominations last year would be presented at the Spring Meeting. These are:

- Andrew Sliwa (Good Neighbour of Major Street)
- The Lower Major Street Speed Hump Crew (six individuals)
- Lisa Edwards (Principal Central Tech)

h. Park People grant application (Gus)

Gus informed the Board that as discussed via email we are going ahead with submitting the Park People grant application asking for \$2000 to cover off the Croft Greening Spring Clean up and Planting Days, the Croft Greening Late Summer Urban Walk and Street Party and the HVRA Fall Fair.

i. Greening project (Sue)

Sue presented a document concerning the preservation of the Tree Canopy in HV (Document included as an appendix here) This needs to tie in with the existing Green Master Plan needs as well as with home and property owners since over three quarters of the tree canopy is privately owned. The HVRA would like to encourage green built form infrastructure such as green roofs. Gus moved that the HVRA send our proposal on this topic to the City. Regine seconded. All in favour.

j. Cannabis café and resident concerns (Nicole)

A concerned parent contacted the HVRA to voice concerns about the illegal cannabis café operating in the Harbord Village. The Board determined that this is a legal matter for the police to attend to and that no further action was required.

k. Recent crimes in the Harbord Village (Anne)

Due to the increased level of crime in the Harbord Village, namely thefts occurring when residents leave doors and windows unlocked, it was agreed that the HVRA would send out an eblast to the community reminding people to lock their doors and windows and to be mindful of any suspicious looking characters.

5. Receipt of Reports:

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

a. Area Reports:

- North East: Theft in the area through unlocked back door. Perpetrator was apprehended; Complaint about the cannabis café operating illegally on Harbord.
- South East: Increased crime (car break-ins, theft of licence plates, as well as a home robbery through an unlocked door when the resident was home); shoddy construction at Doctors' Parkette creating safety hazards.
- South West: Fort York Food Bank opened on March 1.
- North West: Renovations on Tilt have commenced; 225 Brunswick (commercial building) has been sold; Concerns re: safety and increased lane use between Major and Brunswick for commercial deliveries.

b. Membership: Email campaign by area reps and calling card initiative to boost memberships.

- c. **Communications Committee:** Ongoing website security issues and the recommendation to increase the budget for website security and support.
- d. **Transportation:** Work continues on the U of T Engineering students project on wrong way traffic.
- e. **Parent Consultation Committee:** Ongoing concerns re: traffic and road safety, access to green space in the Harbord Village, speed bump initiatives
- f. **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.

6. Other Business

The Chair reported that she heard back from Joan Wilson from Councillor Cressy's office regarding the special two-way street exceptions for streets running south of Bloor for special events to say that she would follow up.

Nicole asked for guidance on speed bumps. She was advised to direct interested members of the community to the information on the speed bumps on the HVRA website. She also asked about who to talk to about access to green space at Lord Lansdowne. It was recommended that inquiries of that nature be directed to the principal of the school.

7. Adjournment

Gus moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Nicole. The meeting ended at 9.02pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary

Appendix A:

Preservation of Tree Canopy

HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Room 60522, 200A Bloor St. W.
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



Harbord Village Canopy Enhancement Initiative

March 18, 2018.

Harbord Village is a significant contributor to the tree canopy in Downtown Toronto. Our contribution to the City's urban forest amounts to 4000 trees in an area of 1 square km. This is all the more remarkable as we represent a dense urban neighbourhood near the centre of the City, extremely underserved in terms of parks space. But changes in built form, species selection and environmental stresses are reducing our canopy cover.

Harbord Village was once a place of gardens, trees and orchards.

We are proposing a Canopy Preservation and Restoration Project to expand tree coverage and promote tree health in a typical low-rise Downtown neighbourhood.

This project would mandate HVRA, University experts, the private sector and City departments to identify policies to promote and enhance the urban forest in a dense urban context. These policy changes could include

- incentives for soft surface landscaping;
- early plantings to establish young trees near those reaching the end of their lives;
- alterations to zoning and building approvals to protect the urban forest;
- increased sensitivity of Committee of Adjustment decisions on development applications negatively affecting mature trees;
- fast-track approvals for tree-preserving renovation;
- exploration of rooftop greening initiatives; and,
- local awareness programmes to foster conservation and restoration of the urban forest.

Harbord Village is uniquely placed to assist the City in meeting its canopy objectives. In the summer of 2018, Harbord Village will complete a ten year-review of our tree inventory. This update builds on work HVRA has done, with the assistance of the University of Toronto Forestry Department. Once complete, the inventory will have captured all trees, their condition, and location, and identify trends. This summer's data will put us in a position to assess what has been happening to this urban forest, including:

- Population,
- Species, native or non-native
- Health
- Cause of injury or mortality
- Effectiveness of replacement plantings in species mix and size
- Canopy estimates

The findings could be extrapolated to include

- Contribution to air quality
- Amelioration of heat island
- Stormwater abatement

The inventory sets a baseline for future programmes in our neighbourhood.

The Canopy Restoration Project would be a logical extension to the Harbord Village Green Master Plan, which was developed through a collaboration between HVRA and Councillor Joe Cressy's office. To date, the Plan serves the City's policies around stormwater abatement. Residents have been working with the City's Transportation Department to intercept stormwater by cutting and planting street bumpouts in the pavement at a number of Harbord Village intersections starting in 2018. Next phases include the greening of lanes and the paved City property flanking businesses on College and Harbord. (see link at appendix a).

Canopy enhancement is critical as we also see local development encroaching on soft landscaped space and the loss of mature trees to same-age plantings 75-100 years ago. The greenspace deficit in our community will worsen with the population increases that are forecast for the Downtown.

The private sector is a critical element in fulfilling the City's mandate to increase the canopy, since most of the city's trees are on private land. Collaborative planning between the private sector and the City will be vital to fulfilling the City's goals. With an active gardening community, we are in a position to implement programmes. While the Green Master Plan includes greening lanes and City flanks; the Canopy Preservation and Restoration Project would expand its mandate to improve performance in the private property between lane and street.

Best,

Sue Dexter,

for Board,

Harbord Village Residents' Association.

97 Willcocks St.

Toronto, Ont.

M5S1C9.