

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
January 14, 2020, 7.00 pm
Kensington Gardens, 25 Brunswick Ave, Toronto, ON M5S 2L9

MINUTES

In Attendance: Gina Buonaguro, Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkely, Gail Misra, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Nick Provart, Jane Perdue, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Gus Sinclair, Merrill Swain

Regrets: Robert Stambula

Guest: Tim Grant

Meeting called to order at **7:06** pm by Gail.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board to the meeting. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and she welcomed Tim Grant to the meeting. Board members went around the table and introduced themselves for the benefit of new Board member Susan McDonald, who was welcomed to the Board.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus suggested adding an update on the development application for Tino's garage. Sue Dexter asked that we move up the Net Zero Carbon Committee's update to the beginning of the agenda so that Tim could leave immediately after. Sue requested that an item be added on the City of Toronto Budget Committee. Simon moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Gina. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of November minutes:** Merrill moved approval of the November minutes as amended (with the change in language around the tree planting); Cathy seconded; minutes approved.
4. **Business Arising**
 - a. Gail's expenses for the Volunteer Appreciation night exceeded the \$500 budget by \$34.64. Gus put forward a motion to approve the reimbursement for all expenses Gail incurred related to the Volunteer event, including the amount in excess of the \$500 budget. Merrill seconded the motion; motion carried.
5. **Other Business**
 - a. **Net Zero Carbon Committee (Sue / Tim):** Tim provided a bit of a history on the projects that the HV undertook about a decade ago re: energy efficiency. One project encouraged people in the HV to put solar panels on their roofs; another - the HERO project - was done with a LiveGreen grant and was extended to 120 houses in the HV. Tim advised that both municipal and federal governments are contemplating initiatives

to help homeowners retrofit houses to reduce carbon emissions. The NetZero Committee has met with the City to develop two projects. The whole landscape of what governments might fund is fluid and we are excited about the HVRA being in on the ground floor of these opportunities.

The first project involves collecting baseline data in order to create a baseline for energy consumption in the HV. The City is setting up a survey to help us recruit residents to collect 12 months of electricity and gas consumption data for 2019. The survey asks a variety of questions about the characteristics of the houses in the community. This will help us establish a starting point to understand what the baseline energy consumption is, and then will allow us to review energy consumption after retrofits have been undertaken.

The Board is asked to participate and to help recruit neighbours to provide baseline data. The NetZero Committee will also go back to the 120 houses that participated in the HERO project previously.

The NetZero Committee will put together RFPs for services that can be purchased in bulk to assist in some of the retrofits (TBD) and is hoping to take advantage of grant funding, such as through the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF). Having baseline data will be critical in helping to secure a grant.

The other potential project that the Committee is contemplating is related to district energy. The U of T, with the building at Sussex and Spadina, is committed to geothermal energy. Mike Layton sees district energy in the HV as a potential cornerstone accomplishment. VanCity has an off shoot called CoPower, who are fully ready to fund initiatives like this. This is an early stage, quite aspirational, project but is very exciting.

The Committee asks the Board to fund up to a maximum of \$400 for the printing and distribution of a flyer to promote the initiative to gather baseline energy consumption information. Gus moved the motion; seconded by Lena; all in favour; motion carried. If the spend is over the approved amount then the Committee has agreed to come back to the Board to ask for approval.

The Committee will suggest a speaker for the Spring Meeting and will keep Gail in the loop on who it is. Andrea will contact Mike Layton's office to invite them to the Spring meeting.

The Committee is also asking for permission to send out an eblast to communicate the survey (the text will be sent to the eblast team).

These projects will serve to broaden the reach of the HVRA and improve community engagement among members and non-members alike.

- b. HV Community Clean Up (Gail):** Gus and Gail received a message from Catherine Lilley informing the Board that her team is not going to run the community clean up anymore.

She has asked if the Board is willing to take on producing the event, including recruiting volunteers to deal with coordinating city services, obtaining food and prizes, getting insurance, set up of venue, etc. Simon suggested that we try to activate the caucus areas to get together with their neighbours to do clean ups locally.

Gus provided an overview of how it used to be done (2 garbage pickup locations: 1 at Margaret Fairley park and the other at Central Tech) when it was a much smaller scale event. The Board felt that we should focus on the residential streets as opposed to Harbord, College and Bloor. Carolee suggested that this could be a “spring event” where people congregate in a central location before (to get dispatched) and after (to have some refreshments - pizza and pop, donuts & coffee). Gail will thank the organizers from the past years for their efforts and will advise them that the Board is prepared to take on putting on a scaled down, more localized version of the event. Gail will advise Catherine that the Board will take the materials that the outgoing team has accumulated for the event.

Ikea has donated 100 plates and cutlery to this event. Gail will ask Catherine about the plates and cutlery, as Gus offered to put Catherine in touch with Terry Chu, in the Annex, who has started a free service to lend out plates, etc. for local birthday parties, etc. The idea is to reduce the use of single use paper and plastic plates and utensils. Regina asked about deleting their information from the HVRA webpage. Instructions will follow after Gail and Gus have a chance to talk to Catherine. This item will be added to the February meeting agenda for further discussion.

