

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

September 21, 2021, 6.00 pm

by Zoom call

FINAL MINUTES

Attendees: Gina Buonaguro, Kerry Clare, Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Suzanne Dubeau, Anne Fleming, Lacy Lauks, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Nick Provart, Regine Schmid, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Frank Davis, Carolee Orme.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 18:15.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Bob. Agenda adopted with minor changes.
3. **Approval of June board meeting minutes:** Gus moved approval of the minutes as amended; seconded by Christian. **Motion passed.** Approval of **August** board meeting minutes as amended: Gus moved approval of the minutes; seconded by Christian. **Motion passed.**
4. **Business Arising from past minutes**
 - 4.1 **Fall Event (Anne)** - The busker fest event on September 12th organized by Anne, Gus, Cathy, and Christian, was well-received. Musicians expressed appreciation to be able to play to an audience again. Eight different venues were used. Financial support was provided by the Harbord BIA. Support was also provided by St. Stephens, the Tranzac Club, Spence Gallery, and Harbord Bakery. Knox Church, which usually runs their own event on same weekend as fall fair also participated; perhaps there is an opportunity to partner in future? Anne spoke about possibly doing something in the spring
 - 4.2 **Fall Newsletter (Anne)** - Newsletter coming along nicely, and will come out in mid-October.
5. **New Business**
 - 5.1 **Search committee update (Gus)** – Gus reported on his recruiting efforts. Kerry Clare and Karen Laurence have agreed to serve as a NW area representative and secretary respectively, subject to being elected at the fall AGM. Anne reminded everyone that Frank Davis will be stepping up to serve on the board, and will be getting involved with P&D committee.

- 5.2 Fall AGM (Anne)** – The proposed date for the Fall AGM is Thursday, October 21st. to accommodate the schedules of city councillor Mike Layton, and MPP Jessica Bell. Gus and Susan suggested that a special NetZero presentation would be worthwhile.
- 5.3 Our Plan Toronto meetings (P&D)** – item deferred.
- 5.4 Pumpkinfest (Lena)** – need to discuss how/if it will be done this year. It will be very difficult for Gina to take an active role this year. Most people feel it's still too early to revert to the original version. It will likely need to be like last year's but perhaps even bigger given that Hallowe'en might be more active this year. How to involve BIA more substantively as partners? How to encourage touring the neighbourhood to view the pumpkins? Need to publicize earlier than last year. Volunteers for poster, taking photos, etc., are welcome. The committee will leave it up to the BIA to pursue any permits if needed depending on their involvement.
- 5.5 Public Realm Committee (Bob)** – Bob described the need and benefit of having a committee that can be more pro-active in advocating for the HVRA in proposed city projects in a more coordinated fashion than is currently happening. It is an opportunity for community and membership building as well. It would complement the work of P&D, and share the work of keeping tabs on various, seemingly disconnected, city initiatives that could be better handled with a more cohesive approach, and by reaching out to affected and/or interested residents to get involved. Nick expressed an interest in participating on this proposed committee. Further discussion about this ad hoc committee to come, as well as an item in the Fall newsletter. Possibly a way to support the Safe Streets committee.
- 5.6 Community Builders (Gus)** – The award recipients this year are **Maria Pasquino** and **Leslie Thompson**. The fall newsletter will include citations for these individuals who have worked tirelessly to make the neighbourhood a more beautiful place to live.
- 5.7 E-Bike Fair (Anne)** – This fair will be held this weekend (Sept. 25th). Please spread the word.
- 5.8 Multi-tenant Housing Legislation (Anne)** – Anne and Sue recapped the latest failed city council initiative-to update the multi-tenant housing bylaws. At this point, there doesn't appear to be any benefit in HVRA commenting further.
- 5.9 225 Communication Update (Gus)** -- Gus shared that he had a fruitful conversation with some of the 225 opponents and was able to resolve some misunderstandings about HVRA's role in the matter.

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

6.1 Planning– Sue reported that a working group is being established for the redevelopment of part of the Hydro building at College and University. There is a proposal about doing a 65 storey tower, and there would be big public realm changes on the front. The 350 Bloor project at Spadina is now working with the local Indigenous community about the impact of that project on them, given the proximity to the Friendship Centre just north of it. The corner where Kilgour's used to be is now being redeveloped by the owner of Crafty Coyote and the Victory Café.

6.2 Area Rep Reports:

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

Various dusty activities are wrapping up in the northeast!

(a) U of T's Robert St. field and community area will welcome neighbours soon, after a hiccup involving some underground piping that needed repairs (part of the newly planted and sodded park needed to be dug up at the start of September, unfortunately extending the timeline for opening). School kids will return to playing on the field during recess as soon as this Thursday I am told, as was the arrangement prior to this work beginning.

(b) At 666 Spadina, the last of the concrete work to reinforce the parking garage slab is ending, while the "canvas" for a new City park at the north end has been unrolled (i.e. placeholder sod). The Councillor's office will work with Parks on a new design (there should be a CMC meeting soon...I believe the agreement was that while the park will be a City of Toronto park, the 666 property owners will actually pay for the installation? Sue, correct me if I am wrong...).

(c) Construction work for a new residence at Sussex and Spadina, and a new rental building south of 666 is underway, with a massive exoskeleton now holding up the two of the four exterior walls of 698 Spadina Ave.

(d) Not sure what is going on with the gas station where Tino's used to be.

- **North West report (Christian/Kerry):** Welcome Kerry Clare, our newest NorthWest Area Rep! A reminder that the HVRA's NetZero Committee hosts an ebike "Pedal Power Fair" this Saturday (September 25th) from noon until 4pm on Sussex between Borden & Brunswick.

- **South East report (Cathy/Gina):** This summer, the southeast of Harbord Village was alive with the sound of music! Morale was boosted on our neighbourhood streets with backyard and laneway concerts, all safely distanced. The restaurants in our section were also hopping with activity: Flock, Piano Piano on the old Can Can site, Free Times Cafe on College, and more were the places to be on sultry summer evenings, some taking advantage of the city's new rules on the location of their patios. As usual, Harbord Convenience contributed much beauty through their garden and flower sections.

- **South West report (Jane/Bob):** Nothing to report.

- **South Central report (Susan/Simon):** Not much new to report from SC. One issue that has come up relates to builders parking in the Chapel Hospice Laneway running between Brunswick and Major, thus blocking some residents from being able to exit their garages. We've spoken to the relevant builders. It would be interesting to know if this has been a common problem in HV.

7. Other Business

- 7.1 Nextdoor app (Suzanne/Anne). – not taking a position on this – simply informing members about it.
- 7.2 HVRA posters (Suzanne) – Anne deputized board members to clean them up if we see them after events have passed.

8. The meeting adjourned at 19:58

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