

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

March 24, 2020, 7.00 pm

by Zoom call

MINUTES

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

Regrets: Cathy Merkley

Guest: Anne Fleming

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

- 1. Chair's Welcome:** Gail called the meeting to order and noted the strange circumstances in which we find ourselves, meeting by Zoom video-conference due to COVID-19 emergency measures the prevent meetings from occurring.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Gail asked that we move the Search Committee item forward to the top of the agenda. Gus moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Merrill. Agenda adopted.
- 3. Search Committee (Gus):** Gus reported on his meeting with Anne Fleming with regard to the Vice Chair role, in which she is interested. She has also met with several members of the Board including: the Communications Committee, the eblast team and the Pumpkinfest team. Simon and Nicole met with her as part of the Search Committee efforts. Gus put forward a motion to appoint Anne Fleming as the Vice Chair *pro tem*; Nicole seconded the motion. All in favour; motion carried.

ANNE JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT. Anne will be confirmed at the next public meeting, whenever that may be. The Vice Chair topic should be brought forward again after Anne is on board (this should come onto the May/June agenda).

Nicole commented that this process has highlighted the problem of not having a Vice Chair on an ongoing basis (assuming that Anne graduates to the Chair role when Gail eventually moves on). She suggested that we consider filling the Vice Chair role when the position is vacated.

- 4. Approval of February minutes:** Merrill asked a question about the Heritage application for Knox Church that was mentioned in the January minutes. Sue confirmed that we were not

tasked with doing anything. Merrill also asked a question about the information that the community is looking for from Toronto Police Service. Gail confirmed that she spoke with Michael Borelli on this topic. Carolee moved approval of the February minutes as amended; Lena seconded; minutes approved.

5. Other Business

a. Spring newsletter (Gail for Anne Kerekes)

Gail reported that there are still two items outstanding for the Spring newsletter, namely the reports for the South Central and North East areas. She also wanted to know where we are at with the NetZero Carbon Committee survey along, and suggested we provide an update on where we are at with our initiatives, such as the COVID 19 HV response. Gail is going to rewrite her Chair's Message to address community response to COVID 19. Anyone who has an outstanding item needs to get on it as time is of the essence.

b. 2020 Budget and 2019 Financials (Lena)

The format has been kept relatively consistent from 2019 to 2020. One new line was added under the budget for Administration and General. The Other Board Approved Projects and Expenditures will be added to the expenditures list and taken out of Administration and General. With regard to revenues, as of this point in time, we are already at \$4700 in revenue for memberships so we are well on track to achieve \$5000 for this item in 2020. Lena suggested that we revisit the numbers in a few months when we have a better idea of what impact the COVID 19 crisis will have on future events in 2020. Our revenue making events are offset by considerable expense as well, so in the event that these didn't go forward, costs and expenses would be taken out of the budget. P and D expenses could be lower for 2020 but it was decided that we should stick with what is in the budget. Lena boosted the Web Hosting and Development and Web Contingency budget lines based on the trends we have seen in the activity needed to address these items. Regine noted that it was appreciated that there were more resources allocated to these items. Simon asked a question about the "General Donations" line; Gail explained that this is the place where we put donations from production houses who are filming in the community. We used to be on top of this when Joe Cressy was our councillor as he would provide us with the relevant information so that the Chair could write to the production house to seek a donation; the system has fallen apart under Mike Layton, as despite requests, they cannot provide us with any information regarding the producers, so we have no way of contacting them for a donation.

For the fund balances for 2020, Lena asked that anyone with a project advise her as to what the expected expenses are for 2020. There is \$92 in the Gardeners' fund but it seems unlikely that the Spring plant fair will go ahead this year. Jane will ask her colleagues on Croft Street if there are any expenses for the Croft Greening initiative.

Lena reviewed the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances and reminded the Board that there are 2 GICs of funds in reserve. Gus noted that the Statement of Financial Position doesn't balance; Lena will revisit the numbers as it appears as though she made a transcription error. She will revise the numbers and send them to Gail and Gus for their review, before sending them to the Board.

