

Harbord Village Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2020 – By Zoom

Final Notes

Anne Fleming, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The Chair welcomed residents to the first Zoom AGM and she went over the rules of engagement for the Zoom meeting. Residents were informed that the meeting will be recorded but will not be posted or shared. There were about 60 participants in the meeting.

The Chair read an acknowledgement statement acknowledging that the meeting was taking place on Indigenous lands.

1. Approval of Agenda

Carolee Orme moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was seconded by Gina Buonaguro. Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes

The minutes from the 2019 AGM were reviewed and approved at the November 2019 Board meeting and were presented to members to officially adopt them into the record. Nicholas Provart moved to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Gina Buonaguro. Minutes were adopted.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair referred to the full report which was shared on the HVRA website. The Chair explained that the HVRA responds to the needs and concerns of residents, including ensuring that we live in a safe and secure neighbourhood; that we have safe navigable streets; providing an opportunity to identify development issues and advocate for development that meets the needs of the neighbourhood; and sort out disruptions associated with living in an urban environment.

This year, the Board also responded to the Covid-19 emergency by putting together a Mutual Aid Network to help neighbours. Andrea Poptsis ran a fundraising effort to raise over \$16,000 for the Scott Mission and the Fort York Food Bank through the neighbour supported Gratitude Challenge. The HVRA liaised with the Central Tech Stadium management to encourage them to reopen to the public during the Covid-19 crisis.

The HVRA put out two newsletters, one in the spring and one in the fall, and although the Board wasn't able to put on its usual in person events, the Board has tried to encourage engagement by neighbours in alternative ways. The HVRA has also been proactive in trying to improve the community including greening the neighbourhood through greening initiatives, such as tree planting, laneway greening and gardeners' plant and seed shares. The Net Zero Carbon Committee was struck and has been active in spearheading initiatives to help move the HV towards Net Zero. The HVRA was also an important partner in ensuring public access to King Edward Yard Revitalization. The HVRA is interested in expanding its membership including diversity.

The Chair thanked the outgoing Chair Gail Misra. She also thanked Gus Sinclair, the perennial Past Chair and the rest of the HVRA Board.

4. Treasurer's Report (Lena Mortensen)

The Treasurer presented HVRA's financial report for the year ending December 31, 2019, the 2020 Budget Plan and the interim 2020 statements. The Treasurer reported that the financials look to be in good shape. She noted that this has been an exceptional year due to Covid 19. One of the main sources of revenue, and costs, is the Fall Fair but it didn't take place this year. Membership fees were up significantly this year as well which minimized the impact of Covid-19 on the HVRA's financials.

There were no questions from the floor. Lena moved that the financial statements for 2019 be accepted; Seconded by David Booz. Motion carried.

5. Area Caucuses and Election of Area Reps

Members gathered in area caucuses Break Out rooms and discussed area issues and concerns. Area Reps were elected for each caucus. Before the Zoom call broke, the Chair thanked outgoing NW area rep Nicole Schulman for her contributions on the Board over her 4-year tenure.

Caucus Reports

[NTD: SECRETARY has included more detailed comments FROM CAUCUS DISCUSSIONS FROM AREA REPS, FOR EACH CAUCUS who provided them.]

North East – Nicholas Provart

Area Reps: Carolee Orme (acclaimed) and Nicholas Provart (acclaimed)

- The vote was not conducted in the break out room
- Issues included:
 - Noise - Lots of construction noise coming from 666 Spadina and the Daniels building and concerns about wind tunneling at the corner of Sussex and Spadina as a result of the erection of the new buildings
 - Lots of wrong way driving/speeding in neighbourhood streets, particularly more wrong way driving north on Robert from the newly installed stop light at Harbord
 - There was a house fire on Major affecting 2 properties; no cause of fire has yet been identified but speculation is that it was started by fireworks since it was Canada Day. Unsafe lighting of fireworks may have been the cause
 - Light at Harbord and Robert does not automatically signal for pedestrians if a car triggers it; it should be auto activated for pedestrian crossings
 - Concern about future developments at the corner of Bloor and Spadina
 - Question was asked about the renovations to the gas station at Major and Harbord. It is going to be a gas station with modernized pumps and a convenience store; concerns that the gas station may create more traffic on Major
 - Major Street between Bloor and Sussex really bonded as a community during Covid around the 7pm frontline worker tribute
 - Parents with young kids are concerned about green space, traffic, wrong way driving, speeding

North West – Nicole Schulman

Area Reps: Shafeeq Armstrong (elected) and Christian Mueller (acclaimed)

- Development at 225 Brunswick was the main topic of discussion
 - Concerns that it took so long for residents to know of the development; residents would like to see a more timely notification of developments in future
 - Residents would like the HVRA to facilitate communication with the neighbourhood as to the best way to move forward with the developers

- Christian summarized his additional notes by saying complaints re the 225 development included: too many units, too much mass, not enough green space, parking, no privacy for immediate neighbours, etc. He stated that on the positive side this concern meant that more members from the NW area attended this meeting than any AGM in recent memory.
- General concerns re: intensification in the neighbourhood and the community wants to be more involved

South East – Gina Buonaguro

Area Reps: Cathy Merkley (acclaimed) and Gina Buonaguro (acclaimed)

- Russell St. was renamed in error; ongoing issues with the name of the street as it shows up on maps as Ursula Franklin Street on the east side of Spadina
- Light outages in several laneways - Toronto Hydro is not being responsive; Cathy will follow up.
- Increase in garbage and debris near Lord Lansdowne and the Scott Mission; city might have reduced service to their bins in the area
- Sidewalk snow removal always an issue
- Edited to add: what can be done to make Halloween a bit more special for the kids.

South Central – Susan MacDonald

Area Reps: Simon Coleman (acclaimed) and Susan MacDonald (acclaimed)

- They did not have vote in the Break Out Room
- Wrong way and speeding traffic on Brunswick and Major
- Noise concerns re: leaf blowers and other sources of excess noise
- 15 trees have been planted between College and Harbord on Major Street; special thanks to Daniel Suss for his work on the tree initiative. Daniel added that more could be planted if boulevards were added to streets in Harbord Village. Sloppy garbage maintenance by some neighbours, possibly resulting in an increase in rodents
- Additional note that some residents expressed on-going concern about illegal rooming houses and illegal Air BnB properties in their area. They are trying to work with the city on these concerns.

South West – Jane Perdue

Area Reps: Jane Perdue (acclaimed) and Bob Stambula (acclaimed)

- Questions about details re: revitalization of King Edward playground. Bob has been particularly active in assisting with the Master Plan design to ensure that the community have legal access to the open space when not in use by the school.
- Lack of city sidewalk plows and snow clearance in the HV and pedestrian safety ongoing issue and especially crucial now with COVID-19. Requests that HVRA write to the city again to ask for services.
- Frustration of residents on Ulster between Borden and Brunswick; residents are 100% opposed to the new E/W contra flow bike lane because the street is so narrow and there are many blind spots and little parking. Particularly problematic by Margaret Fairley Park because delivery vans/pickups park on the sidewalk by the park creating additional safety hazards for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians, especially children. Requests that HVRA write to the city to have lane removed.

6. Presentation of Slate of Officers by Convenor of Constitutional & Nominations Committee

Celia Denov presented the slate of officers for 2020-2021 term:

Chair:	Anne Fleming
Vice Chair:	<i>Open</i>

Secretary:	Suzanne Dubeau
Treasurer:	Lena Mortensen
Membership Secretary:	<i>Open</i>
Webmaster:	Regine Schmid

There were no nominations from the floor. Celia Denov declared the slate acclaimed

The Chair thanked outgoing Board members Andrea Poptsis as Secretary, Merrill Swain as Membership Secretary, and Nicole Schulman as outgoing NW area rep for their years of service and contributions to the Board.

7. Slate for the Constitutional and Nominations Committee

The slate for the 2020-2021 Constitutional and Nominations Committee consisting of Celia Denov (Convenor), Samiha Sayed, James Murdoch and Colin Furness was presented to the membership. Gus declared the slate to be acclaimed.

8. Confirmation of U of T Liaison Position

The appointment for this position, which involves attending U of T meetings and liaising with the institution, is for one year. Sue Dexter has been acting in this capacity for the Board and is willing to continue to do so. Gus nominated that Sue be appointed to the position. Seconded by Gina Buonaguro.

