

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9
FINAL Minutes

In Attendance: Sue Dexter, Cathy Merkley, Gail Misra, Lena Mortensen, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Margaret Procter, Nicole Schulman, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula, Merrill Swain, Christian Mueller, Nick Provart

Regrets: Simon Coleman, Jane Perdue, Regine Schmid

Guests: Mike Layton, Councillor; Jennette Boehmer; Leslie Thompson

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

1. **Chair's Welcome and Welcome to new Board member – Nick Provart:** Gail called the meeting to order, welcomed the members present, noted that we had guests, and that this was Nick Provart's first meeting as a board member. Introductions were done around the table for all present.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** With the addition of three items to Other Business for 1) the Contact List, Andrea; 2) the Outgoing Treasurer's Report, Gus; and 3) Update on Snow Removal Volunteer List, Lena; Christian moved adoption of the Agenda, seconded by Merrill; agenda adopted.
3. **Councillor Mike Layton:** Councillor Layton introduced himself, and explained how he is initially planning on operating his office. He will have three Constituency Assistants: Angela Serti is responsible for the eastern part of the ward, and the Mirvish project; Heather Leger will be responsible for our area; and he is in the process of hiring more staff. His office will continue to send us C of A applications and patio licence applications relevant to our area. The Councillor recognized the work that Sue Dexter had done in mobilizing many RAs to support the staffing budget increase for the double-sized wards of this term's councillors.

Presentations were made on behalf of HVRA by the following:

Jennette Boehmer – Greening of the neighbourhood

Jennette explained that the main project currently underway is the in-ground planters on 9 street corners to address traffic calming, greening and storm water drainage. Fifteen people have been taking care of the above-ground planters that are in the area, and people have committed to look after the new in-ground ones too. This year the City has completed the installation of 4 of the nine in-ground planting areas, and the rest will need to be done next season. We need the Councillor to help ensure that we remain on the work list for that next year, but have had a very good relationship with Robert Mays, of the City's Beautiful Streets, Transportation Services, Public Realm Section.

Leslie Thompson – Heritage

Leslie explained that this community values its history, and sees it as having significant social value. We have two areas that are already designated as Heritage Conservation Districts (HCD), amounting to 25% of the neighbourhood. These were achieved through the work of the neighbourhood in 2004 and 2009. However, we now need the rest of the HV to be designated as an HCD, and in 2013

had applied for a City HCD study. We understand that we are high on the list of the City's priorities in this regard, and we need the Councillor's support to get the rest of the area designated as an HCD as changes are occurring all the time that diminish the heritage of the community.

Carolee Orme – Transportation

Carolee explained about the volunteer-led study that was conducted in 2018 regarding how cars (and bicycles to a lesser extent) are moving through our neighbourhood. The results confirmed what people had been saying anecdotally, that there is a lot of wrong way driving, speeding, and what was shockingly observed was the number of people who do not stop at the stop signs, or for cross-walks. We would like the Councillor to work with us, and City Transportation Services, to develop an HVRA plan for active transportation so that we can ensure that this is a safer neighbourhood for pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles.

Sue Dexter – Planning & Development

Sue explained what the P & D do generally (although she has met with the Councillor already in this regard), and asked him how we can help him in the future in order to ensure that processes are devised for community engagement city-wide, and that are transparent.

The Councillor indicated that he will be happy to attend at our semi-annual member meetings to provide updates, and that his CA, Heather Leger, would like to come to our next meeting just to observe. Gail is to send Heather the dates of the semi-annual member meetings and the next board meeting.

4. **Approval of November Minutes and Receipt of October Meeting Notes:** Gus moved approval of the November minutes as presented, Merrill seconded; minutes approved.

5. Other Business items

a) HVRA Board Contact List (Andrea)

Andrea circulated the draft list for people to review and make any edits necessary. She will circulate the revised final version.

b) Outgoing Treasurer Report (Gus)

Gus reported on the difficulty in getting Lena onto our Bank's systems in order that she may take over as the Treasurer. He and Lena have been to the bank a couple of times, but hope to have it resolved tomorrow, and then Lena can have access to the bank account on line and Gus can hand the reins to her.

c) Update on the Snow Removal/Odd Jobs Volunteer List (Lena)

Lena reported that she had a few older people contact her indicating they would like help with a variety of jobs, including snow shovelling, leaf raking, etc. However, she did not get many young people who would be interested in doing such work, for money or otherwise. A list was prepared and

provided to those who had wanted help, and it is now up to them to contact the potential volunteers/payment seeking youth.

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

a. Area Reports:

- North West: Complaints about the new (still not functional) push-button posts which clutter the corners of Brunswick and Harbord; complaints about city trash bins around Central Tech routinely full to overflowing; Sara's Shawarma on Bloor closed, to be replaced by a Chinese noodle restaurant; Indian Roti restaurant to open where Flip Toss and Thai was on Harbord.
- South East: Graffiti damage is on a slight increase between Major and Robert and south of Harbord.

b. Website: The webmistress reports that the website is stable and that it is regularly checked and updated.

c. Gardeners: Margaret provided an overview of the public tree talk held on Mon. Dec. 3 (sponsored by HVRA and ARA). A video of the entire meeting is available at <https://www.facebook.com/TreesPlease/>. An ARA representative described the 2009-12 Annex Trees Inventory (available at <https://www.theara.org/Meet-the-Annex-Trees>). Concerns include paving of yards, a lack of biodiversity, and the tendency to replace large trees with medium ornamentals. An ARA resident has prepared a self-guided walk of trees on Howland Avenue, available at <http://gron.ca/annex/walkingtour.pdf>. Leah Ritcey-Thorpe gave a brief overview of the recent HV tree inventory. Her figures show alarming losses of trees, mostly large ones; new plantings are often smaller non-native ornamentals, with many fruit trees. In January 2019 we will post Leah's full report and the underlying data on the HVRA website. The arborist company Cohen and Master gave a lively and well-illustrated presentation. It summarized the nature of storm damage and outlined ways to predict tree problems, and then showed how modern arborist techniques could preserve mature trees.

d. Planning and Development Committee: HVRA was instrumental in two campaigns to help councillors govern under the new reality; councillors got double staff allotments and TEYCC is represented on various committees. A working group has had two meetings on the properties on the northwest corner of Bloor and Spadina (extending as far west as Shoppers). College Street OPA is under appeal. Bloor St. United is coming to a public meeting on Dec. 17. Proposals will be brought to a final public meeting in the new year.

e. Parent Consultation Committee: There is happiness that the Robert St speed bumps have finally been installed, but concern that they are not signposted with speed signs (30km/hr); social media chatter reflects increasing local interest in Lord Lansdowne PS and Kensington PS from parents in the Huron PS catchment — the former may simply be a reflection of the general popularity of French Immersion.

7. Any Other Business

Gail reported on contact from the Harbord BIA regarding the message board at Harbord and Spadina, and maybe another one at Bathurst and Harbord. Gus agreed to be the main point of contact for this should Tony Bulova contact the Chair.

Gail put forward a motion to change the date of the Spring Members' Meeting to May 15, 2019. All in favour; motion carried.

Subsequent to the meeting, on December 8, Sue put forward a motion to ask the HVRA to support a letter being prepared by other RAs regarding City of Toronto Committee composition. 10 board members were in favour; no one was opposed; motion carried.

8. Adjournment

Lena moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Merrill. The meeting ended at 8:50 pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary and Gail Misra, Chair