

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

December 14, 2020, 7.00 pm

by Zoom call

MINUTES

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

Regrets: Susan McDonald, Christian Mueller.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 19:05.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. Simon moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Regine. Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of November minutes:** Gus moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Carolee. Minutes approved.

4. Business Arising from past minutes

4.1 Planning / Sue Dexter.

Sue provided a confidential update of various development activities in the area. Robert Brown will speak to the Board at a future meeting re the proposal for 225 Brunswick. Walmer Road Baptist Church has been sold; the new proposal for this site looks promising and will be a model for how such projects proceed in future with much community input, working groups, collaboration and so on. We may be hearing some good news on the heritage front, with work beginning preliminary to our district study. Stay tuned. A heritage landscape study will be undertaken to protect the area surrounding Queen's Park from inappropriate redevelopment, which Sue describes as very visionary work for the city. The University has appealed its development on Queen's Park Crescent between the Edward Johnson Building and Falconer Hall. To be able to influence the outcome of the university appeal, the HVRA needs to join the residents' associations corporation, and the following motion was presented: **Motion:** to join the incorporated consortium of residents' associations for the purposes of the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT) hearing about the Queen's Park Redevelopment. Sue moved; Gus seconded. 13 in favour. 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

4.2 Planning Document for Public Distribution

Work on this continues and will be put to the Board for discussion in the new year.

4.3 Sidewalk Snow clearing (Bob) / Snow removal flyer

There's good news on the sidewalk snow clearing front. City Council adopted the Matlow/Layton motion directing transportation services to expand sidewalk clearing in downtown neighbourhoods as much as they are able to do this winter, and to prepare a plan to clear all downtown neighbourhood sidewalks for next winter. It directed transportation services to report on these matters to the TEYCC Toronto East York community Council - set for January 12, 2021. Bob wrote to transportation services for HVRA with a detailed report showing that our sidewalks were unobstructed and ready to be cleared now and welcomed them to include us in the expanded pilot in the downtown for this winter. He also invited them into the neighbourhood for a walkabout which they have accepted and will be scheduled for the new year. Bob pointed out that it would be helpful to have a good turnout of participants for the walkabouts to demonstrate the broad interest in this issue. ACTION ITEM: With regard to the snow removal flyer, Gina will provide slightly reworked text for review by Anne, Bob, and Suzanne, and Suzanne will create a new flyer for distribution.

5. New Business

5.1 NetZero Committee (Gus , Sue)

Refer to the appended report. One challenge is how best to drum up interest in major carbon reductions from furnaces when residents do renovations, as opposed to doing piecemeal retro-fits. Bob suggested that a great incentive would be to pro-rate energy consumption but all recognize that this is a regulatory issue. Gus will take this idea back to the committee. Gus also indicated that tax receipts for donations to the HVRA Net Zero Committee are likely to be available through Scadding Court Community Centre; SCCC will be providing a plan which will be brought to the board for approval. On a related note, Anne made a case that the HVRA should become a member of the Green Neighbour Network; there is a \$25.00 membership fee to join a network of like-minded groups and individuals and would enhance collaborative efforts. A MOTION to join was put forward by Sue and seconded by Gus. All in favour. Motion passed. More information to come.

5.2 Community Services Committee update (Lena)

The committee has begun doing some brainstorming. In the short term, the goal is to find ways to support Scott Mission and the Fort York Food Bank. In the longer term, the question is how can the HVRA make this a more permanent committee? How can HVRA best formalize a mutually beneficial communication structure, contact list, etc., that would be useful to both the social services agencies and individuals who want to help? The HVRA and residents want to be supportive. One suggestion is to develop a roster of interested individuals and the skill set they offer. A presence on the website would be good. Does the HVRA have formal liaison links

with the various social services agencies? How does the HVRA define the target social services agencies to work with? Sue referred to past projects such as the Scadding Court initiative that was very successful in engaging kids, and drawing the community in. Unique projects such as this could fit within the mandate of this committee as it is established. Lacy and Simon have expressed interest in being part of this committee. Simon suggests reaching out to sister organizations such as churches, synagogues, etc., about how they work on similar community-building initiatives, and Anne suggested asking the agencies what they need.

5.3 Celebrating the folks at Kensington Gardens (Anne)

Anne has been approached by a community member to ask if and how the HVRA could rally support to celebrate the residents and staff of Kensington Gardens during this particularly stressful year. The general agreement is that cards and letters from neighbourhood kids seem to be most manageable just now at minimal financial cost. ACTION ITEM for the Community Services Committee: figure out how best to do this given the short time frame.

5.4 Safe Streets Committee (Shafeeq)

Refer to the appended report.

5.5 HVRA Membership in the Kensington Market Historical Society (Anne)

Anne explained the advantages of joining – mutual support and collaboration, a good fit with our neighbouring area and their work, etc. Membership fee of \$25.00. MOTION to join was put forward by Gus and seconded by Lena. All in favour. Motion passed.

5.6 Holiday Decorating Contest (Gina)

Given other challenges, this proposed idea has been put aside for this year

5.7 Area Caucus report action items

**** Reports were not discussed; collated here for convenience.****

- North East report (Nick/Carolee): (1) speed bumps finally installed on the stretch of Sussex Mews north of Sussex Ave., a year and a half after the signs went up. (2) speed bumps finally replaced in Sussex Mews between Sussex Ave. and Harbord - yay! (3) garage demolition of underground parking at north end of 666 Spadina has commenced, necessary for hand-over to City for new park (4) work continues on Robert St. field/community green space, with poured concrete swapped in for pavers because of "accessibility" (5) work has started for the new service station at Harbord and Major. (6) Hitoshi building at Robert and Harbord is on the market, misleadingly with the suggestion that redevelopment of the site has been approved.

- North West report (Christian): (1) Retail developments along the south side of Bloor between Brunswick & Bathurst include the addition of a self-described "veggie sushi" establishment called Tenon next to Future Bakery and the coming arrival of a Bagel Time location next to Popeye's. The latter boasts of being "Montreal Style". Really? (2) A total of eight farmers' market yard signs have been collected from those distributed throughout the community. These are being stored for the winter *chez moi*. The rest are in someone else's safe-keeping or unaccounted for.
- South East report (Cathy/Gina): Not much to report from the Southeast. Maybe we can celebrate the small victories and thank Emily at Mike Layton's office for her back up after requests for Laneway lights to be repaired by Hydro were not being answered. Emily followed up over a period of weeks and the lights are on!
- South Central report (Susan/Simon): Two minor items to report from SC. 'One piece of news is that the Kensington Hospice expansion is proceeding apace, and is currently due to finish in the Summer of 2021. It has involved creating a paved sidewalk in Brunswick Avenue across a boulevard area, but this is a temporary measure. The other news is that it has recently been announced that the resurfacing work of the road on Brunswick Avenue won't now be finished until spring 2021 (at the earliest).'
- South West report (Jane/Bob): nothing to report.

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

6.1 Vice Chair – search committee.

Anne did contact Neil Wright who will get the word out, and she will also be talking to Cathy. Anne is still working on expanding this committee. Anne also noted that Carolee is looking to step away as area rep so a replacement must be found for her.

6.2 Membership Committee – Anne reported that Merrill, the outgoing membership secretary, was thrilled to have Lacy as her replacement. Lacy will be meeting with the membership committee in January to plan next steps in the coming months.

7. Other Business

Thanks from Anne to everyone for hard work and commitment, and kudos returned to Anne for stepping into a very challenging position so successfully.

8. Meeting adjourned at 20:36 as moved by Gus. All in favour.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Dubeau, Secretary, 2020-21.

Report to the Board: Net Zero Committee

- Spring 2021 Federal Budget, announcement indicated that \$5,000 grants for energy efficiencies per household will be available. Commentators have suggested that loans up to \$40,000 for more substantial home retrofits projects will be announced in the spring.
- The big question for the Committee is “How do we help HV homeowners make changes that often start small with increased energy efficiencies move on to bigger projects that result in more substantial reductions in GHG emissions”.
- TAF has responded to our application for a survey grant for Electric Vehicles and we will receive \$16,500.00 most of which will be used for staffing. Staff will be MA students in the environmental courses Matt Hoffman teaches.
The first \$11,000 or so of our \$16,500 E-vehicle “concept development” grant should be electronically-transferred to HVRA’s bank account within a week or two.
- The NZ Committee has a draft of a survey with respect to existing vehicle usage accompanied by further questions on consideration of using electric vehicles. Work continues on the survey
- We are working with Scadding Court to be able to provide tax receipts to donors. We have agreement in principle to this plan. They have committed to setting up a special page in the donation section of SCCC’s website so that it would be easy to track climate-related donations from Harbord Village residents. They will not charge us an administrative fee.
- We would like to purchase a thermal imaging camera which is apparently the best and easiest way to see thermal “leaks” in residential homes.
- If SCCC sets up a donation page for us within the week (and that is a big IF), we should consider sending out a year-end appeal for donations to help cover our committee’s out of pocket expenses for 2021. Those include purchasing the thermal imaging camera (with perhaps 1 day’s training in how to use it) and the printing and delivery of flyers. In the next few years, we hope to raise about \$4000 per year in charitable donations..

Gus Sinclair
14 December 2020

HVRA Safe Streets Update Monday, December 14th 2020

We've received a note back from the Manager of Cycling & Pedestrian Projects at the city. She noted that the

- a. The utility work on the lower section of Brunswick is the first step in the planned road resurfacing.
- b. The road resurfacing will follow the current work early Spring 2021, then the pavement markings will proceed.
- c. They are finalizing the design of the College/Borden intersection and believe the construction of the intersection and Borden reconstruction (including raised intersection) will move forward next year! Also we are working on the curb bulb out cutbacks to give a little more wiggle room for all.

So it looks like the rest of the installation will not commence until next Spring, which is unsurprising but good to know.

Similarly the councillor's office has let us know that the request has been received to get Transportation to install proper stop lines at the signalled intersections (in addition to the one at Borden/Sussex) next Spring.