9. Community Builder Awards

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community, Community Builder awards were presented to:

Margaret Proctor, Mary Newberry, and Kerry Clare

Gus took the opportunity to thank outgoing Chair Gail Misra for her service and contributions to the Board.

The Chair noted that there was a Membership draw held this year. It was open to members that referred a neighbour that later became a member of the HVRA; both were entered into a draw for gift certificates to local restaurants including: \$50 for Her Father's Cider Bar, \$50 for Rasa and \$50 for Piano Piano. The draw was successful and the winners are new members **Nurith Jungreis, Shivani Chandrakumar** and **Linda Benishai**, and recruiting members **Rose Rodrigues, Caitlin Smith, and Katrina McHugh**.

10. Q&A with Councillor Mike Layton & MPP Jessica Bell – Moderator: Gail Misra

Mike Layton updates:

- Toronto recovery post Covid
- Interesting Toronto Atmospheric Fund projects that might be funded through the HVRA
- Robert Street field noise issues – biggest geo thermal installation in the city; learnings from the noise issues stemming from this project
- HCD reprioritization in 2021 – HVRA is high on the list
- Harbord reconstruction will be pushed out to 2024 to line up with watermain replacement
- 63 trees will be planted in the HVRA
- Working on increasing access to Central Tech dome
- Robert and Harbord traffic light was installed

- Brunswick road safety study is in the works
- CoA issues
- Looking into the safety implications of the Ulster contra flow lane – they recommended putting bollards in place
- Motion at the last city council meeting re: winter maintenance of sidewalks as a follow up to the pilot project; not supported by Council. Will go to the Parks committee

Jessica Bell updates:

- Concerned about the state of businesses that are struggling in our community
- Issues with public adherence to public health guidelines in response to Covid-19 and slow test result response times, especially for teachers
- Concerns about long term care homes and in particular one within our community, the worst in the province, at Vermont Square
- Provincial changes to insurance related to LTC homes
- Concerns around the province's move to remove municipal rights to implement ranked ballots

Questions from the floor:

- Cannabis shops
 - Café – the city has tried to shut down Café, including spending tens of thousands of dollars to shut them down and they are now before the courts. The city's hands are tied when it comes to Café. Due to changes in the implementation strategy for cannabis retail, the ability to restrict was taken away from the city.
 - Proliferation of cannabis retailers in our community – MPP Bell has been contacted by many residents opposing AGCO applications. The AGCO has been reluctant to listen to neighbour concerns. MPP Marit Styles has been working on a private members' bill to allow neighbours greater ability to oppose licenses. The bill will be introduced within the next two weeks.
- Ranked ballot removal:
 - What can be done to fight the removal of this notion of electoral reform?
 - Citizen led movements are emerging to fight this move by the Ford government
 - There are also other things we need in electoral reform beyond ranked ballots, including financial reforms re: how candidates get funded.
- Traffic lights
 - Can they be made more responsive to pedestrians around the neighbourhood?
 - Ulster and Bathurst – will be evaluated and updated; it is in the study queue
- Covid-19 testing
 - Is there anything that can be done to amplify the capacity of testing?
 - Private testing – expensive and inaccessible to low income residents who cannot afford them
- 225 Brunswick Ave development
 - Councillor Layton is in favour of infill densification near Bloor; are the quality of life changes being felt by the immediate neighbours being addressed? What precedents are being set by approving these developments?
 - They must be on sites that are appropriate for infill if we want to protect heritage
 - 225 Brunswick is an anomaly; we have to ensure that we don't say no for the sake of saying no but that we look at the implications of the development on the neighbours, e.g. parking concerns

Outgoing Chair Gail Misra thanked Councillor Layton and MPP Bell for their support and responsiveness. She thanked the Board and the community as she wraps up her 11 years on the Board.

Gus thanked the Chair for navigating the first Zoom HVRA AGM.

11. Other Business

The Chair mentioned that there has been some confusion around Halloween. We need to do what is safe. Pumpkin Fest version 2 – leave your pumpkin on your porch and display it there. Lots of pictures will be taken and posted to celebrate Halloween. There will also be house decorating project supported very generously by the HSBIA. Neighbours are encouraged to decorate their houses to mark the occasion.

Gina Buonaguro moves to adjourn the meeting. No one seconded.

9:01 pm Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Poptsis, outgoing Secretary. Further augmented by incoming Secretary, Suzanne Dubeau