

Harbord Village Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 – 6.30pm Knox Presbyterian Church

Meeting Notes

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7.00pm.

The Chair read an acknowledgement statement acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on Indigenous lands.

1. Area Caucuses and Election of Area Reps

Members gathered in area caucuses and discussed area issues and concerns. Area Reps were elected for each caucus.

Caucus Reports

North East – Nicholas Provart

Area Reps: Carolee Orme (acclaimed) and Nicholas Provart (acclaimed)

- 666 Spadina - lots of construction, Community Construction Committee has met, is addressing concerns about noise, garbage etc.
- Food truck on Sussex Mews, in back parking lot of 720 Spadina Ave. Operated by Reef Technologies, which is "transforming parking lots across North America" by providing ghost kitchen service to restaurants - can order by app only (UberEATS). Apparently inspected by the City (inquiry by N. Provart) and legally allowed to operate in the parking lot according to Councillor Layton's office
- CAFE - should there be a petition against it? Is Pumpkin Festival banner a step too far to attempt to co-opt a community event for illegal activity (turns out to have been a ruse for moving blocks and reopening behind the banner). Banner was covered for the Pumpkin Festival
- Lots of wrong way driving/speeding in neighbourhood streets
- Strange incident of a neighbour's cat having its claws poorly clipped by a stranger such that when it came home the cat had bloodied paws

North West – Nicole Schulman

Area Reps: Nicole Schulman (acclaimed) and Christian Mueller (acclaimed)

- Not a strong turnout for the caucus – consistent with previous meetings
- Disruptive gatherings in the David French Laneway, presumed to be of students from Central Tech, associated reports of sexual congress and pot smoking in the laneway to the south
- Disgruntlement with the "Welcome to the Annex" graffiti Art in the David French Laneway (and also in the laneway to the south)
- Concerning bewilderment at the number of vacant properties on Brunswick
- Wrong way drivers

South East – Cathy Merkley

Area Reps: Cathy Merkley (acclaimed) and Gina Buonaguro (elected)

- Concerns raised (and 311 called) regarding parking of work vehicles & trucks on Lord Lansdowne front "lawn", especially near TP Zone; School Trustee also contacted by resident across the street
- Concerns raised and 311 called re 584 Spadina renovations
- Concern raised about condition of Sussex Mews Lane between Harbord and Wilcocks
- 100 Wilcocks development application briefly discussed – CofA denied application, owner is appealing, hearing is in January
- Sussex Mews and Louie Laki Lanes are both attracting more traffic as Uber drivers and Waze users are being directed to these laneways

- Complaints that some street lights in the area are remaining on all day – not going off during day (needs follow up)
- General complaints heard regarding numerous home renovations; construction activity on lower Robert Street (from Wilcocks and down) taking a toll on neighbours living in homes nearby. 311 suggested.

South Central - Simon Coleman

Area Reps: Simon Coleman (acclaimed) and Eve Schifman (elected)

- Concerns about the Doctor's Parkette; additional volunteers signed up to help with occasional cleaning of the site
- Illegal parking by builders; try to spread the word out through HVRA communications that residents should a) encourage builders who are working in their houses to park responsibly, and b) that it is possible to use the paid parking at Kensington Gardens.
- Illegal parking on Major
- Opportunity to cover utility boxes with street art; Simon following up with Layton's office and Catherine Campbell of StreetARToronto
- Concerns about an 11-unit Airbnb being operated near 66 Major

South West - Jane Perdue

Area Reps: Jane Perdue (acclaimed) and Bob Stambula (acclaimed)

- Garbage on Croft – call 311 to pick up
- Harbord St sidewalk condition south side from Croft to Borden is not in good shape; 311 called
- Drug paraphernalia strewn throughout the neighbourhood; call police to report
- Garbage continues to be an issue around the Fort York Food Bank – they are trying to address it
- Utility box beautification (City program)
- Lack of snow clearance on sidewalks in the HV

2. Greetings from Member of Member of Provincial Parliament Jessica Bell

Jessica Bell brought greetings and reported on some transit matters, such as the halting of the TTC subway upload to the Province.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair, Gail Misra, thanked Rory Gus Sinclair who, after a long tenure as the head of the Fall Fair committee (since the 90s), decided to step aside. Gus mentored Anne Fleming this past Fall Fair and she will be taking over the reins for 2020's event and going forward. Gail thanked Gus on behalf of everyone on the Board and in the community for putting all of his heart and soul into this event for so many years.

The Chair reported that Margaret Procter was retiring from the Board after many years of dedicated service as webmaster, area rep for South Central, and Communications Committee member. Margaret has also worked tirelessly on the gardeners' group and the Plant Fair. On behalf of the HVRA and the community, Gail thanked Margaret for her contributions.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented HVRA's financial report for 2018 and the 2019 Budget Plan. Lena Mortensen reported that the financials look to be in good shape. There were no questions from the floor. Lena moved that the financial statements for 2018 be accepted; Andrea Poptsis seconded. Motion carried.

5. Sidewalk Clearing (Bob Stambula)

Bob provided an update on the advocacy work that he has been doing on behalf of the Board to push for better sidewalk maintenance in the old city of Toronto and East York. The approach on this issue is one of equity, accessibility and safety. The city has proposed a very small pilot (much smaller than was recommended). Bob put forward the following motion:

Whereas the HVRA Board urged our Mayor and Councillor in January 2018 to harmonize residential sidewalk snow clearing service across the city, and recommended same in our February 2019 Budget submission, the HVRA AGM resolved that:

The City of Toronto eliminate the service exclusion zone and harmonize residential sidewalk snow clearing services across the City of Toronto.

Leslie Carlin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Tree Loss (Bob Stambula)

The tree (re)inventory conducted last summer demonstrated that the HVRA has lost almost 30% of its tree canopy over the last 10 years, 2/3 on city property and 1/3 on private property. Bob put forward the following motion:

Whereas the City of Toronto has undertaken a Climate Change Plan, is committed to 40% shade coverage, and has a program to replace trees on public lands, the HVRA AGM resolved that:

Every effort be made by the City to replace, in the next planting season, approximately 700 trees lost from public lands in Harbord Village over the last decade, and to work together with HVRA to find innovative ways to accomplish this, and address a similar loss of trees on private lands.

Gus Sinclair seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Transportation Report

Carolee Orme asked for volunteers who would like to work together to discuss transportation issues in the community. A sign up sheet was passed around.

8. Fall Fair Report

Gus Sinclair gave an update on this year's fall fair. 43 people volunteered to put together this community event, which yielded \$7,500 in proceeds for the HVRA. Anne Fleming will chair the event going forward.

9. Update from the Councillor

Mike Layton provided an update from his office. A tree canopy pilot project is planned for the HVRA to replant some of the trees that have disappeared from the neighbourhood. U of T's secondary plan is due to be completed by the end of the year. Work on 666 Spadina is ongoing. He also talked about snow clearing, changes to planning imposed on the city by the province, such as changes to section 37. There are many development projects in his ward that are taking up a lot of resources. There were questions from the floor regarding the Bloor St repaving, greening, and e-scooters.

10. Community Builder Awards

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community, Community Builder awards were presented to:

- Luisa Cabral

- Rosie Schwartz

11. In Street Planters

Jennette Boehmer reported that it was the one year anniversary of the initial plantings. Some planters are doing well; others not as well. The next cycle of installation is gearing up but is still in the early stages. Amy Furness will take over the project from here on in. Jeannette was thanked for her hard work on this initiative to date.

12. Presentation of Slate of Officers by Convenor of Constitutional & Nominations Committee

Colin Furness presented the slate of officers for 2018-2019 term:

Chair:	Gail Misra (on 3rd year of her term)
Secretary:	Andrea Poptsis
Treasurer:	Lena Mortensen
Membership Secretary:	Merrill Swain
Webmaster:	Regine Schmid
Past Chair:	Rory 'Gus' Sinclair ex officio

There were no nominations from the floor. Celia Denov moved acceptance of the slate, Gus seconded. The slate was acclaimed.

13. Confirmation of U of T Liaison Position

The appointment for this position, which involves attending U of T meetings and liaising with the institution, is for one year. Sue Dexter has been acting in this capacity for the Board and will continue to do so.

14. Slate for the Constitution and Nominations Committee

The slate for the 2018 – 2019 Constitution and Nominations Committee consisting of Celia Denov (Convenor), Samiha Sayed, Margaret Smith, James Murdoch and Colin Furness was presented to the membership. Gus Sinclair moved the slate be accepted. Nicole Schulman seconded. Motion carried.

15. Presentation on Pedestrian Safety by Dylan Reid

Dylan Reid spoke on the topic of pedestrian safety and acknowledged that the HVRA has been very vocal on pedestrian safety issues. Leaside developed a Neighbourhood Traffic Plan which is something the HV may want to consider (follow up – talk to the Councillor).

9:15 pm Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.