

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9
FINAL Minutes

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

Regrets: Cathy Merkley, Jane Perdue, Margaret Procter, Regine Schmid

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gus called the meeting to order and informed the board that since Gail was en route from a meeting that went long he would stand in as the acting chair for this meeting. Gail joined the meeting in progress.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Lena moved adoption of the agenda as presented, seconded by Merrill; agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of January Minutes:** Nicole moved approval of the January minutes as presented; Christian seconded; minutes approved.
4. **Other Business items**

a. 2019 Budget update (Gus / Lena)

Gus presented the year-end financial statements for the year 2018 (i.e. Expenditure and Revenue and the Statement of Financial Position (aka the Balance Sheet). These numbers will be used to file HVRA's Not for Profit tax return for 2018. Lena presented the budget for 2019 and will be taking over full responsibility for the Treasurer function from Gus from this point on.

The Board agreed that the revised format of the financials is a significant improvement allowing for greater clarity. Lena presented the draft 2019 Budget and asked that if anyone felt that the proposed expense categories should be different from what was budgeted that they should contact her to revise the estimates (Margaret re: gardeners; Barbara Donaldson re: Croft, Trees, etc.). There was some discussion on how to improve the presentation of the "Projects" part of the budget. Lena will revise and circulate to the board for review. A discussion was had about the "contingency" line item in the budget; Gail suggested that the membership be asked at the AGM if we can establish a contingency fund and if so, of how much.

b. Residential Sidewalk snow removal (Bob)

The Board thanked Bob and Nick for all their hard work in putting together an excellent deck and presentation to the City Budget sub-committee on the topic of sidewalk snow removal. Nicole and Andrea were also thanked for their efforts to reinforce the message on the Friends of Harbord

Village Facebook group encouraging neighbours to call 311 and to write both Mayor Tory and Councillor Layton to convey their displeasure with the state of sidewalk snow removal.

c. Planning & Development update (Sue)

Sue provided an update on the ongoing negotiations regarding the Bloor Street United Church property. HVRA has signed a letter going to the City from numerous RAs re: municipal restructuring. A similar letter will be issued to request greater consideration of the proposed Toronto subway upload.

d. Spring Newsletter (Gail for Anne K.)

Gail, on behalf of Anne Kerekes, updated the board with the proposed timeline for the Spring newsletter, targeting a publication date of the end of April. Proposed ideas for articles include:

- Tree inventory – Gus / Leah
- Trees for Me – Nicole
- Robert Street Field – If anything to report Sue/Nick
- New places in the neighbourhood – Anne K
- In ground street planters – Jennette Boehmer/Daniel Suss
- Trinity St. Paul's Heart Garden project – Gail in "Message from the Chair"
- Any other ideas?? – please submit to Anne K and cc Gail

e. Ontario Place for All letter to province

After a brief discussion, it was decided that we would not send out a letter to the province from the board, but all board members were encouraged to submit a letter on their own as individual citizens.

f. Harbord Village brand / identity (Christian)

A discussion was had about the misuse of the "Harbord Village" name and it was decided that we would not actively do anything to correct the misuse. The board decided to put copies of the HVRA newsletter out at the Central Tech Community Swim.

g. Transportation update (meeting with Layton) (Carolee)

Carolee reported on the Transportation Committee's meeting with Councillor Layton. The meeting was positive and the councillor seemed open to working with the HVRA on transportation related projects. He suggested that a first project could be an inventory of road signs in the Harbord Village with a view towards providing the City a comprehensive list of signs that need replacing or renewing. He suggested doing this across all the RAs in his ward and then convening the RAs to discuss the results. A similar inventory could be done on potholes and street line painting (or the lack thereof) as it is much easier to give the City a list to act on than one off reports. He suggested that since we have three school zones and a seniors zone around Kensington Gardens that we could

make a good case for increased road markings as part of Vision Zero. The councillor seemed open to exploring the idea of an enforcement blitz in the community to target road infractions.

