

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

June 15, 2021, 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 19:05.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Gus moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Gina. Agenda adopted with one change to consider the item of web site updates near the top of the meeting.
- 3. Approval of April board meeting minutes:** Gus moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Susan. Minutes approved.
- 4.** Farewell from Shafeeq and thanks from the Board. Sue Dexter added that at a recent meeting that she and Bob Stambula attended at Scott Mission, the people there spoke glowingly of Shafeeq's work with them.
- 5.** Nick Provart spoke about overdue web updates that need to be done. **ACTION ITEM:** could folks have a look and see what needs to be updated or refreshed, etc. For the moment, comms are Anne, Regine, Nick, Margaret Proctor, Anne Kerekes. Regine reminded everyone that the Board only section of the website also lists who is on what committee, with email addresses, etc.
- 6. Business Arising from past minutes**
 - 6.1 Planning (Anne/Sue)**
 - (a) 225 Brunswick – Anne made a few comments about a letter from the opponents to the 225 project. Gus explained what 'without prejudice meetings' are and how HVRA and other residents' associations, city heritage, city planning use them. A project becomes a project only when it is filed with the CofA. For the 225 project, this happened in June 2020. The upset residents believe that HVRA should be supporting their opposition to the project. Given the nature of the letter, the HVRA drafted its response based on legal advice, and will not be meeting with community members again about the project until after the TLAB appeal has been resolved.

(b) Sue spoke at length about how the planning process has become increasingly complicated over the past few years, and the need to document the HVRA's P&D activities with various stakeholders. In particular she proposed that new framework be put in place to manage the volume and type of planning work that HVRA can take on with its limited resources. She identified three types of projects: those seeking to influence city policy, major projects with high impact to the neighbourhood, and smaller projects primarily confined inside HVRA borders.

7. New Business

7.1 Federation of Urban Neighbourhoods (FUN) / Federation of South Toronto Residents' Associations (FOSTRA) (Anne)

– Sue feels that FUN, an Ontario wide organization, is fine to belong to, but FOSTRA membership would be problematic as it is an NDP-driven organization started by politicians. The latter's area of interest also overlaps with other groups to which HVRA already belongs (i.e. Downtown West). Anne proposed to take out a basic membership (\$25.00) in FUN to be in the loop for their activities; so moved by Jane and seconded by Gus. **Motion passed.**

7.2 Fall Event Planning (Anne) – following Colin Furness's presentation at the Spring Meeting that a fall event could be possible, Anne made the case that it would be wise to do some preliminary planning now to improve the chances of something actually going ahead if pandemic conditions permit. The tentative date is September 12th. Volunteers interested in helping out are welcome to get in touch with Anne. One suggestion from Gus and Cathy was to have various musical acts in different spots of the neighbourhood on some kind of staggered schedule. Ideally the day would be organized in such a way that permitting would not be required – for example, not using Margaret Fairley Park, no beer sales, etc.

7.3 Search Committee update (Anne) – with the departure of Shafeeq, a new NW area representative is needed, well as a board liaison with the Safe Streets Committee, and someone to step into his role for the community outreach committee..

7.4 Multi-tenant housing / 57 Major Street (Sue/Susan) – Sue moved that HVRA support the request from a resident for councillors to convene a meeting of the appropriate officials to discuss lack of compliance to the rooming house rule by the property north of hers. There have been similar complaints from other residents. The city is currently considering updating the relevant bylaw to cover rooming houses across the city. Sue, Susan, and Carolee will continue to liaise with the community and try to move this forward. Gus **moved** to request the meeting with the councillors; seconded by Sue. **Motion passed.** Gus **moved** to have the HVRA approve the report that the city has prepared pertaining to the updated multi-tenant housing; seconded by Sue. **Motion passed.**

- 7.5 Farmers' Market (Gus)** – The market is now in its fourteenth year and this year has gotten off to a very strong start. The market is now financed by HVRA and ARA, to the tune of \$500 each. Gus **moved** that this be continued. Seconded by Carolee.
Motion passed.

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

- 8.1 Net Zero committee (Susan)** – Two new members have joined the committee for a total of 11 people. There are two main objectives for the Net Zero project. One is to encourage people to transition from gasoline-powered cars to electric vehicles, or ebikes, or public transit, etc. The committee is exploring the possibility of some kind of EV car fair where folks can test drive cars, etc. The second objective is to encourage home renovations that will reduce the carbon footprint. The committee is still hoping for 500 survey responses; at the time of this meeting, 304 have been received. The first information webinar was very successful with 122 attendees. More webinars are planned. Three sub-committees have been struck to keep moving things forward: communications committee, home energy audit committee, and EV charger committee.

8.2 Area Rep Reports:

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

(a) final work continues on Robert St. field and community green space. Sodding awaits the connection of the irrigation system to the City water supply, which ostensibly will happen on June 21st or June 28th. But after sod is laid, it will require a 4-6 week period to "take" thus it is expected that the space will not open until mid-August. Removal of the old chain link fencing along the west side of the field has revealed a substantial public space (this will be sodded and maintained by the University and the City will look into planting more trees)! (b) abatement work continues at 698/700 Spadina. Hoarding has been installed. Demolition will commence soon. We have requested the construction company (Daniels) make cut-outs in the hoarding to provide better sight lines at the corner.

(c) balcony work at 666 Spadina has finally wrapped up. Work continues to strengthen the slab on top of the parking garage so that construction of the new rental building may commence. The contractor worked with members of the HVRA on the Construction Management Committee to mitigate dust, address alleyway parking concerns by hiring a security guard to patrol the alleyway, and move garbage bins to a better temporary location.

- **North West report (Christian):** Friday was the last day for Rexall after four years in the former Brunswick House. No word yet on what's going to happen there now that Rexall is gone. In conjunction with contra-flow lanes for cyclists on Brunswick, bike-specific traffic lights are operating at Bloor and at Harbord. A commercial film shoot is planned for 277 Brunswick on July 6-7, and the production company has been contacted in order to request

a donation. The Bloor-Borden Farmers' Market has returned on Wednesdays to the Green P parking lot. Its return appears to have gone smoothly despite problems attributable to some workers from the Honest Ed's site who have been seen hanging out in the lot after work -- drinking, littering, and generally causing a disturbance. At least three neighbours have complained of such behaviour, and their complaints have been passed along to our City Councillor. Regarding the Honest Ed's development, work has progressed to the point that lights on top of the towers and construction cranes are high enough in the night sky to shine brightly over the neighbourhood. In closing, we bid adieu to Shafeeq & Niki!

- **South East report (Cathy/Gina):** Nothing to report.
- **South West report (Jane/Bob):** Much to the disappointment of many avid supporters, "Aunties and Uncles" was recently sold and closed a few weeks ago. For 25 years, Russell Nichols ran a popular breakfast and lunch business on Lippincott, just north of College. The south end of Lippincott has a church and houses on east side, commercial properties on the west side. This little hole in the wall restaurant had long lineups every day and the business was always respectful to the neighbours. Occasionally Russell would sponsor local events. We will miss the grand slam breakfasts, and Russell's cheery "good morning" at the beginning of each day. Happy Burger remains and is thriving and another food establishment is expected to move into the former A&U site in late summer.

South Central report (Susan/Simon): (1) Discussions with Kensington Health continue. The main concerns continue to be health and safety issues around the construction site and the landscaping and replanting of the site once construction has been completed. (2) The repaving of Brunswick Ave (north of College) has finally started and will take a month to complete. (3) We are trying to assist the neighbours in the vicinity of 57 Major St. deal with on-going issues and violations at that property. Neighbours are concerned that the owner of 57 Major St may be operating an unsafe illegal room housing. The main focus is to get city officials to take this issue seriously and conduct a proper investigation.

9. Other Business

- 9.1 Anne talked about the summer meeting schedule; no decision yet about cancelling one of the summer meetings. Christian pointed out that having an August meeting might be necessary if a fall event is planned.
- 9.2 Lena raised the question about membership donations and whether they should be tracked separately. After discussion the Board decided that it wasn't worth the effort to do so, given that taking the total number of members and multiplying that by the basic membership amount of \$10 effectively identifies how much money is 'donated.'
- 9.3 Directors and officers liability insurance – the policy expires in August and we expect a renewal notice for the next period. The Treasurer should have the

authority to make payment regardless of whether the board is meeting at that time.
Christian **moved**, and Carolee seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

10. The meeting adjourned at 20:50.

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