

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

January 19, 2021, 7.00 pm

by Zoom call

MINUTES - FINAL

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: All present.

- 1. Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 19:07.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Agenda item 4.1 was renamed to cover all planning topics. Gina moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Carolee. Agenda adopted.
- 3. Approval of December board meeting minutes:** Gus moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Simon. Minutes approved.
- 4. Business Arising from past minutes**
 - 4.1 Planning (Anne, Sue Dexter, Gus)**

Anne, Sue, and Gus provided confidential updates of various development activities in the area.

 - 4.1.1** With regard to 225 Brunswick, Gus spoke to a neighbour about what the HVRA does to support residents in terms of providing advice regarding planning and development in the community, and how the process works, particularly with the Committee of Adjustment. HVRA will continue monitoring the situation with 225 Brunswick and at some point HVRA may be asked to put forward an opinion in support or not.
 - 4.1.2** Sue spoke about an ARA suggestion that RAs band together to produce a residents' associations guide to city processes. This is a work in progress and Sue will keep us informed.
 - 4.1.3** Sue spoke about the ongoing delays in making progress on various fronts; everything seems at a standstill. Board members lauded Sue and others working on the planning issues for keeping up the good fight.
 - 4.2 Sidewalk Snow clearing (Bob) / Snow removal flyer**

Bob deputed at the TEYCC council meeting on January 12th, with rather unsatisfactory and frustrating results from Transportation Services (TS). He has since drafted a forceful letter to Mayor Tory, that Anne will send on behalf of the

HVRA, urging that TS be directed to respect Council's decision that "a path forward to full harmonization for the 2021-2022 winter season" be presented for consideration by City Council now instead of finding more reasons for delay. Various Plan Bs are under consideration to strengthen our case.

Update on last month's action item regarding a new snow removal flyer: Suzanne did create a new flyer for distribution with input from Gina and it has been distributed to Board members to use as needed.

4.3 Kensington Gardens effort (Anne)

Initial community support consisted of promoting the fundraising for the blanket warmer, and for letter writing. The short timeline meant that uptake had mixed success however the fundraising to date is just over halfway to the goal for the blanket warmer, and it was noted that cards and letters to seniors and the staff are welcome any time. There is no reason why promotion cannot continue. This can also be part of the work of building the liaison relationship with Kensington Gardens that Susan M. and Simon are doing. Sue Dexter commented that it would be great if we could get the timetables for these various groups that we aim to work with to better plan how we can be more pro-active instead of reactive going forward.

4.4 Search Committee update (Anne)

Now that the new year is underway, Anne and Gus plan to put some focused attention on the outstanding searches for vice-chair, and for a replacement for Carolee. Gus believes he has found a candidate for the latter and hopefully this will be confirmed and announced shortly.

5. New Business

5.1 Membership Committee update (Lacy)

Refer to the detailed report appended to these minutes. It is gratifying that membership is up slightly which is great considering that opportunities for residents to interact has been low during pandemic; membership has remained stable. Auto renewal notices have been very effective. For now we are not removing people who are not paid up but some analysis will be done to compare the membership list with the e-blast list. There have been some technical issues re renewals – a fix is coming and Lacy will let folks know when the renewal function is available again. The new membership committee has identified three outreach activities to pursue prior to the spring meeting general meeting: (1) distribution of a refreshed and updated HVRA flyer; (2) annual area rep letters to members to introduce themselves and highlight the benefits of membership renewal; (3) Friends of HV Facebook post to raise awareness of HVRA; there are currently some 900 people on the Facebook group. The committee also came up with a list of ideas to explore for the post-pandemic era.

5.2 Communications Committee update (Anne))

The CC will be meeting soon to come up with a plan for the year. Anne is looking for suggestions for local personalities that would make good candidates to be profiled in the eblasts., ie. the owner of Parent Books who is retiring soon.

5.3 Area Caucus report action items

No action items outstanding at this time.

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

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

- **North East report (Nick/Carolee):**

1. This item happened a couple of months ago but is exciting if you like dumplings: The Daily Dumpling Wonton Company opened in the JCC with yummy dumplings to go (they freeze well).
2. Construction on the Robert St. field and community green space is almost complete (with the exception of benches and plantings/sodding). The fencing is a big improvement on the chainlink fencing that was there. However, the university decided to do a "costing exercise" and ended up replacing the pavers that were promised for the green space walkways with poured concrete.
3. A construction management committee meeting for the Spadina Sussex residence is being arranged in the next week or two, with updates on construction on the agenda. The plan is to proceed with demolition work of parts of heritage building at 698 Spadina (retaining the south and east facades) and all of 700 Spadina soon, and to start construction in the summer.
4. The old garage at Tino's is being renovated, with new windows installed (for a grab-and-go store I believe). Not sure of the timeline for installation of new gas pumps and canopy...

- **North West report (Christian):**

1. As reported last month, Bagel Time has opened a new location on Bloor next to Popeye's. They appear to be continuing their grand opening offer of a free bagel. At least that's what the sign on their front door continues to promise weeks after they opened.
2. Yet another place selling sushi has appeared in our area (as if we didn't already have enough). Located at 495 Bloor, Tea 18 Sushi has added a Japanese food menu to its existing line of bubble teas and baked goods. An extensive list of specials is posted in the front window.
3. Future Bistro at Bloor & Brunswick remains closed during the week, open for pick-up Monday thru Sunday only.
4. Down the block on Brunswick, the Tranzac Club has become a real worksite as renovations continue to be made. Improvements include much quieter rooms, additional space upstairs, and a new entrance ramp. According to the club's general manager, Paul Woodley, "it's going to be amazing" ... once all of the work has been

completed. To show your support and join the Tranzac, please click here: <https://www.tranzac.org/membership/>

- **South East report (Cathy/Gina):** Nothing to report.
- **South Central report (Susan/Simon):** Nothing to report.
- **South West report (Jane/Bob):**
 1. As mentioned in the HV eblast, on Wed Jan 21, the City is hosting a community consultation meeting for the development proposal at 419-431 College Street West (SE corner, Bathurst and College). The SW is part of the notice catchment area and this proposed 13 storey mixed use building will have an impact on our neighbourhood. We expect much interest in the proposal.
 2. Bob Stambula deputed again at TEYCC on the sidewalk clearing issue. His written material was shared with the Board. He presses for a further expansion of the pilot- the pilot does not include a single neighbourhood for the old city of Toronto and demonstrated that are sidewalks are essentially obstacle free. More will be reported on this agenda item.
 3. The City's Automated Speed System (ASE) was installed, on a temporary basis, on King Edward School property. This device was near the corner of Van Koughnett and Lippincott but removed in November (ironically around the time students returned to school). Following review of collected data, permanent site selections (of all ASE sites) will be determined.
 4. The Fort York Food Bank (NE corner Borden and College) continues to have long lineups of individuals needing help.
 5. For those who can, there are two new restaurants to support – The Lebanese Garden, 366 College Street www.lebanesegarden.ca, and Thindi Indian Café, 400 College Street www.thindi.ca

7. Other Business

Lena initiated a discussion of how best to proceed with the next draft budget in light of the current pandemic circumstances. The consensus was that it is best to assume that a more normal schedule might resume in the fall and draft a tentative budget accordingly.

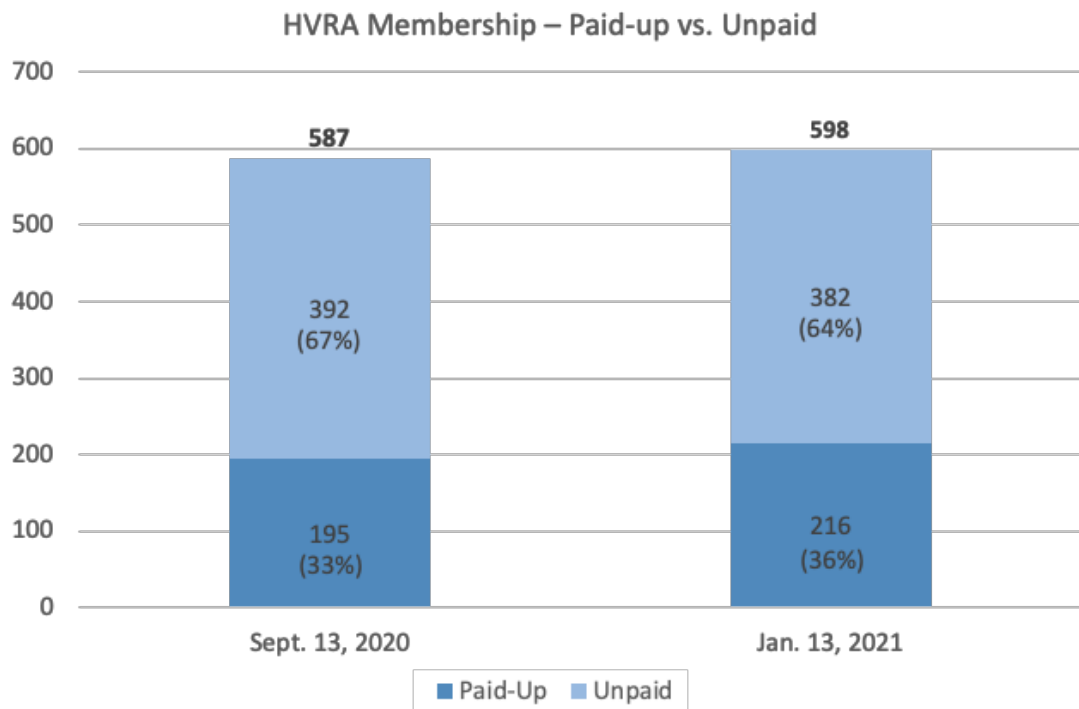
8. Meeting adjourned at 20:39 as moved by Gus. All in favour.

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

HVRA Membership Report – January 19, 2021

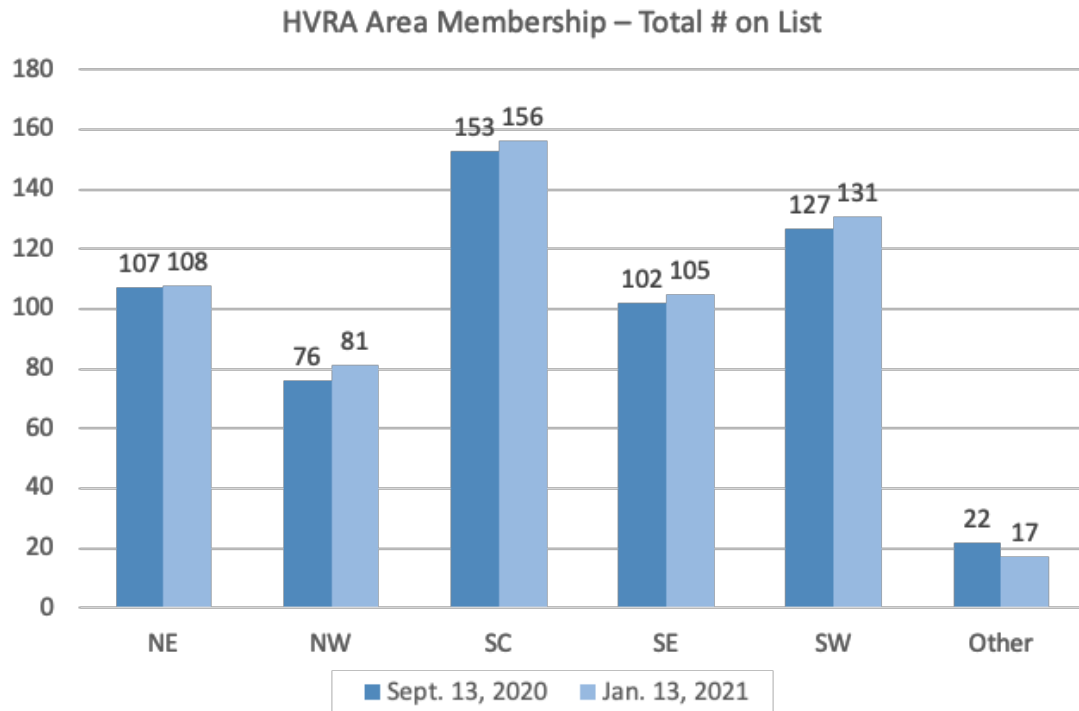
1. HVRA Membership Growth

- There are currently 598 individuals on our membership list (those who receive eblasts), up 2% from 587 in September, after accounting for individuals that have been removed
- 36% (or 216 people) are currently paid-up members, up from 33% (or 195 people) in September
 - Further investigation is required of those with expired memberships to understand who may renew vs. those who should potentially be removed from the list

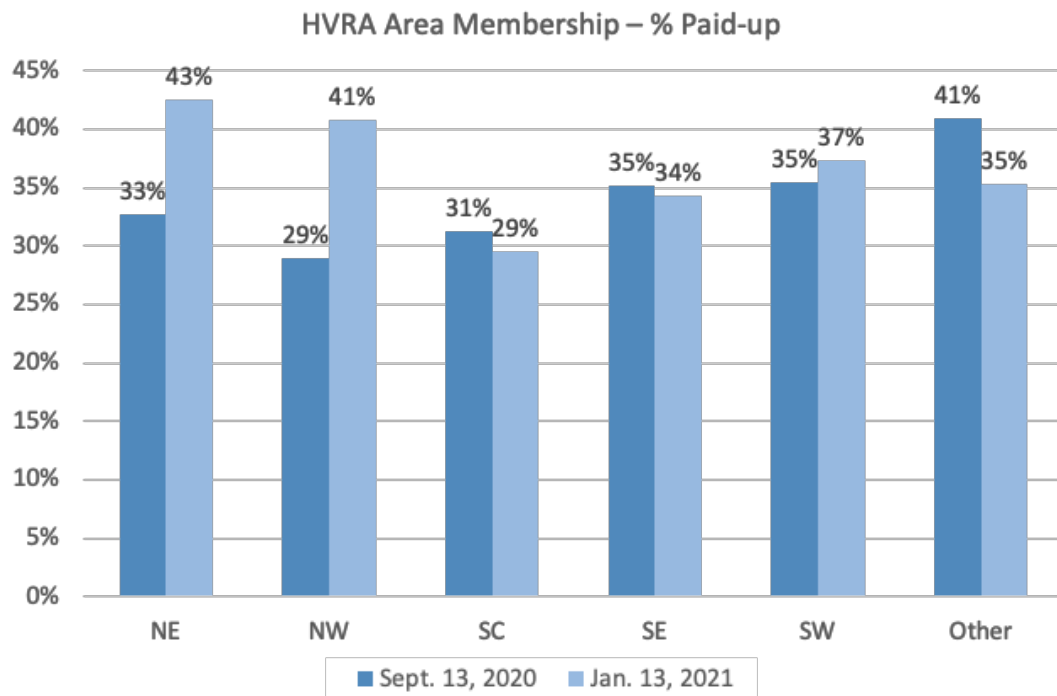


2. Membership Growth by Area

- The total number of individuals on the HVRA membership list is up across all Harbord Village areas
- The number has declined in the 'Other' category due to recent removal of those individuals who both live outside the Harbord Village area and had memberships that expired in 1999



- The percentage of paid-up members is up in the NE (+10%), NW (+12%) and SW (+2%) and slightly down in SC (-2%) and SE (-1%)



3. Technical Issue Related to Renewals/Payments on HVRA Website

- During the week of Jan. 11th, a couple members reached out about a technical issue whereby they were unable to make renewal payments online
- The solution requires leveraging the external programmer the Board has engaged in the past; we are currently awaiting a quote and anticipate the issue will be resolved in short order
- In the meantime, we have paused the automatic renewal reminder emails until the functionality is back up and running
- Once the capability is live again, members will be contacted to let them know the issue is resolved and that they can proceed with their renewal

4. HVRA Membership Committee (MC) Meeting

- The MC Committee held its first meeting of 2021 and the first with the new Membership Secretary on January 18th
- The group suggests proceeding with 3 outreach activities before the Spring Meeting, including:
 1. Distribution of refreshed and updated HVRA flyer, including mention of Harbord Village Mutual Aid Network and highlighting the upcoming Spring meeting as an opportunity to learn more about the great work of the HVRA
 2. Annual Area Rep letters to members to introduce themselves and highlight the benefits of membership renewal (going forward this will be done annually in November, after the AGM)
 3. Friends of Harbord Village Facebook post to drive awareness of HVRA and benefits of membership
- Several exciting ideas were discussed for the post-pandemic era which will be revisited in a few months' time, including:
 - Refer a Friend / Neighbour raffle
 - Handing out calling cards
 - Street celebration marking end of pandemic (e.g., Major street)
 - Drive membership through PumpkinFest
 - Have HVRA flyers available at different venues, such as Central Tech, JCC, Tranzac, local businesses, renters at 666 and 736 Spadina
 - More targeted strategies for different community groups (e.g., schools, history, gardening etc.)
 - Membership survey

Submitted by Lacy Lauks, HVRA Membership Secretary