

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7.00 pm**  
**Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9**

**MINUTES**

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

**Regrets:** Gail Misra, Lena Mortensen

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by Gus who was acting Chair in Gail's absence.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gus called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board to the meeting.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Margaret added an item to the agenda for the membership system report. Carolee moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Merrill. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of July minutes:** Regine made a small revision in d ii, namely the removal of her name from the first sentence. Simon moved approval of the July minutes, as amended; Nick seconded; minutes approved.
4. **Other Business**
  - a. **Venue / Logistics for the AGM (Andrea)**

Issues around entrance to the room (2); Andrea to sort out refreshments. Board members to help with wayfinding. Eblast to go out with revised details. Andrea to send to the eblast team – sign to be put up on 45 Brunswick directing people to the other location; also will tell reception.
  - b. **Café @ 104 Harbord (All)**

The Board discussed the illegal cannabis operation at 104 Harbord Street.
  - c. **Area Rep position description (Gus for Gail)**

It seems like a good time to propose changes to the area rep position descriptions as the Board is going out to recruit two new area reps. There was a change in the position description item 6. Sue talked to the need to reduce the burden on area reps by augmenting support for the area rep by connecting to neighbours in the community who might have inputs into CoA procedures. Included in the position description is the need for P&D to circulate all CoA materials to the area reps so that they are up to speed on what is happening in the community (to prevent area reps from being ambushed on the street by neighbours). Councillor's office has been slow to keep us in the loop when applications come in - more on that in the Councillor's report. Gus suggested we regard the document as a work in progress; we should look at updating all the job descriptions as a separate exercise, perhaps for the Board's next session. Merrill will undertake

to revise the language in the description and share with the Board for email approval. Ideally, the new position descriptions are used to facilitate discussions with prospective area reps to replace the two that are departing at the end of this term.

**d. Fall Fair debrief (Gus)**

The weather for the Fall Fair was good and that was reflected in the financial results. Beer expense needs to have HST added. Produce table had swift sales as did the raffle. Expenses were down compared to last year. Membership sign-ups at the event were also record-setting (over \$900). Overall the event yielded a profit of around \$7,000 (with donations \$7,500). Anne Fleming will assume the leadership role for the 2020 Fall Fair, with support from Gus on music. Sue suggested that Anne should be recognized for her efforts at the AGM. The Board thanked Gus for his leadership and all his hard work on the Fall Fair all these many years.

**e. Engineering Report (Merrill)**

**i. 2018/19 student report**

Merrill reminded the Board that the report had been circulated and asked the group for comments. Merrill noted how great the students were to work with; she and Gord attended the students' final exam. Merrill prepared a letter of recommendation for one of the students from the 2017/18 group who had requested a letter of recommendation for a transportation related scholarship (the project sparked her interest in transportation!).

Nicole asked if we as a Board wanted to think about having a more formal recommendation to consider these proposals to any bodies that set the policy as it pertains to bike traffic on the periphery of the Harbord Village. Merrill felt that we wouldn't want to make a recommendation solely on the basis of these recommendations. Gus suggested that we reference the report as a talking point when we are asked about bike lanes and interchanges in the Harbord Village. The Board agreed to post the summary of the report to the HVRA website; Regine to follow up.

**ii. 2019/20 study proposal**

Merrill submitted a proposal to the Engineering department for this year's study; she has not heard back yet. The underlying question is what might we do to improve safety (pedestrian, cyclists, drivers, etc.) and reduce speed in the neighbourhood. This is not a discussion about being for or against the maze but rather it is a question that is being put to the students to see what they come up with in terms of addressing these issues.

**f. Rogue Renovations (Nicole)**

Increasing pattern of new home owners doing renovations that don't seem to be by the book, without proper permits, and not within the bylaws. In some cases, there are no permits; in others, permits are being opened and not closed. Gus offered if people are going to behave badly when it comes to renovations, it is a problem but that compliance has to come from the Buildings department and from the inspection process. Sue suggested that people contact the Councillor's office with issues that pertain to illegal construction.

**g. Rats! (Carolee)**

Carolee reports that there seems to be an increase in rates in the neighbourhood and in the city. The question is does the HVRA want to get involved in pushing property owners to do something about it or do we want to focus on lobbying the city to take on a more active role in pest control? Sue reports that the Grange has managed to eradicate their rat issues. They made a list of people from the community and arranged to have an exterminator come; they collected money from the property owners and paid the exterminator. Bob offered that on Lippincott there was an outbreak recently near the garbage bins on the King Edward playground / COSTI garbage bins. The city was called and they went out to assess the situation; it doesn't look like anything has come out of this complaint.

**h. Volunteer Appreciation Night vote (Gus for Gail)**

A vote was taken and Thursday November 21<sup>st</sup> was the most desirable option for the volunteer appreciation night that Gail will host.

**5. Other Business**

**South West report (Bob): additional item**

- Stable housing for long term residents at 60 Borden were given the informal news that the owner of 60 Borden is looking to sell the property and has apparently been talking to the John Howard Society about taking it on. The councillor's office contacted the John Howard Society but apparently they knew nothing about it. The license for the property is up in the fall and there is also a concurrent bylaw review on rooming houses / group homes. Many of the residents are being looked after by the Public Guardian and they will be impacted if this operation ceases to exist. Productive conversation with the councillor's office in terms of making sure the residents are not negatively impacted by these potential changes.

**Councillor's Report (Sue)**

- Sue gave a report *in camera* on some of her interactions with the Councillor's office.

