

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

**In Attendance:** Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Cathy Merkley, Gail Misra, Lena Mortensen, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula, Merrill Swain

**Regrets:** Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Margaret Procter, Nick Provart

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

1. **Group Photo:** The board had its photo taken by Richard Longley in the lobby of Kensington Gardens.
2. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order, welcomed the members present and noted that we had quorum.
3. **Adoption of Agenda:** Gus moved adoption of the Agenda, seconded by Merrill; agenda adopted.
4. **Approval of September Minutes and October notes:** Gus moved approval of the September minutes as presented, Regine seconded; minutes approved. Gus moved to receive the notes from the October AGM, Cathy seconded; meetings accepted.  
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5. **Welcome to new Board member - Nick Provart:** Put over to December meeting as Nick was not in attendance.

**6. Transportation Committee items**

**a) Letter to Mike Layton re: further study in the HVRA (Andrea)**

A proposed letter from Gail to Councillor Layton re: further study of the transportation issues in the HV was discussed. There were different approaches on how to proceed so it was decided that the Transportation Committee could send the report to the Councillor prior to the December board meeting with a simple cover email.

**b) Letter to City Councillor Layton re: contra flow bike lanes (Carolee)**

An email has been sent to Councillor Layton requesting consultation with the HVRA regarding the proposed contra flow bike lanes that will run through the Harbord Village. The Councillor has already responded saying that he will look into it.

**c) U of T Engineering project proposal (Merrill)**

The Transportation Committee prepared a proposal for a project that first year engineering students at U of T could undertake regarding traffic intersection points on College (this could tie into the contra

flow issue that is being taken up with Councillor Layton). The board was supportive of the proposal. Merrill will respond back to U of T to proceed with the project.

## **7. Business Arising**

### **a) Membership Update (Merrill)**

Merrill provided an update on membership. There are 209 paid up members versus 210 last year. The Membership Committee has two major goals - maintain membership renewals and increase diversity (by age, ethnicity, income, renters) over time; ideas to boost membership: publish stories about how we've made a difference in the community. Merrill put forward a motion to allocate \$25 to a prize (gift card) to boost memberships, Cathy seconded; motion carried. Merrill also put forward a motion to purchase a software tool for \$55 that will help the Committee analyze membership information, Cathy seconded; motion carried.

### **b) Pumpkinfest Report (Gail/Lena)**

The Chair provided an update on the Pumpkinfest which was a success despite the inclement weather. Although the event came off well, more volunteers will be required for next year to pull it together. The total cost for the event was \$349.68.

### **c) Volunteer Appreciation Night Report (Gail)**

The Chair provided an update on the Volunteer Appreciation Night which was well attended (31 people). The event cost \$453.97. Gail put forward a suggestion that the timing of the event be moved to May for next year; there were no objections.

### **d) Chair's Report - HVRA Community Police Liaison Committee Representatives (Gail)**

Michael Borelli and Brian Kucharski are the HVRA Community Police Liaisons. They were due to attend their first meeting the night of the November board meeting. They have been asked to report back to the HVRA board after each meeting.

### **e) Chair's Report - Community Resilience Committee (Gail)**

The Committee held its inaugural meeting on September 20, 2018. Blake Poland helped us to articulate what we need to think about when thinking about how to make HV more "resilient", i.e. more able to bounce back from adversity. We agreed that the impact of extreme weather is our focus, and that the goal would be to provide a sort of "safety net" for everyone in the community (homeowners, renters, students). Disaster resilience resources would include first responders, as well as ourselves. The first 24 to 48 hrs are the most important in terms of the need for shelter, food, water, medications, safety, pets, and community support. Work will need to be done to identify where and how some of these needs could be met. We would also need to develop a way to disseminate information in the case of an emergency/disaster.

The next steps include finding funding; contacting CREW for assistance in mapping neighbourhood resources, engaging students who will be in a building community resiliency course in Jan/19 to assist us through small project ideas that would be part of the work we have to do.

**f) Chair's Report – Miscellaneous (Gail)**

A bereavement card was sent to Leslie Thompson on behalf of the board on the passing of her mother. Filming of the Handmaid's Tale will take place on Robert Street at Trinity St. Paul's from November 26 – 27, and a letter was sent asking the production for a donation. The HVRA will be co-hosting with the Annex Residents' Association a Tree Talk on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Councillor-elect Mike Layton will be attending the December board meeting and we will have about 15 to 20 minutes to hear what his priorities are going to be for our ward as well as presenting some of our own priorities.

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

**a. Area Reports:**

- North West: The Annex hotel still appears to be under construction; the city appears to be installing new push button posts at the intersection of Harbord and Brunswick; Flip and Toss and Thai on Harbord has closed
- South West: The FY Food Bank is hosting an Open House, this Wednesday 6pm.
- South Central: Ongoing discussions re: upkeep at Doctor's Parkette; springtime clean up of Margaret Fairley park being proposed; ongoing investigation into parking problems on Major St.
- South East: Speed humps installed on Robert, north of Wilcocks; thefts happening at Knox Presbyterian Church

**b. Communications:** The Communications team looked into the various Harbord Village Facebook pages to better understand how they are being used. The Friends of Harbord Village seems like the best place to publish eblast type information.

**c. Website:** The website has been updated with fresh content in a number of areas. Board members are reminded that the board stores files and documents on the site that are relevant to our work (in a protected part of the site). Please have a look and let the web team know if there are files that should be uploaded there.

**d. Gardeners:** The Tuesday-evening strolls proved so popular that they continued into October; construction of in-street planters at four intersections is underway; ideas for winter include a gardening-book club, a seed exchange, and possible use of a new non-Facebook platform for sharing gardening ideas and questions

**Planning and Development Committee:** A mixed use development is being planned at the northwest corner of Bloor and Spadina (from Shoppers to Spadina, north to the townhouses, incorporating the west subway entrance). Scotiabank has sold to First City Capital. Pizza Pizza has sold to new owners (but has always been said to have a long lease) so there may be a new development in the future on the northeast side of Spadina and Bloor. 52 residents' associations signed on to the letter about city staffing

requirements. The letter will be sent to the Mayor and Councillors. The Bloor Bike Lane final designs are being finalized for tender in early January, with a view to construction in April. The townhouses development at 1,3 Croft has had its final briefs presented. There will be a further day of questions, then two weeks and TLAB will render judgement. The mediation on Bloor Block official plan appeal to TLAB has been suspended pending a hearing on an appeal of the official plan amendment that preserves an unencumbered view of the Victorian tower at 1 Spadina, viewed from College St. which could limit heights of new developments along Bloor St. With the downsizing of council, there remains quite a lot of confusion on how councillors will actually go about their business.

**e. Parent Consultation Committee:** NIL report

## **9. Adjournment**

Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Lena. The meeting ended at 8.55 pm.

Prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary