

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
February 18, 2020, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9

MINUTES

In Attendance: Gina Buonaguro, Simon Coleman, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Gail Misra, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Nick Provart, Jane Perdue, Nicole Schulman, Merrill Swain

Regrets: Sue Dexter, Lena Mortensen, Regine Schmid, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Meeting called to order at **7:05 pm** by Gail.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and noted that we have quorum despite the number of absences.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Christian moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Merrill. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of January minutes:** Simon moved approval of the January minutes as amended (with the addition of Susan McDonald as attending the January meeting); Cathy seconded; minutes approved.

4. **Business Arising**

a. **HVRA Facebook report back (Nicole)**

PARA didn't really answer the question when they were asked how much work it was to maintain their Facebook page. PARA doesn't have a website so they are using their Facebook page instead. They currently have about 170 followers. Nicole looked into setting up a Facebook page for HVRA and it wouldn't take a lot of effort to establish. The Friends of Harbord Village page has about 420 followers. It had about 250 comments on about 50 posts. Nicole felt that it would be useful for HVRA to have a Facebook page to be able to use it as a communications channel. Ultimately it will have to be handled by the Communications Committee. Unless there is a champion for this initiative, which there doesn't appear to be, this issue is parked for the time being.

5. **Other Business**

a. **Spring newsletter (Gail for Anne Kerekes)**

Gail referenced the email put together by Anne Kerekes with the timeline for the publication of the spring newsletter along with the suggestions of topics for the next edition. The Board was asked if they had topics to suggest for the newsletter.

- P&D is of interest to people and this seems to be a good topic to be covered in the newsletter (perhaps up to 2 pages)
 - Update on site of Tino's garage
- Membership; Merrill will do something about membership.
- Mirvish Village development could be another topic; Nicole has offered to put an article together.
- Nick could do an update on the Robert Street field geothermal project.
- Bloor St. parkettes; Christian could write something. This might be better as a fall article after we've seen the parkettes evolve over the summer.
- Music festivals in the HV, e.g. WinterFolk; Christian could write this.
- Community builders – Gail will ask Gus when the names of the builders need to be obtained
- Contra Flow Bike lanes – fact-based Q&A about the lanes (e.g. stopping, Wheeltrans, parking, etc.); Nicole will prepare a draft.

b. Spring meeting (Gail)

The Net Zero Carbon Committee will look after finding a speaker for the Spring meeting. Susan will ask Tim if he was the one with the contact with the person that was proposed as the speaker. Mike Layton will come for 8pm. Andrea will confirm that the regular room in the North building will be available. Cathy will ask if there is a room available at Trinity St. Paul's for 75 people in case Kensington Gardens is not available.

c. Contra Flow bike lanes (Nicole)

Nicole provided an update on the status of the contra flow bike lanes. There is no obvious benefit to this change for people in the community who don't bike or who don't feel compelled by the climate emergency to take action. At the workshop with the City, the Board impressed upon the City that it is essential that there is better signage and markings at intersections because that is where the danger truly exists. Borden, because it is being rebuilt, will have a raised intersection at Ulster which will help with the safety issues. The City has said that they will collect data and will review it at a later date to make sure that the implementation has been effective. There is a petition that circulated on Borden trying to garner support for opposing the contra flow lanes due to the impact on elderly and/or disabled pedestrians. There was some discussion about what data will be collected by the City and how it will be used to determine "success".

The Board was not able to come to consensus on whether or not to support this initiative because it is so controversial in the neighbourhood. Gail thanked Nicole on behalf of the Board for all her hard work on this file.

d. Search Committee Terms of Reference (Gail)

Merrill had revised the Search Committee terms of reference in advance of the AGM. The item was never adopted. Merrill moved adoption of the revised terms of reference for the Search Committee; Gina seconded. Motion carried.

Gail advised the Board that she will be moving out of the neighbourhood sometime this year. Gail is giving us notice that she will be stepping down from the role of Chair. She proposed a more transparent approach to finding a new Chair. Gail suggested she would not be on the Search Committee but was proposing that the past Chair (Gus) continue to be on the committee along with Nicole. Her suggestion was that one more person from the Board join the committee. She asked if anyone on the Board was interested in putting their name forward to be considered as the next Chair or the Vice Chair in the meantime until Gail steps aside. She asked that they send their interest by email to any member of the Search Committee.

Carolee and Simon offered to be part of the Search Committee along with Nicole and Gus. Gus will be away quite a bit in the coming months, which is a bit of a concern in terms of conveying to potential candidates what the role of the Chair is and what is required in terms of a time commitment. Andrea suggested that Gail put together a document outlining the key deliverables and responsibilities. Merrill suggested that Gail continue to participate in the Search Committee to ensure a smooth transition.

The Spring meeting is an important deadline. It is important that we have some sort of update on the Chairpersonship at the Spring meeting. Jane offered her thanks to Gail on behalf of the Board for all her hard work. She will be greatly missed in the Harbord Village.

Nicole asked that if the Board had any good suggestions for potential candidates for Vice Chair or Chair that they put the names forward to the Search Committee. The eblast team is asked to put a blast together to ask for volunteers at all levels of responsibility, including the chair.

6. Reports

a. Net Zero Carbon Committee (Susan)

The short-term focus is on collecting baseline data. Only 28 people have completed the survey thus far. The PDF with the instructions is critical in terms of helping people to complete the survey. Every board member is being asked to fill in their data and recruit three neighbours to complete the survey so that we can get to our goal of 100 houses. The deadline is the end of February (but there is talk that it can be extended). Sue Dexter has arranged with U of T engineering students who will work on a project that has to do with a typical house in the HV (Susan's) to analyze the data and make some suggestions on energy efficiency.

b. Membership Committee (Merrill):

Merrill provided a recap of the 55 renewals that came from the reminders that were sent out. A contest will be run for new members in the period before the Spring meeting. Merrill asked the Board to approve the printing costs of a flyer (approximately \$50 for 1000). It was suggested that the flyer be done as an insert to the Spring newsletter to reduce the cost of distribution. Gail suggested that Merrill connect with Anne Kerekes to discuss the possibility of adding an insert to the Spring newsletter with the content of the flyer.

Neil Wright from the HSBIA has offered to put a copy of the membership form in the new resident packages that he gives out through his real estate business, and in the new member packages for the BIA. He has also agreed to forward our eblasts to his membership.

Cathy moved that if there is an incremental cost for the flyer as an insert to the newsletter that it be approved. Gina seconded. Motion approved.

c. Planning and Development Committee

Nick provided an update on the Robert Street geothermal project. They are starting on the digging of the boreholes for the project. U of T will convene a meeting with the public to provide more information on the project to the public. Sue is arranging the public meeting.

Carolee provided an update on Knox Church's sign. The sign had minimal variances initially proposed but they have backed down from the initial request. The sign will provide information about events taking place at the church. Knox Church is a listed building, not a designated building. City staff from Heritage suggested that we might want to put an application in to have the building designated Heritage.

Community Police Liaison Committee (Gail)

Gail met with Michael Borelli, who is the HVRA rep on the Community Police Liaison Committee. He indicated that the police wanted to know what the community expects from them. They advised that they are no longer providing crime statistics. Michael and Gail agreed that it was important that the police continue to report on these statistics at these meetings.

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

Area Reports:

- **North East** (Nick/Carolee)
 - Final plans for the green space at Spadina – Sussex were proposed
 - Construction on the geothermal project on the Robert Street field is ramping up with the green space to be substantially finished by this summer. Info page here: <https://chestnut.utoronto.ca/home/student-residence/residence-projects-updates/>
 - Rehab of 666 Spadina balconies continues.
- **North West** (Nicole/Christian):
 - Demolition has begun on one of the vacant houses on Brunswick

- Some sidewalk plowing has occurred on Brunswick
- Much discussion about the contra flow bike lane proposed for the HV
- Concern about the empty storefronts on Bloor St.
- **South Central** (Simon/Susan):
 - NIL.
- **South East** (Cathy/Gina):
 - Inquiry re: the traffic light going in at Robert/Harbord
- **South West** (Jane/Bob):
 - Empty storefronts on College Street where the lack of a BIA is noticeable
 - Mural on the NW side of Croft and College may be repainted through community efforts

8. Other Business:

Before the meeting, on February 5, 2020 Lena Mortensen sent an email to the Board asking for a motion that the HVRA allocate \$100 to print stickers to be placed in local businesses that are supporting the Annex-Harbord Reduces Initiative. Seconded by Sue, carried (12 votes).

Before the meeting, on February 10, 2020 Gail sent an email to the Board with a motion regarding a letter our MPP Jessica Bell wanted RAs to sign regarding Airbnb Regulation. Seconded by Sue, carried (17 votes).

After the meeting, on March 2, 2020, Sue sent an email to the Board asking for a motion to allow the HVRA to join the Toronto 2030 committee as a Community Partner. Seconded by Gail, carried (15 votes).

Christian put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Merrill. Meeting adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.