Lena put forward a motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented; Gus seconded. All in favour. Motion approved.

c. Spring meeting (Gail)

Gail advised that it seems like we will have to cancel the Spring meeting. We don't have a venue and it doesn't seem promising that we will be in a position to have a group meeting by May 20th.

i) Speakers (Susan)

The NetZero Carbon Committee has secured a speaker who is willing to come and talk to us about carbon emission reductions at the Spring meeting. There are things we could speak to such as the City's survey results, etc. There may be an opportunity to have the speaker Shawna Sharpe (an architect) do the talk in the form of a webinar. Nicole thought this was a good idea to extend our reach outside of the HVRA boundaries. The other possibility Sue mentioned is what is being proposed by Humber College. Sue will follow up with Tim Grant to see if the speaker has the capability to do a webinar. If we know that we are doing a webinar and that we are not doing a Spring meeting, we should move quickly to put something in the Spring newsletter to outline what we intend to do and when.

6. Reports

a. Net Zero Carbon Committee (Susan)

The Committee is making progress and it continues to work away. One of the big issues that the Committee has is that there were going to be federal government programs introduced but with the current economic downturn, it is unclear what will be offered and when. We are tracking towards 100 survey respondents, which puts us in an excellent position with the City.

b. Transportation Committee

The Committee has been tied up with the question of the contra-flow bike lanes. This issue was passed by the City's Infrastructure Committee. It still has to go to City Council. Now that that issue has been resolved, there is some question as to where the committee is headed. The Committee was struck initially to address safety related to traffic but the bike lanes took the Committee in a different direction. We now need to assess what the Committee will do. Gail suggested that the Committee could take a hiatus for the time being. We can circle back on this

issue at a future meeting. Gail encouraged anyone on the Board who had ideas about what the Committee could focus on to contact Nicole.

c. COVID 19 Volunteer Response

Gail gave an overview as to what the community is doing to mobilize volunteers to assist neighbours in need. We had a great number of people put their hands up to help out (about 40) and a few people who identified that they need assistance. Gail and Margaret are keeping track of who is offering their services and as well those who need assistance. Gina and her daughter put a flyer together for neighbours who wanted to do a drop on their block. Gail and Margaret are coordinating where the flyers are dropped so that we don't over flyer. Community response has been positive to this initiative. Gina suggested that we think about redistributing the flyers in a couple of weeks as the situation evolves. Councillor Layton's office is putting together a list of local resources which will include a mention of our initiative. Margaret has asked us to think of a catchy name. Nicole suggested Harbord Village Helpers; Gus suggested HVRA Covid Response. Regine suggested Harbord Village Mutual Aid. Other suggestions for names should be sent to the Board by noon on March 25 and collectively we will select a name.

NOTE: On March 25, 2020 Gail put out an email poll for the following names: Harbord Village Helpers, HVRA Covid Response, Harbord Mutual Aid Network, Caremongers.

Harbord Village Mutual Aid Network was chosen by the majority of votes (12) – Harbord Village Helpers got 4 votes, and Caremongers one vote.

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): NIL
- **North West** (Nicole/Christian): NIL
- **South Central** (Simon/Susan): NIL
- **South East** (Cathy/Gina): NIL
- **South West** (Jane/Bob): NIL

8. Other Business:

April 6, 2020: Anne Kerekes had advised Gail that while the printer still thought (at that date) that he could print the Spring newsletter, Paul's Delivery could not deliver the newsletter as they are not an emergency service. Gail asked the Executive, comprised of Gus Sinclair, Anne Fleming, Lena Mortensen and Andrea Poptsis to consider whether, in the particular circumstances, we could get Canada Post to deliver the newsletter at a cost of about \$200 more than the usual cost of \$200 charged by Paul's Delivery. Also, since Canada Post requires that the newsletters be bundled in a different way, and delivered to their depot, the printer had agreed to ensure both were done for an extra \$50. The Executive voted in favour of the

additional expenditures as it is important that the newsletter be delivered to every household in the neighbourhood, particularly in the current situation. The expenditure is conditional on the printer being able to print at the appropriate time.

Gus put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Nicole. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.