

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

November 17, 2020, 7.00 pm

by Zoom call

MINUTES

Attendees: Shafeeq Armstrong, Gina Buonaguro, Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Suzanne Dubeau, Anne Fleming, Lacy Lauks, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Jane Perdue, Nick Provart, Regine Schmid, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Regrets: none.

- 1. Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 19:08.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. Gus moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Lena. Agenda adopted.
- 3. Approval of September minutes:** Susan Macdonald moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Simon. Minutes approved.
- 4. Business Arising from past minutes**
 - 4.1 Vice Chair – constitutional amendment** TO BE RATIFIED AT SPRING AGM Since insufficient notice was given prior to the October AGM about the proposed change, it will need to be ratified at the Spring General Meeting. Refer to the September 2020 Board meeting minutes for details.
 - 4.2 Central Tech Dome Facilities Committee meeting**

Gus reviewed the current status of the operation of the Central Tech Dome and communications with the Facilities Management Committee. The challenge is that because of COVID, no meetings have been scheduled for some time, and the TDSB chair has since retired. Mike Gallagher, the facilities manager on the committee is actively responding to the request for a meeting. Action: Waiting for the TDSB and dome to move this forward. The question is how to prod effectively for some action.
 - 4.3 Laneway Clean Up / Revitalization** see item 5.2 under New Business.
 - 4.4 Narayever request for letter of support**

First Narayever Congregation is in the process of applying for a grant for security enhancements. Anne met with Rabbi Micky Fraterman and had a very constructive meeting to establish good communications and set expectations. Narayever is not quite sure how the enhanced security measures will roll out yet, however they have prepared a detailed protocol, and agreed with Anne that it is to their benefit to reach out to the community sooner rather than later. HVRA has provided a letter of support for Narayever's application. Anne hopes to meet with congregation next

week and stress the importance of maintaining good community relations. There was a suggestion that a NW area rep liaise with Anne and perhaps attend the mtg. Board members agreed that this was a good idea. ACTION ITEM: Anne will follow up on finding someone.

5. New Business

5.1 Search Committee

5.1.1 Membership Secretary

Lacy Lauks was nominated by Gus to take up the position of Membership Secretary. Seconded by Sue Dexter. All in favour. Anne will connect our new membership secretary with Merrill Swain, outgoing board member to facilitate the transition of responsibilities. Welcome aboard, Lacy!

5.1.2 Vice Chair

We are still in need of a replacement Vice Chair. There was some discussion about how best to accomplish this. Anne believes that we need to cast a wider net to improve the diversity of the board and bring in new members. The current search committee consists of Gus, and Anne as ex-officio. Suggestions welcome.

5.1.3 Committee membership

Anne thinks it would be useful to have a non-Board member on search committees to make it less insular and more diverse. Someone suggested asking Harbord Street BIA Chair Neil Wright to recommend a BIA member. Other suggestions were Vaso at Peter's Garage or Andrew Kilgour of Kilgour's on Bloor at Borden. ACTION ITEM: Anne and Gus will reach out to find and recruit new members.

5.2 Review of Standing Committee organization and status

Anne has an updated list. Shafeeq has agreed to be the Board liaison with the Safe Streets committee. Sue Dexter suggested HVRA should find ways to maintain relations with Scott Mission, St. Stephen's, FYFB, and other social services agencies in our neighbourhood. Shafeeq and Lena have stepped forward to take this on. Gina raised the question of whether the Hallowe'en contest had been worthwhile. The BIA was generous with prizes but there were few participants. There was general agreement that the pandemic put a damper on the event but that it was a valiant effort; hopefully things will revert to 'normal' next year. With regard to the Heritage committee, Sue Dexter shared that the HVRA is now formally a study area. ACTION ITEM: Shafeeq will connect with Nicole and the rest of the Safe Streets committee.

ACTION ITEM: Shafeeq and Lena will connect with Bob regarding his community contacts to start reaching out.

5.3 Planning & Development Presentation (Sue Dexter/Anne Fleming)

Sue prepared and presented a planning framework describing what and how the HVRA planning committee works to support residents in handling planning applications. Bob, Gus, and Sue each described a recent or current case study to provide concrete examples of what worked and what didn't and why or why not. Suzanne suggested that it might be worthwhile to prepare a document for public consumption that could help residents better understand the financial and resource limits of what the residents' association can do for the community, and how the municipal process works, stressing that the HVRA has no real authority or power here with any of this other than providing advice and expertise on a volunteer basis. It could be published in the newsletter and published on the HVRA website. There was agreement that this idea was worth pursuing.

ACTION ITEM: Prepare a public document that can help manage expectations.

5.4 Sidewalk snow clearing (Bob Stambula) and reminder sheet (Gina)

Bob feels that we've reached a dead end with this effort at this time.

Transportation services is simply coming back with reasons to say no. Neither the mayor nor deputy mayor is supporting it. There was considerable discussion about doing another push focussing on the fact that this is an accessibility issue. There was agreement that the HVRA should write to the mayor and city council again in time for the next council meeting. Sue Dexter thinks that HVRA needs to work on outreach. Do we need a sub-committee to encourage seniors to register for snow-clearing service, and encourage all residents to write letters of complaint? Nick will update website with current information; someone suggested looking at the Deer Park website for inspiration. Gina explained the evolution of the reminder flyer that was distributed selectively last year and this led to Suzanne suggesting that all current and relevant information could be included in a new flyer and in the next newsletter, and distributed to everyone; it can also be used as an opportunity to encourage residents to join the HVRA.

ACTION ITEM: Bob will prepare a letter summarizing the issues for Anne to send, copying councillor Mike Layton.

ACTION ITEM: Design of new flyer and inclusion in eblast.

5.5 Fall Fair – Special Event Renewal Package (Christian)

Christian seeking approval to submit the renewal package given that a \$30.00 fee is now required. The Board agreed that this was worthwhile. Gus moved that this be done. Susan Macdonald seconded. The Board approved the expenditure.

5.6 Holiday Decorating Contest (Gina)

Given the low level of participation for Hallowe'en decorating, discussion centered on whether this was worth pursuing. There was general agreement that we should let the idea percolate for now. Perhaps a snowman making contest ...

5.7 Area Caucus report action items (i.e. from Fall GM, other)

**** Reports were not discussed and only a summary is provided here.****

- North East report (Nick/Carolee): demolition of parking garage at north end of 666 has started. This is the last part of making the property "unencumbered" so that it can be deeded to the City for a new park. Balcony chipping work has finished and all forming has been completed. New balcony fronts being installed on west side and east side is wrapping up. Old post station on Spadina has been demolished. Rehabilitation of Robert St. field almost complete. Work starting on new gas station at Harbord and Major.
- North West report (Christian): PiCo at Bloor & Lippincott has applied for a Sidewalk Café Permit to go with their patio. Bloor-Borden farmer's market signs are still visible in parts of N/W. **Should we collect and save for next year?**
- South East report (Cathy/Gina): We have had a small outbreak of bike thefts on Robert Street. During one theft the baluster was cut in order to get the bike. 484 Spadina construction is now impinging on an extra lane southbound on Spadina. One of two laneway street lamp repairs now resolved thanks for assistance of Emily at Layton's office.
- South Central report (Susan/Simon): looks like construction of the new hospice space in Kensington is almost complete. Garbage handling complaints; residents encouraged to follow up with 311. A new resident in Brunswick/Ulster area volunteering to care for new planter; grateful for updates to pass on.
- South West report (Jane/Bob): no report.
- Safe Streets report (Nicole): See Appended report

6. Committee and Area Rep Reports – acknowledgements of receipt only unless action or discussion required.

6.1 2020/21 Board meeting schedule appended

6.2 Draft October 2020 AGM minutes (for preliminary approval only) Moved by Gus. Regine seconded. Approved.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Meeting adjourned at 21:15 as moved by Gus and seconded by Regine.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Dubeau, Secretary.

Safe Streets November 2020 update

Speed Humps Request for Lippincott (Between College and Ulster)

Although Transportation recommended against these, a hard push from Safe Streets and the Parent Council of King Eddie gave the councillor the support to override the report at TEYCC. Layton's office reports that the speed humps have now been approved. Installation, however, is contingent on funding that will be determined in early 2021

Borden/Brunswick Contraflow Bike Lane Installation

Several components are not yet installed. The schedule is:

- Brunswick between Ulster and College was scheduled for September but has not yet been done. The city wants to coordinate the work with scheduled gas work...
- Intersection at lights at Borden and College could be installed this year, but probably will be installed in 2021
- Raised intersection at Borden and Ulster will be installed in 2021
- Cuts/alterations of bulb out at Brunswick and Harbord is supposed to occur in 2021

There was a petition from residents on Ulster, between Brunswick and Borden, expressing their concerns about the safety of the contraflow on that section. The city has commented that it is premature to assess traffic flow prior to the full installation of the other parts of the contraflow lane and crossings.

Improved street signage for stops

Safe Streets added its voice to the complaints of several residents who are concerned that the Stop sign at Lippincott and Borden is too frequently ignored, and that the addition of painted stop lines at that intersection would probably improve safety. Additional painted stop lines were one of the modifications to the contraflow bike lane proposal, and they have been perceived to have had a positive affect on Brunswick. Layton's office has agreed to add a painted stop line at Lippincott and Borden AND to those other intersections in Harbord Village which do not currently have them (there are several). This cannot happen this year, but should be expedited to occur once the weather permits in 2021.

Speed Cameras in Harbord Village

Unfortunately the speed camera that had been installed on Lippincott by King Eddie has now been moved (all of the cameras in this programme are rotated and its time was up). If we want to try to get another installed we will have to make an effort, but as there are only two per ward I suspect there will be a lot of competition. It would probably be more fruitful to push harder for an expansion of the programme.