- c. **AirBnB issues in the HV (Nicole):** There is a house at 259 Brunswick that is a full time AirBnB party house. There is currently no enforcement until the new bylaws regarding short term rentals are in effect. What can the HVRA do to address this issue until the bylaws come into effect? The suggestion was made to take photos and report to 311. Residents can go onto the AirBnB site to provide comments to the owners of the properties that are renting on AirBnB. We don't really have an HVRA way to deal with this issue; neighbours should be encouraged to call 311 or file a report on the AirBnB site to complain about these properties. If there are any other ideas on how to deal with this issue, please bring them up.
- d. **Youth engagement (Andrea):** Andrea commented that it seems hard to engage the youth around some of HVRA's community issues. There might be an opportunity to engage youth who feel connected to the climate change issue. Some ideas as to how: flyer delivery could be done by youth, we could engage Central Tech and the elementary schools to participate in the community clean up. There might be a youth in the neighbourhood who wants to lead the charge in rallying a youth cabinet who could take on an issue (e.g. Annex / Harbord Reduces). It was suggested that the eblast team could send out an eblast to see if there are any kids in the community to deliver flyers.
- e. **HV Reduces (Andrea / Lena):** The Board has discussed this issue before and a number of communities around the city have adopted this “X Reduces” type of initiative. ARA is running a meeting on Jan 15th at Karma Coop to organize their efforts around an Annex

Reduces initiative. Lena will talk to them at the meeting to see if there is an opportunity to team up with them and then she will report back.

- f. **HVRA Facebook presence (Nicole):** As an administrator of the Friends of HV Facebook page, Nicole was recently asked by PARA to join the group. Nicole asked if it was worth having a Facebook page for the HVRA to promote HVRA events and talking points. Nicole will ask PARA how much work the Facebook page is and then report back at the next meeting. Ultimately this would need to be an item considered by the Communications Committee.

6. Reports

a. Membership Report (Merrill):

The proposed membership flyer was shared with the group. The Board liked the design and the content. Merrill moved that the flyer be approved; Christian seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Nick reported on the auto reminder feature. The feature has been developed and tested and will be rolled out. Emails will go out to the “very expired” members to catch up (membership reps will send out the emails manually) and then emails will go out to members just before their memberships expire.

A “Join HVRA” feature has been added to the Membership page on the HVRA website. A contest will be launched to sign up new members between April 1 and the Spring meeting, May 20. Prizes will be from several Harbord Street restaurants.

Merrill wants to include the BIA members in our distribution list. Gus suggested that we go through Neil and ask him to send it to his membership on our behalf.

b. Planning and Development Update (Sue)

- i. Development project NW corner of Bloor and Spadina (7/11 building over to just before Shoppers): proposal is for 36 stories, ground level retail, TTC entrance
- ii. Public meeting 290 Major (S of Kinko’s): A good process has resulted in an agreement between the developer/applicant and the neighbourhood. The building will be of rental units, primarily for students.
- iii. Tino’s Garage: an offer of settlement was put forward by the proponent, including accommodating a canopy from which light doesn’t bleed over onto neighbouring properties. The height will stay the same as what was proposed because it’s needed for the trucks to be able to deliver the gas. The hours of operation will be 6am to 11pm (instead of 24 hours). The number of pumps will stay at 2 with 4 nozzles. An effort will be made to negotiate putting the restrictions on title so that any future buyer would be bound by them.

- c. **Transportation Committee update (Carolee/Nicole):** Carolee has stepped down as the leader of the Transportation Committee. Nicole has taken over and is going to meet with the City to discuss the proposal for new bike lanes that will connect Bellevue to north of Bloor up to Lowther. This is a pre-meeting that will be followed by a public meeting.
- d. **Budget Meeting (Sue):** Sue is unable to attend the meeting next week but HVRA will send a letter requesting that if the City declares they are going to support particular policy initiatives that they should commit to funding them.
- e. **Painting of Electrical boxes (Simon):** Simon is continuing to follow up with the City to determine if there is funding for this initiative.

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)
 - 666 Spadina - work continues on balcony restoration and other aspects of rehabilitation.
 - Robert Street Field: test drillings seem to have been positive for a geothermal installation to provide heat and cooling to the new university residence. A meeting with the University is scheduled for January 20th to go over final plans for the new community green space, and details of the Construction Management Committee for this site.
 - Café is as stubborn as a cockroach. Perhaps with the opening of Tokyo Smoke at Bathurst and Bloor, traffic on Harbord related to this illegal operation will decrease.
- **North West** (Nicole/Christian):
 - Pre-Xmas murder on Brunswick in a rental unit in a residence
 - The vacant house at 200 Brunswick has finally been boarded up
 - The new parkette at Brunswick and Bloor appears to be complete; following the work on Bloor there have been ZERO trash bins installed leading to an increase in rubbish along Bloor and in the new parkettes
- **South Central** (Simon/Susan):
 - Still awaiting improvements to the surface of Brunswick north of College
 - Welcome to Susan McDonald as a new SC representative.
- **South East** (Cathy/Gina):
 - Snow shovelling flyer distribution seems to have yielded some good results with a huge improvement in snow removal. A good reminder to keep these flyers handy when the snow flies again.

Webmaster Report:

The website is stable and up to date. Board members were reminded of the Board Only area of the website that is password protected. Email problems with @harbordvillage.com addresses

continue. The web team (especially Margaret and Regine) are dealing with the management at WHC to get to the bottom of these issues.

8. Other Business:

On December 15, 2019, Gail sent an email to the Board asking for a motion to allow the Membership Committee to spend \$282 USD to set up our system to send auto reminders to members whose memberships are about to expire. Seconded by Merrill, carried (15 votes).

On December 18, 2019, Gail sent an email to the Board asking for a motion to appoint Susan McDonald to the Board *pro tem* as Area Rep for the South Central caucus. Seconded by Gus, carried (15 votes).

Lena put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded Gus. Meeting adjourned at 9.00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.