

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

In Attendance: Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Cathy Merkley, Gail Misra, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Jane Perdue, Andrea Poptsis, Margaret Procter, Nick Provart, Regine Schmid, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Lena Mortensen, Nicole Schulman, Merrill Swain

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and offered Gus condolences on the loss of his mother-in-law who had been a volunteer at the fall fair in past years. She also wished Nicole well as she recovers from surgery.
2. **Adoption of Agenda:** Four additional items were added to the agenda: parking study (Carolee), planning and development (Sue), patio at Caplansky's (Bob) and King Edward drop off zone (Bob). Gus moved adoption of the agenda as amended, seconded by Carolee; agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of February Minutes:** Gus moved approval of the February minutes as presented; Regine seconded; minutes approved.
4. **Other Business items**

a. Spring Newsletter (Gail for Anne K)

Gail reported that Anne K says that things are moving along well. The team was thanked for their timely responses. Anne is still waiting on the SE area report from Cathy and Lena along with the Community Builder information from Gus. Anne Fleming has agreed to help finalise the spring newsletter in Anne K's absence.

b. Transportation Update (Carolee)

Carolee reported that the U of T Engineering students are working on the College St. bike lane transition project. The Transportation Committee is awaiting their presentation. The Committee is undertaking a review of the signs in the neighbourhood with a view towards reporting any that are in poor repair or should not be there (e.g. disabled parking no longer in use) to the councillor who has committed to seeing them fixed promptly.

c. Fall Fair future planning (Gus)

Gus has informed the board that this will be his last year as the Fall Fair champion. There are no plans for succession as yet. Gus has been involved since the 90s and he is ready to turn over the reigns to a new champion. The five key elements to planning the event - music, food, bar, silent auction, kids' activities - have been documented in a sort of user manual to make transition easier.

The event takes 30 – 40 volunteers to deliver. The new champion must be prepared to take on the lead organizer role and ideally that person would step up in time to be able to shadow Gus over this year's planning efforts. In advance of the Spring meeting, a call for ideas will go out in the Spring newsletter and in eblasts. At the Spring meeting, area caucuses will be asked for ideas on what to do with the Fall Fair in future years. Gus agreed to put a blurb together for the Spring newsletter. Fall Fair future planning will be discussed again at the June meeting where area reps will report back on the caucus discussions from the Spring meeting. A go forward plan will be developed at that time.

d. eBlasts Editor (Gail)

Ann Eyerman who has been doing the eblasts since 2016 has decided to retire from the role. She will put out one final eblast before passing the pen to Anne Fleming. The board passed a motion to formally thank Ann Eyerman for all her hard work. She brought a fabulous touch to the eblasts with her writing skills and personality. She became the voice of the HVRA to the membership and established a real presence in the community through her witty style and she will be greatly missed. The board is reminded to continue to send content for the eblasts to the eblast team.

e. Community Resilience Planning (Gail)

Gail reported that Blake Poland is teaching a U of T course on community resilience and through the class 3 groups of 3 students each have selected community resilience planning in the Harbord Village as a topic for their class project. Gail will report back after the students have submitted their projects. The Community Resilience team is holding an event on May 8th at the Knox Church to coincide with Emergency Preparedness Week. The event will be promoted through eblasts and the Spring newsletter.

f. Spring Meeting planning (Gail)

Gail confirmed that Ann Howitt and Leah Ritcey Thorpe have been confirmed as speakers for the Spring meeting. They will discuss the declining tree canopy. It was discussed that it might be a good idea to alert the media of the talk since the topic is newsworthy. It was also suggested that the HVRA reach out to the councillor to see if the declining canopy can become a policy priority. This is being done by Sue and Carolee.

g. Trees for Me (Margaret)

Margaret reported that the organization behind the Trees for Me initiative is very helpful. They will take orders for and deliver the trees to the HVRA on the day of the plant fair (June 2). Eblasts and other methods will be sent out to promote the initiative. The board was asked to go to the Trees for Me website to test out how user friendly the intake process is. Sue asked if the results of the tree canopy inventory are going to be published so that media interest can be generated. Margaret reported that there is an issue with the data used in the report that is being resolved. Once it is resolved, the study will be published.

h. Parking study (Carolee)

Carolee reported that she has been approached by Albert Kohl from the ARA to see if there is interest in assembling a sub committee to discuss parking in the neighbourhood. Simon, Gus and Margaret are interested in learning more; Carolee will put them in touch with Albert.

i. Caplansky's Patio (Bob)

The new owner of the Caplansky's site (356 College St.) wants permission to conduct business on the patio of the premises, which has previously been designated for greening as per the Green Plan. The new owner has done an informal poll of the community after having approached the councillor about the patio. Gus put forward a motion to allow Bob to approach the proponent to discuss possibilities for greening the corner. Carolee seconded the motion; all in favour. Simon offered to help Bob with this matter.

j. King Edward Drop Off Zone (Bob)

Bob reported that King Edward is revisiting the idea of a drop off zone in front of the school. This idea was discussed about two years ago with Councillor Cressy. Bob is engaged with the parent council, the principal and the councillor's office and will report back to the board after the idea is explored anew.

k. Planning and Development (Sue)

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.

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

a. Area Reports:

- North East: The first public consultation was held for the Robert/Sussex parkette; further meetings follow on April 2nd and May 7th. Signage with renderings for the new parkette at Robert and Bloor (and similarly at other locations) has been installed. This is a City/Bloor Street BIA initiative.
- South West: Frequent retail changes along College (She Said Boom location, Bank of Nova Scotia)

b. Transportation: See report above.

c. Planning and Development: See report above.

6. Adjournment

Christian moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Regine. The meeting ended at 9.03 pm.

S. 37 Monies for Kensington Community School

On March 20, Sue put forward a motion by email to authorise the use of \$125,000 in local s. 37 monies to help the Kensington Community School on the south side of College to fix its front yard. Sue reported that the Councillor assured the HVRA there would be replacement monies coming on stream from developments in the neighbourhood. A majority of board members responded by email that they supported the motion. Motion approved.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary