

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9

FINAL MINUTES

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

Regrets: Lena Mortensen

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus wanted to add an update on the Fall fair to the agenda. Bob wanted to add an item to the agenda on the bylaw review on temporary signs. Sue wanted to add a planning report. Gus moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Nick. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of June minutes:** Nicole moved approval of the June minutes, with a minor addition of a paragraph break; Carolee seconded; minutes approved.
4. **Other Business**
 - a. **Venue / Logistics for the AGM (Andrea / Gail):** Meeting room found at Knox. Andrea to ask about knocking the price down from \$100/hour. We should tell them how we want the chairs set up. Catering needs to be sorted; Tim's is convenient. Ask church to put out water jugs.
 - b. **Rodent Issues in the HV (Carolee):** Neighbours have been complaining about the rodent problem that seems to be getting worse in the HV. Carolee has reached out to the Grange RA which has an initiative that is aiming to control the pests around restaurants in their community. A meeting is planned for September. There also seem to be rats coming out of the perimeter beside the Ralph Chiodo Centre and King Edward School. The call to action is to urge people to call 311 since this a public health issue. Gail to write a letter to Bloor and Harbord Street BIAs to ask them to remind their members to make sure their members are taking all necessary precautions to address rat infestations.
 - c. **Café @ 104 Harbord (All):** The Board discussed the illegal cannabis operation at 104 Harbord Street.
 - d. **Membership Update**

- i. **Membership password reset issue (Margaret):** There were problems with the link to the password reset function. Some of these password reset messages are not reaching their intended recipients. In 10 to 20% of cases, the recipient servers are treating these messages as junk mail. Margaret is suggesting that we pay to update the login system so that the address that the reset messages go out from is not labelled as “junk”. The upgrade to the plug-in is \$49 (perhaps per year). Website and database have been backed up in case the upgrade doesn't go well. Margaret will go ahead with the upgrade. Thanks to Margaret for all her work on the website!
 - ii. **Membership renew issue (Nick):** Margaret introduced Nick to the nuances of the database. Nick and Margaret will need to sit down to correct the date format issues in some of the entries in the database. Once the dates are sorted out, we can send out auto emails to remind people when their memberships are up for renewal.
 - iii. **Membership update (Merrill):** 8 new members from the May meeting (around the patio issue). 29 renewals since the May meeting (including the May meeting activity). Activity is slowing down so we need to make sure the website is working well.
 - e. **Fall Fair planning: Gus** – first meeting taking place in the coming weeks with six or so volunteers (a number of the usual suspects). Several bands have been invited to come to the meeting to talk about booking for the event.
 - f. **TDSB Yard Revitalizations: Gus** reached out to the TDSB contact Mike Gallagher to ask about yard revitalizations. He is on vacation. Gus will report back by email when he hears back.
 - g. **Bylaw consultations for temporary signs: Bob** – The City is doing some consultations. Gord Brown is looking for someone to join him in attending the consultations regarding temporary signs. Bob intends to attend with Gord and wants to speak to the pedestrian clearway with regard to the temporary sign bylaw.
 - h. **Planning and Development (Sue):** Provincial changes to TOCore will have significant impacts on development in the city. It is unclear what impacts the changes that the Province has made to TOCore will mean for the Harbord Village. Design changes are being proposed to the Observatory rebuild. The U of T is exploring geothermal energy for the Robert Street field; may have implications for residents of the HV on Robert Street in terms of potentially hooking up to geothermal power. First laneway house, on Borden near Central Tech, in the HV has gone to the CoA. There is an issue with a tree in the rear of the property and it is possible that this matter will go to TLAB.
5. **Receipt of reports** (acknowledgement of receipt of Committee and Area reports; identification of any new or pressing issues or clarifications)

i. **Transportation Committee:**

- "How to" lists for neighbours to use to obtain traffic calming measures, changes in parking regulations and improved signage have been posted to the website
- The TC completed a sign inventory that was forwarded to the Councillor who then sent it to Transportation – no word back
- TC has contacted the Councillor's office to set up a follow up meeting to explore creative ways of dealing with our traffic issues – no date set
- Carolee is attending biweekly Bloor Street construction management committee meeting with the contractors and city representatives
- ARA had asked HVRA to support an extension of the Bloor bike lane to High Park (letter was drafted and sent in support)

ii. **Area Reports:**

- **North East** (Carolee)
 - Robert St. Field - Surveying has begun, and "geotechnical boreholes" are about to be drilled, to test the viability of geothermal from the site and for surveying purposes. The tennis courts will sadly remain off limits for the rest of the summer
 - 666 Spadina - Community information meeting was held on July 3 and details of the construction provided. A construction management committee will begin to meet later this month, with HVRA reps
 - Application going to CoA for canopy on the Torreira site; plans to reopen the gas station as an Esso
 - Ongoing issues with 104 Harbord, the illegal cannabis operation
- **North West** (Nicole)
 - Ongoing construction along Bloor with attendant reduced room for cars and pedestrians
 - Problem properties:
 - 183 Brunswick problems continue (illegal dumping, etc.)
 - 200 Brunswick remains in a semi-derelict state
 - 250 Brunswick with unauthorized construction and tree removal
 - Two additional derelict properties along this one block stretch
 - The Narayever synagogue at 187 Brunswick has voted to move ahead with their large-scale renovation plans. More to come as the project unfolds
 - The giant old Silver Maple at Brunswick and Sussex was taken down, and is missed (although it was ailing and did need to be removed)
- **South Central** (Margaret)
 - Petition in the works for traffic calming on Brunswick between College and Ulster
 - Exploring potential for charging station in the HV
 - Damage to the in-ground planting at Ulster and Major will be repaired by Purolator after neighbours took photos of its truck and contacted the city

6. Other Business:

After the meeting on July 4th, Gus put forward a motion asking the board to authorize a donation of \$500 to support the Bloor Borden Farmers' Market (as we have done in the past). The money is needed this year more than ever as other sources of funding for the market have been cut. The Board responded by email with Andrea seconding the motion and the motion carrying.

After the meeting on August 22nd, Gus put a motion forward by email to request that the HVRA commit to spending up to \$500 to underwrite the costs of the Federal Election All Candidates meeting, on the understanding that the costs of the meeting would be shared between the BIAs and Residents' Associations in our area. The Board responded by email with Sue seconding the motion and the motion carrying.

It should also be noted that on June 26th, Sue Dexter put a motion forward by email to request that the HVRA join the coalition against the U of T building proposal for the planetarium site. The Board responded by email with Carolee seconding the motion, one abstention being recorded (Jane Perdue) and the motion carrying.

Gus put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Christian.

Meeting adjourned at 8.25pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.