**Membership Website (Margaret)**

- Website was put together on a shoe string and is working well for most things. The membership module is not coping well and needs to be fixed. There is a Danish vendor that could be brought in to help to fix this issue; they need payment upfront, but if it doesn't work out, they will refund the fees. There isn't enough money in the budget at the moment to cover this essential work; Margaret put forward a motion to ask the Board to approve an increase of up to \$300 in the budget for this work. The work should not cost more than \$500 USD in total. Merrill seconded; all in favour. Motion approved.

**6. Receipt of reports** (acknowledgement of receipt of Committee and Area reports; identification of any new or pressing issues or clarifications)

## **Chair's Report – Gail Misra**

**Rats:** As a follow up to the July meeting, Gail sent a letter to the Chairs of the Harbord St. and Bloor St. BIAs re asking that they remind businesses/restaurants in their respective areas to be vigilant about rat control

**Area Representative revised job description:** Revised job description was sent to Board members. Description will be discussed at the meeting.

**Board Composition:** Margaret Procter is leaving the Board after years of incredible service. Lena would like to concentrate on the Treasurer role. Search Committee needs to be looking for a SE and SC Area Reps.

**AGM Planning:** Meeting logistics have been taken care of. Dylan Reid, Walk Toronto leader, co-founder of Spacing magazine, former Chair of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee, will speak on pedestrian safety. Gus will deliver the Community Builder Awards. There will need to be a Treasurer's Report and a Membership Report made at the meeting.

**Thank-you dinner for Margaret:** A date needs to be set for Margaret's thank you dinner out of the three possible options.

**Fall Fair:** Thank you to Gus and the Fall Fair team for their efforts and acknowledgement for all of Gus' hard work throughout the years.

**Membership - Merrill Swain:** New memberships totaled 12, and there were 46 renewals from the fall fair; \$970.00 collected. Still some issues behind the scenes with the website and auto renewals. In November, after the AGM, Merrill will report on total numbers of new members and renewals, compared to last year.

**Membership website – Margaret Procter:** Work continues with the online system and provider Codeable to fix the Formidable plug in. Membership committee will report on their communication with Codeable. They hope to have the system in full working order before the AGM. Team will report back at the next meeting.

**Tree for Me Report – Margaret Procter:** Tree for Me program has been shuttered. City is absorbing the initiative and we will have to wait and see what initiatives, if any, are offered to the community.

## **Area Reports:**

- **North East** (Carolee/Nick): Ghost food truck operational at the back of 720 Spadina Ave; site prep has started for new rental building south of 666 Spadina; plans for new park at Robert and Sussex are being finalized; Bloor Street rehabilitation/revitalization work continues on schedule; gas station and canopy at Tino's old garage appealed to TLAB

- **North West** (Nicole/Christian): Abandoned house at 200 Brunswick; illegal renovation at 210 Brunswick; illegal tree removal at 250 Brunswick; laneway renewal project on Alan Powell lane (garage doors)
- **South Central** (Margaret/Simon): severed parking lot on Boys of Major Lane for sale; construction on Brunswick between College and Ulster; speed humps on Brunswick petition underway; potential to paint utility boxes in front of 99/101 Brunswick
- **South East** (Cathy/Lena): Theft on Robert Street caught on camera; Watch Your Speed sign installed on Robert north of Willcocks; increased raccoon activity noted in the area

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.

#### **Other Business – Motions passed between the September Board Meeting and October 31/19:**

On September 10, 2019, a proposal written by Gord Brown and Merrill Swain for a project of the U of T First Year Engineering Design students was emailed to the Board. Merrill moved that the proposal, endorsed by the HVRA's Transportation Committee, be accepted. Seconded by Gail, carried, with suggested amendments by Sue, Nick and Lena. A majority of the Board responded favourably to the motion. Motion carried.

On September 21, 2019, Gail put forward a motion by email to ask the HVRA to sign a letter being sent by MPP Jessica Bell to the Minister of Transportation to support the introduction of legislative and regulatory amendments that would permit enforcement measures for safety cameras on transit vehicles. Seconded by Gus, carried (16 votes).

On September 22, 2019, revised Area Representative Job Descriptions were shared with the board by email. Merrill moved the adoption of the revised job descriptions. Seconded by Nicole, carried (14 votes).

On October 3, 2019, Margaret shared a proposal by email with the Board outlining the need to hire an external vendor to assist in resolving ongoing membership module issues. Merrill put forward a motion asking the Board to approve the cost of \$320 to Codeable for the work of the Vietnamese coder who was hired to restore our on-line membership system to good working order. Seconded by Nick, carried (14 votes).

On October 10, 2019, Bob shared a draft comment that he hoped could be submitted to the City on the new Temporary Sign Bylaw Proposal. Bob moved that the Board approve the HVRA comment and authorize its submission to the City. Nicole seconded, carried (13 votes).

On October 14, 2019, Gail asked the Board for comments as to whether we should accept a CityPlace invitation to join a social network called "Nextdoor". In light of the extremely negative reviews of this site it was decided not to join (Gus, Bob, Merrill, Margaret, Nick, and Lena all had negative responses).

On October 15, 2019, Gus put forward a motion by email requesting that the Board approve the nomination of Frank Davis to make the case for HVRA on the 132 Harbord Street file at TLAB for as long as it takes for the file to be adjudicated. This means that Frank Davis will file for Party Status at TLAB in the name of HVRA and would be the lead on all matters on this file. Rory Gus Sinclair will assist in the presentation of the case. Seconded by Andrea, carried (14 votes in favour, 1 abstention – Jane Perdue).

On October, 23, 2019, Lena moved that the Board approve the ultimate total cost of the work necessary to make all the fixes needed to the membership module of the website. The final bill was for \$904.26 (of which \$320 had already been approved by the Board). Utilizing the HVRA budget line for web contingency work of \$400, the motion was for the remainder additional cost of \$204.26; seconded by Margaret, carried (15 votes).

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.