Merrill reported that she and Gord Brown have met with a group of Engineering students who will develop designs for cycle crossings from Bellevue contraflow cycle lanes to Borden and to Brunswick (the street for contraflow lanes in HV is not yet decided; likely to be Borden or Brunswick) that will prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety.

h. Trinity St. Paul's Church Heart Garden (Gail)

Gail reported that she had been contacted by the Church regarding their Heart Garden, a reconciliation garden at the corner of Bloor and Major. They have some plans for developing the garden further this summer, which include making it more of a public space. They have asked if HVRA will send out an eblast publicizing their fundraising campaign, and we have agreed to do so. They would like HVRA support for spending some s. 37 money (which is designated for use in Harbord Village) on the sculpture. More information about the proposed plans for the garden can be found on the Church's website. The Board was generally supportive of the ideas for the garden.

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

a. Area Reports:

- North East: New speed bump signs/traffic calming zone signs have been installed on the northern stretch of Sussex Mews. The speed bumps will presumably have to wait until the spring, and there's still a 40 km/hr sign as you head south along this stretch of Sussex Mews. There will also be the first public meeting on the 4th of March for input for the new park at the NE corner of Sussex and Robert, at 4.30 pm, location TBA.
- North West: Completely inadequate snow removal. The city did not plow Brunswick between Harbord and Bloor, or Sussex resulting in dangerous streets with a centre mound of ice tall enough to damage the undersides of cars driving in the tire wells. Increasing frustration among residents about the uneven clearing of sidewalks. Most residents have actually cleared their walk, but enough have not as to make it hazardous. Laneways have also not been cleared, and the ice from them covers the sidewalks where they emerge. Central Tech has been woefully neglectful of clearing its snow, leaving the sidewalks on Lennox and on Borden largely impassible. They have been publicly called out for this by one of the pedestrian groups, Walking Toronto, on Facebook and a letter was sent. The strangely placed posts for crossing light push buttons that were installed at Brunswick and Harbord in December are **still** inoperative. The Second Cup at Bloor and Lippincott has closed and has been under renovation.
- South West: Snow reports – same situation on Lippincott and Borden, terribly difficult and unsafe to navigate several areas. Bob Stambula is our street angel, and actually brings his own snow plough down the entire Lippincott block when the situation is really bad. Thank you Bob! Such a kind neighbour. The only other situation that happened last week was that the garbage storage for the Food Bank (Borden and College) was vandalized with garbage strewn across the street.
- South Central Area Report: 1. The Councillor's map of ongoing projects (<http://mikelayton.to/ward-11/>) has a thick grey line indicating that Brunswick from College to Ulster will be resurfaced. No other details. We've had lots of the usual problems with snow and

ice, including a very icy sidewalk around Margaret Fairley Park. Calling 311 made a difference on the sidewalks around Margaret Fairley Park; Kensington Health reliably uses its little snow plow to clear snow and ice on the southern half-blocks of Major and Brunswick.

- b. **Membership:** The Membership Committee had planned to meet on Jan 28th and subsequently on Feb 12th however both meetings were cancelled due to bad weather. The meeting has been rescheduled again, for Mar 26th. Since Jan 1st, four names have been removed from the membership list and one member has renewed.
- c. **Parent Consultation Committee:** No report
- d. **Webmaster:** No report
- e. **Gardeners:** Members of the Gardeners' group are organizing two types of winter events: a group outing to Allan Gardens and a book club. Conversations will take place in February with the City regarding the next round of in-ground planters. The Tree For Me initiative is a go. The tree distribution event will take place on June 2 at the Plant Fair. Promotion of the initiative through eblasts and the newsletter, Farmers' Market, etc. to encourage sign ups (starting April 1).
- f. **Transportation:** See report in 4g.
- g. **Planning and Development:** Public meetings that will be held on the Robert St. field design on Mar 4, Apr 2 and May 7. HVRA is working with sister organizations to write a deputation to the special committee on restructuring, following on the reduction of the size of council from 47-25. HVRA will be deputing along with FONTRA. The thrust of the deputation will be that it needs a robust process which includes public input, studies and time. Bloor St. United is very close to finalizing plans that would be acceptable to our sister organizations.

6. Adjournment

Gus moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Merrill. The meeting ended at 8:58 pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary