

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Spring Meeting  
Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – 7:00pm Kensington Gardens  
Final Minutes**

1. **Chair's Welcome – Gail Misra:** The Chair welcomed the community to the HVRA spring meeting, called the meeting to order and reviewed the proposed agenda.
2. **Treasurer's Report – Gus Sinclair:** The 2017 actuals and proposed 2018 budget were shared with members. The Treasurer advised that the HVRA is hoping to simplify the format of the financials to make them easier to follow. The Treasurer noted that up until now Planning and Development Committee members have been self funding their activities. Going forward, P&D expenses will be reimbursed by the Board. The Treasurer moved that the financial statements be adopted. Seconded by Jan Muszynski.
3. **Update & Q&A - Joe Cressy:** Councillor Cressy was invited to provide an update on happenings in the city, the ward and in the neighbourhood. Highlights included:

**For the city:**

- The City is doing well on many dimensions – people want to live in Toronto.
- Our model for supervised injection sites is being studied by NYC.
- Poverty and homelessness is still a big issue in the City.

**For the ward:**

- Efforts to designate 401 Richmond for the purposes of taxation as a creative hub were successful. Province has signed off on it
- This successful lobbying has opened the door to potential for changes in tax classes for businesses on main streets who are struggling with property tax rates
- King St. pilot project has been successful
- 2 new community centres are proposed: The Richmond Y and City Place; along with 2 new schools and a child care centre
- Toronto Community Housing: revitalization at Alexandra Park (Phase 2) and 250 Davenport.
- Phase 1 of the Bentway opened

**For the neighbourhood:**

- Detailed planning is underway for the Kensington Market conservation district
- Kensington School public space greening
- Re-imagining Bellevue parking lot – what could it be used for?
- Licensing changes being proposed at City Council on fraternities and sororities
- 666 Spadina – discussions ongoing; public space part of the plans
- In street planters in the Harbord Village construction commencing around July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Silver Dollar – Wynn Group has sold the property to Fitzrovia Real Estate; condos are proposed for the site
- Spadina / Sussex mediation continues
- U of T Secondary Plan before Council
- College St – 25 properties getting Heritage Designation
- Water main replacement along Bloor (Avenue Road to Bathurst) – paving, permanent bike lanes, hydro work, parkettes, watermain work and streetscaping will all be done at the same time

- New traffic light to be erected on Spadina N of Bloor (where the library is); another one will be erected on Spadina near the JCC
- Sidewalks on Spadina S of Bloor will be widened and greened
- Construction on Wigwamen will commence in the fall (HVRA designated a share of Section 37 money from 666 Spadina to this project)
- Fort York Food Bank is up and running

- 4. Transportation Committee Presentation & Discussion – Andrea Poptsis:** A brief overview was provided on the U of T Engineering Students report and recommendations regarding wrong way traffic on one way streets in the Harbord Village. With the larger group split into Area Caucus groups, discussions were held on what residents could do at the local level to help deal with wrong way drivers.

Some of the highlights were as follows:

- Keep records of wrong way driving incidents
- Talk to drivers as they are going the wrong way
- Log incidents
- Report incidents to Toronto Police Services (non emergency number and online form [link on Useful Links page of website])

## **5. Area Caucus meetings – convened by Area Reps**

**North East** – nothing noted

**North West** – traffic problems (would better signage at ground level help?); push City of Toronto Transportation to acknowledge wrong way drivers as a problem; phone TPS to report incidents; consider roundabout / speed hump at Brunswick and Sussex (very large intersection)

**South East** – increased levels of graffiti have been noted on College

**South Central** – take data from the traffic count to the City

**South West** – Croft laneway turning onto Harbord is quite a difficult corner; could an app be created to allow residents to track traffic incidents?

## **6. HVRA Reports**

- Planning, University of Toronto - Sue Dexter:** TOCore is proposing to do a pilot project in the Harbord Village – re-imagine streets and laneways.
- HVRA Community Yard Sale Day – Nicole Schulman:** There will be no community yard sale this year; rather, residents are encouraged to hold their own yard sales on May 27, 2018. Hopefully we can build critical mass for the community as a destination for the annual HVRA day of yard sales.
- Gardeners' Plant Fair – Ann Eyerman:** Taking place on June 3<sup>rd</sup> on the south patio at Kensington Gardens.

**d. Tree Project update – Gus Sinclair:** Tree inventory refresh was started last summer and will be finished this summer.

**e. Membership update – Merrill Swain:** HVRA has produced new "join HVRA cards"; Merrill suggested members encourage their neighbours to join HVRA.

**7. Community Builder Awards – Gail Misra:** Community Builder awards were presented to:

- Lisa Edwards, principal of Central Tech
- Andrew Sliwa
- The Major Street speedhump crew

**8. Community Resilience for Extreme Weather (CREW) Sheila Murray:**

Sheila Murray presented an interesting overview of the work of her organization, CREW, to help communities deal with extreme weather, from drought to floods to extreme heat. The main thrust of talk was *neighbours helping neighbours* during extreme weather events. Her organization aims to community build to cope with the aftermath of extreme weather events. She also urged residents to make sure they had 72 hour survival kits to cope in the event of (inevitable) extreme weather events which are becoming more common. The HVRA will investigate ways for our community to become more resilient.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary