

## **Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting**

**September 15, 2020, 7.00 pm**

**by Zoom call**

### **MINUTES**

**In Attendance:** Gina Buonaguro, Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Cathy Merkley, Gail Misra, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Carolee Orme, Andrea Poptsis, Nick Provart, Regine Schmid, Nicole Schulman, Gus Sinclair, Merrill Swain, Robert Stambula

**Regrets:** Susan McDonald, Jane Perdue

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

- 1. Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** The minutes to be approved should be the August minutes not the September minutes as indicated on the agenda. The agenda was updated to reflect this change. Two additional items were added to the agenda under Other Business: Tree offer (Gail), Narayever letter (Andrea). Gail moved adoption of the agenda as amended; seconded by Gus. Agenda adopted.
- 3. Approval of August minutes:** Carolee moved approval of the August minutes; Nicole seconded. Minutes approved.
- 4. Business Arising – Outstanding from August meeting**
  - a. Vice Chair role discussion follow up (Anne/Cathy)**

Cathy, Nicole, Gus and Anne met after the last board meeting to have a discussion about the Vice Chair wording in the Constitution. Gus had strong views on why the Vice Chair should turn into transition role to the Chair position. In the end, a solution was reached that softens the wording in that the Vice Chair is expected to become the chair.

### **PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT to Vice-Chair Position – VERSION 3**

#### **6. Officers**

(a) There shall be six (6) officers of the Association: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, and a Webmaster.

The Chair shall be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting and serve at least one (1) 2-year term and can be elected to a maximum of one (1) additional 2-year term

The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-Chair will stand in for the Chair in the event of absence. The Vice-Chair serving during the final year of the Chair's last term will succeed as Chair the following year.

**Proposed Change (first 2 paragraphs remain intact):**

*The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-Chair serving during the final year of the Chair's last term is expected to succeed as Chair the following year, subject to ratification at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-Chair will stand in for the Chair in the event of absence. If the Vice-Chair is unavailable, the Past Chair will stand in.*

It was noted that if the board passes the proposed change, the change will need to go to the AGM for approval.

Anne pointed out that the job description describes the Vice Chair as a 2-year position, while the constitution describes it as a 1-year position. The job description will be modified to reflect 1 year and to remove some of the detail that has been included in it.

Cathy put forward a motion to adopt the new wording of the Vice Chair wording under s 6 of the Constitution; Merrill seconded. Motion approved.

[ACTION ITEM: This constitutional change needs to go to the AGM for approval.](#)

**b. Harbord Village Mutual Aid Network / Community Pod (Andrea)**

Andrea shared background documents from the City of Toronto with regard to available funding to support Community Pods. She noted that this effort dovetails nicely on the Community Resilience work that Gail was leading and the Harbord Village Mutual Aid Network that was established in response to the pandemic. It was determined that the program should have a champion from the board, and that it should seek to draw upon resources from the group of HVMAN volunteers for leadership and should there be no willing leader from that pool to canvass the community for volunteers through the eblast. Merrill suggested that we approach Margaret to see if she can identify someone from the committee who could take it on; Andrea volunteered to contact Margaret. Gina suggested it would be helpful to understand what the commitment is as she may be interested. Anne suggested that the board try to see if we can create an external committee and once we have more information what that would look like we could come back to the Board and find a champion.

**c. Central Tech follow up with Councillor (Nicole)**

This item was added to the agenda as a follow up to the August meeting where discussion did not conclude. Nicole wanted to determine where on the HVRA website a link could be added to indicate where people can contact the HVRA rep (Gus) if they have an issue with the public hours of the Dome. Nicole also wanted to resolve the issue of whether it was valuable to follow up with the TDSB and the City re: entering into PPP with other parties. The suggestion was for the HVRA to write a letter to Councillor Layton and the Head of the TDSB advising that they be

sure to include in any agreements they enter into a mechanism to ensure compliance of the partner(s). Right now there is nothing that can be done to penalize the partner for non compliance. Andrea suggested that the HVRA should write a letter so that we go on record as voicing our concerns. Gus advised that the Facilities Management Committee meets and that he is happy to put this item in the minutes of the meeting of that committee. Nicole suggested we could discuss this item at the Committee and let them know that we intend to communicate to the Councillor and the TDSB. Anne commented that the Covid situation is not going away so the circumstances under which the agreement was created have changed and that the topic of public access needs to be revisited.

Gus was charged with finding out if the Central Tech Stadium has resumed more regular operations since they seem to be easing Covid restrictions on their programming within the Dome.

Anne suggested that the Facilities Committee be asked for clearer communication around community access. Anne suggested that Andrea, Nicole and Gus meet to discuss how the Board can try to do something useful in terms of resolving this issue. Gus suggested that making a statement about how this relationship is not working may jeopardize the relationship with Razor. Gus wants to find out by talking to the people on the facilities management committee how the programming is going and does it have implications on the use of the track. He will report back at the next Board meeting.

Gus will take comments back to the committee and look for clarification re: communication with the community and any operational changes going forward.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. AGM Planning (Anne / Gail)**

Gail suggested that the Board obtain a Zoom pro account so that the AGM can be held virtually. An annual subscription is more cost effective (\$200 thereabouts). Lena confirmed that the expense is not an issue. Anne will take responsibility for the membership. Nicole moved that we authorize the expenditure for the Zoom pro account. Gus seconded. Motion approved.

Anne said that starting the meeting with the area caucuses may not be the most effective structure for the virtual AGM and that moving the caucus item further down the agenda allows us to organize the members by caucus. Nicole suggested we need a moderator to manage the technology part of the meeting. Anne is meeting with the Executive Director of another organization that she is involved with to talk through some of the logistics and she will seek to find a co-host to moderate the technology admin on the call. Gail suggested it might be too complicated to assign 70 odd people to their respective caucuses. It was suggested that in advance of the AGM there should be information in an eblast to help people identify which area they are in so that when they log into the Zoom call they know which group to join. Gail offered she could try to do this on the night of the AGM. Nick suggested we send out a Google doc in advance of the meeting to collect the information for caucus membership.

Nick suggested that we could have Alex Bozickovic from the Globe and Mail speak at the AGM. Anne suggested we take other ideas for speakers. Sue suggested that we consider a presentation on Climate Change. A discussion was held on inviting Alex instead to join us at a board meeting so that we can discuss his thoughts. Carolee offered that maybe we could have a debate on the housing supply issue with Alex and his colleague from the Globe and Mail who doesn't believe there is a supply problem with housing in Toronto.

Nicole offered that we need to identify a speaker if we are going to offer one for the AGM. Gail offered that we had discussed at the last meeting that maybe we don't need a speaker for the meeting to keep people focussed on the business at hand - focus on those items and the area caucuses and provide the councillor with a tight window for his update. Anne confirmed that not having a speaker is probably the way forward for the AGM and perhaps we plan for a debate on planning at another point in time in the future.

Anne suggested that the meeting should include the Chair making a report, the Treasurer making a report and then the financials are approved by the membership. With regard to the other committee updates, Anne is reluctant to include a lot of oral reports given the Zoom format of the call. She will reach out to the various committees to ask if they have something that is critical to update the membership on to ensure the meeting is engaging and keeps moving. It would be worthwhile to have Tim Grant present an update on Net Zero. Gus offered that there will be the constitutional amendment, the election of the officers (report of the Nominations and Constitutional committee). The finance and the approval of the minutes need to happen. Mike Layton could provide a quick update and perhaps entertain a Q&A. Sue suggested that we look at what the ARA did re: Jessica Bell and Mike Layton in a 40 min Q&A. It was engaging as opposed to just listening to them provide a report. Merrill suggested that she thought giving them 40 min at a Q&A would be very engaging for the public.

Anne suggested that we still want to aim for a 2-hour meeting and that we aim for fewer reports and spend more time getting updates from the MPP and the councillor. Lena asked how we will be sharing financial statements with the membership. She also suggested that we have to check to ensure that members are in good standing to vote. People will need to RSVP if they will attend to be given the link.

#### **b. HV Celebrates Local Business (Anne)**

Anne met with Christian, Nicole and Simon last week to brainstorm ideas. They suggested putting together a HV business passport which encourages residents to support local HV businesses. Some ideas to reward people for taking part e.g. if you provide proof of 3 transactions, the HVRA will give you free membership for a year. Timing would be first two weeks of October before the AGM.

Other ideas include:

- Chalk messages and drawings in front of their houses and on sidewalks and have an “art crawl” around the HV.
- Celebrating the laneways around the HV – have a scavenger hunt to celebrate different parts of the HV
- There have been spontaneous and more formal concerts around the community. There could be concerts done in a safe way around the HV. Anne spoke to Gus about this to see how we could make this happen. Cathy offered that her daughter has been doing concerts in their laneway and she can offer some insights on how things worked.

**c. Pumpkinfest / Halloween**

HSBIA is not going to sponsor the Pumpkinfest this year but Neil Wright has another idea re: Halloween activities for kids. He has been talking to Lena but the idea is not fully fleshed out yet. Gina suggested that we might have to wait until closer to the date to see if the authorities are going to officially cancel Halloween. Lena offered that there are two questions – 1. What is happening with Halloween generally? (which the HVRA would have no say in) and 2. If Halloween is happening what is happening with Pumpkinfest? Anne, Gina and Lena will discuss this offline and will let the Board know by email what the options are.

**d. Laneway Clean Up / Revitalization (Anne)**

There are resources available to animate and clean up lanes. Anne asked if anyone on the Board has an interest in this. Andrea suggested that we could put this out in a more general way to see if there are people out there in the community who are interested in taking on their section of a laneway to encourage more community involvement. The eblast team will send something out.

**6. Any Other Business**

**a) Trees (Gail)**

Gail mentioned that Cohen and Master have offered a tree to the HVRA. They will give us a free tree but we didn’t have a location to put it. Gail wanted to make sure that this offer goes on the record; Sue will keep track of the tree offer.

**b) Narayever letter**

Andrea gave the background of the ask. The Narayever is applying for a grant for security enhancements and they asked on Sunday for the HVRA to put a letter of support together. The letter is due on Wednesday. The ARA and Mike Layton have signed letters of support. The letter must identify what the synagogue has done in terms of working with the community.

Nicole is sympathetic to the security concerns of the Narayever but she does not think that as a residents’ association that we have the remit to endorse a request for surveillance equipment for residents without their consultation. Andrea agreed that the immediate neighbours should

be consulted before we lend our support to the initiative. Nicole suggested that we endeavour to consult with the community to canvass their feeling on being surveilled.

Gus moved that we send the letter; Gail seconded the motion. There were two votes against. Motion carried. Anne will get in touch with the Narayever about this item.

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

**a. Search Committee re: Board slate for AGM**

Gus provided an update that Jessica Humphreys has agreed to stand for the Membership position. Two people have passed on the NE area rep position. There is no candidate for the Vice Chair position. If anyone on the board wants to stand for the position, they should contact Gus or Nicole. Gail suggested that the Nominations and Constitutional Committee needs to be contacted to ensure that at least one of them attends the meeting. Anne will contact them to ask if they will attend and if they intend to stand again.

**b. Membership Report (Merrill)**

- There are currently 195 paid-up members, 33 of whom are new as of Sept 13/20; 241 are currently on our list who have not renewed between 2017 and Sept 13, 2020, up slightly from last year. There are also 151 former members who have not renewed since 2017 or before.
- Membership income year to date is \$3773, which is up \$1383 over last year thanks in part due to the automatic renewal system and members opting to pay contributing more than \$10 for the membership fee.
- In January 2020, we sent out reminders to all who had not renewed their membership through to the end of December 2019. Fifty-five individuals renewed. Our newly functioning automatic renewal reminder system has sent out 88 reminders, of which 44 (50%) individuals responded. Not having in person meetings and events has impacted in person membership renewals. In total, we can thank our new automatic renewal reminder system for 99 of the renewals since January. (Thanks to Nick and Margaret who set up this system!)
- Area reps should pay attention to the summaries by area
- New Member Appreciation Draw will take place before the AGM and will offer two \$50 gifts from Her Father's Cider Bar and Kitchen, two \$50 gifts from Rasa, and possibly two \$50 gifts from one other restaurant.
- Merrill is going to meet with Jessica and she is sharing the Lorinc article which talks to increasing diversity on the HVRA in part by focussing on issues that appeal to a broader demographic of members (e.g. renters, members of a different socio-economic strata)

Anne offered her thanks to Merrill for her excellent contributions on the Membership file.

**c. Safe Streets (Nicole)**

The traffic light replacing the push-button at Major and Harbord is FINALLY operational.

Bike lanes: The contra-flow on Brunswick has only been installed between Lennox and Ulster so far. The bottom block of Brunswick remains incomplete. The contra-flow on the North side of Brunswick and Harbord remains in its "temporary" narrow form. The existing bump out is scheduled to be cut through to better separate cycle and vehicular traffic, but this has not yet occurred. The contra-flow on Ulster and Borden has been painted in BUT the intersection has not yet been raised (which is a key traffic calming measure). The contra-flow on Borden currently ends at College. They have yet to install the crossing for cycles to go further South (to either the Bellevue or to the Eastbound College lanes)

**d) Parent Consultation Committee Report (Gina)**

The biggest concern seems to be what will happen with Halloween and the need to balance safety with the biggest holiday for children all year.

**e) Area Reports:**

- **North East (Nick/Carolee):** Balcony rehabilitation is wrapping up at 666 Spadina. Geothermal installation at the University of Toronto's Robert Street field is complete. Field rehabilitation and new fencing will happen soon, and construction of the new community green space on the northeast corner of Robert and Sussex will be mostly complete by December. A new traffic light at Harbord and Robert is a welcome addition to the 'hood.
- **North West (Nicole/Christian):** Another squatter was evicted by the police from one of the uninhabited houses on Brunswick. Ongoing issues with noise and disruption ongoing source of complaints. Considerable vehicular traffic observed on Barbara Barrett lane, turning on Brunswick to Bloor (bumper to bumper). Worth considering whether a signalized crossing at Lippincott would improve or worsen traffic flow and safety. Unsafe driving by motorized food-delivery scooters seems to be on the increase.
- **South Central (Simon/Susan):** NIL Report
- **South East (Cathy/Gina):** Robert Street was full of children playing outside again by summer's end.

**South West (Jane/Bob):** Area reps attended a virtual meeting on August 31 re: King Edward Public School yard revitalization. The next meeting will be when the Landscape Architect specks out the pricing, and the team determines priorities for expenditures. Happy Burger (beside Aunties and Uncles) continues to be a welcomed addition to the area. The community helped the proprietor of corner store (at NW corner Lippincott and College) celebrate her 90th birthday. Gus put forward a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Gail. Meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, Secretary.