Harbord Village Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

Thursday, October 21, 2021 – By Zoom

Board Reviewed

Anne Fleming, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The Chair welcomed residents to the Zoom AGM and she went over the rules of engagement for the Zoom meeting to encourage respectful dialogue and a safe space for all. There were about 50 participants in the meeting.

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

1. Approval of Agenda

Gus Sinclair moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Elizabeth Chen. Agenda was approved.

2. Approval of 2020 AGM Minutes and the 2021 Spring Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the 2020 AGM and the 2021 Spring general meeting have been reviewed by the Board since those meetings, but have not been posted pending membership approval. The 2020 AGM minutes were shared virtually with the membership to officially adopt them into the record. There were several comments that the minutes really should have been circulated to the membership in advance. Since these meetings were held virtually using Zoom, ideally the minutes should be posted on the HVRA website prior to the meeting, or emailed to those who registered for the meeting, or posted somewhere where they could be linked in the chat. Gus Sinclair moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Elizabeth Chen. There were 24 votes in favour; 3 nays, and 9 abstentions. **Motion passed. Action item:** In the interest of allowing the membership sufficient time to review the 2021 Spring meeting minutes, their approval will be deferred until the next general meeting. The draft minutes will be posted to the website in the interim, or otherwise made available prior to the next general meeting.

3. Chair's Report

The Chair commented that it's been an interesting, all virtual, first year for her term as chair of the HVRA. She will be posting a full written report to the website soon, and reviewed the highlights of the past year. These included the following. Membership – there are about 200 paid up members, and about 400 lapsed members. The membership team is reaching out in a variety of ways to encourage membership renewal. The membership secretary, Lacy Lauks, has unfortunately had to step down this year due to family and work commitments. Residents can check for the status of their membership at https://harbordvillage.com/membership/

The website team (Regine Schmid, Nick Provart, Margaret Proctor) has worked hard to deal with technical challenges, as well as current with announcements. The website team worked with the membership committee to automate membership renewal and this has been very successful. Regine Schmid is stepping down this year as webmaster, and will be succeeded by Nick Provart; he is working on a big overhaul of the website to update the content. Other communications initiatives include putting out two newsletters over the past year, delivered in hardcopy to the entire neighbourhood (ca. 6000 copies), as well as posting bi-weekly eblasts. The Communications team consists of Anne Fleming, Anne Kerekes, Margaret Proctor, and Merrill Swain.

The Planning & Development committee consists of Sue Dexter, Carolee Orme, Bob Stambula, and Gus Sinclair. One of the things that this committee works to do is to negotiate concessions for the neighbourhood from developers, such as the new green spaces that have been created at Robert Street and Sussex, and beside 666 Spadina. The committee also helps residents with the municipal Committee of Adjustment process. There has been a thorough update on the P&D web page to explain how the process works, and what the HVRA can do to help, and what it cannot do. Residents are encouraged to check out the new P&D page at https://harbordvillage.com/development-issues/

P&D also participates on very large development projects such as the planned redevelopment of the Scott Mission, and 350 Bloor Street (NW corner of Bloor and Spadina) to advocate for neighbourhood interests. In the public realm, thanks to the hard work of Robert Stambula, snow removal will commence in the neighbourhood this winter, and there is also work underway to ensure more public access to the King Edward public school grounds after school hours.

Anne has been liaising with the city on behalf of the Safe Streets Committee with regard to the contraflow cycling lanes, and the increased hazards for pedestrians because of bikes and delivery trucks on sidewalks.

Fun stuff: the fall fair was reincarnated as a busker fest this year. The HVRA is also hoping to work with the local BIA for a spring fair. There will be another modified Pumpkinfest this year, with a strong virtual component.

Another initiative over the past year was the creation of a community outreach group to work with local social organizations; this effort is on a pause at the moment since the person who led this effort, Shafeeq Armstrong, has now moved out of HV, but the board hopes this project will be restarted in due course. In addition, the gardening and greening group continues going strong even while having to meet virtually. Finally, HVRA's Net Zero Carbon Committee has been very active and guest speaker, Matt Hoffman, will provide a full update on this.

The Chair thanked all the volunteers and committee members who are working diligently to keep things moving in the neighbourhood.

4. Treasurer's Report (Lena Mortensen)

The Treasurer presented HVRA's financial report for the year ending December 31, 2020, the 2021 Budget Plan and the interim 2021 statements. The Treasurer reported that the financials continue to be in very good shape in spite of Covid 19. For the second year in a row, the main fundraising events had to be cancelled or revamped, and those costs were minimal. There is a new line item to track the funding that is being managed for the Net Zero project. We continue to be on target for the membership fees. The financial statements can be found at https://harbordvillage.com/about/financial-statements

Lena clarified that the $500 revenue in the Fall Fair category, given that there was no fall fair, actually was a donation from the Harbord Village BIA. Lena moved that the financial statements for 2020 be accepted; Seconded by Bob Stambula. There were 30 votes in favour; 0 nays, and 3 abstentions. **Motion carried.**

5. Q&A with Councillor Mike Layton & MPP Jessica Bell – Moderator**:** Anne Fleming

Mike Layton updates:

- Thanked HVRA for its tremendous work
- Ongoing impact of Covid on Toronto, our front line workers, businesses, etc.

- Most severe homeless and housing crisis in North America has ever seen; more apparent than ever, along with cost of housing
- Opioid epidemic – still not enough resources being put on this issue
- Climate report from IPCC about code red condition
- City making progress on some fronts in light of Covid – shelters, housing investments
- Road use – i.e. Café TO and parking spots. Many businesses are in favour of continuing program at the expense of parking spaces. Bike lanes
- Ravine strategy and investments
- Transform TO – climate plan – appreciative of HVRA's support. New building standards and need to speed up Net Zero
- City-wide planning practices updated
- Municipal licensing and standards
- Cannabis shops – city prosecuting to maximum possible; still working its way through the courts
- Vehicle noise, esp. street racing on Bloor. Noise bylaw totally inadequate today.
- Rooming house bylaw – deferred yet again.
- Road safety – 6 new bumpouts planned for HVRA thanks to HVRA push. To be installed next year. Raised intersection at Borden and College will be done in 2022 as part of greater work on College in 2022.
- Planning to do review of Brunswick contraflow lane when completed and have asked city staff to meet with HVRA Safe Streets Ctte to review suggestions and not wait
- There will be consultations coming soon for more work coming to College Street that would mean further improvements for cyclists and pedestrians.
- Congratulations to HVRA for EV bikes event and survey on EV vehicles
- UofT secondary plan should be back for consultation by year end.
- Working on Truth and Reconciliation framework in planning process for Bloor & Spadina intersection, and implementing this framework on other planning projects
- Salvation Army site – 100% affordable housing. Consultation opportunities coming.
- Inclusionary zoning policy to improve affordable housing – the window is closing for making this case; developers have been pushing back hard.

Jessica Bell updates:

- So far she has not seen any new legislation from Queen`s Park which is raising strong red flags; waiting for next budget to be released November 4.
- Latest newsletter can be found at https://mailchi.mp/6b61dadcfb8a/friday-june-4-update-5914514?e=fd9e69e761
- Looking forward to seeing progress on a childcare program between Ontario and federal government. There is some concern about the increasing new private operators coming into the province and that some of a new subsidy will go to them.
- NDP pushing for improved road safety. Will be re-introducing Vision Zero bill, and the vulnerable road users' bill.
- AG report on governance in the condo sector – working on strengthening protections
- AG report on Hospital sector: 6/100 [acute care] patients are harmed in some way. Staffing and disciplinary issues.
- Advocating for effective and smooth vaccine rollout for kids
- Climate change – opposing the building of new natural gas plants wanted by electricity operator
- Any questions, feedback, please contact Jessica at bell-co@ndp.on.ca and 416 535 7206.

Questions/comments from the floor:

- To Councillor Layton
    - *Q: is the city still suing the fellow who out of the kindness of his heart has been making little portable insulated tiny home shelters for the homeless so they can stay warm and dry and their belongings don't get stolen every time they leave for an appointment?* A: The top city fire official says that the shelters are simply not safe and under the act, these shelters cannot be allowed. The city has settled with the well-intended person.
    - *Q: What can we do to obtain traffic enforcement? Three deaths in two days should be a wake up call that there is far too much speeding and dangerous driving.* A: Call 311 or non-emergency police (416-808-2222) for local places. It gets on their radar. Best we can do is fight for stronger infrastructure, better enforcement, and change public opinion. Red light cameras and speed cameras get rolled out in a priority manner (schools, etc.)
    - *Q: It's only a matter of time before we see a serious injury or fatality in the Harbord Village. We hear of regular reports of near misses due to drivers running through the crosswalk at Borden and Harbord.* A: We can request the city to explore an upgrade from a crosswalk to fully controlled intersection. Please send us an email councillor_layton@toronto.ca
    - *Q: Street cleaning, or lack thereof, especially where cars don't switch sides.* A: the workers should be going in there manually if needed.
    - *Q: From the chat: The last census data (2016) showed much portion of Harbord Village had a shrinking population. In the midst of the housing crisis, strong population growth, and the climate crisis, how can HVRA support bringing more neighbors into our great, walkable and livable neighborhood :)*
- To MPP Bell
    - City staff shared news of a provincial consultation about commercial autonomous vehicles on sidewalks. Please oppose!!!!

Chair Anne Fleming thanked Councillor Layton and MPP Bell for their support and taking the time to speak with the membership.

6. 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.

Caucus Reports

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

North West – Christian Mueller

Area Reps: Christian Mueller and Kerry Clare (both acclaimed)

- Turnout of 8 people
- Development at 225 Brunswick was the main topic of discussion. Folks would still like to understand the P&D process, and they would still like to have a meeting on the subject, whether on zoom or in person.
- Noisy construction on Brunswick
- Bikes where they don't belong – i.e. sidewalks – and the lack of enforcement.

North East – Nicholas Provart

Area Reps: Nicholas Provart and Frank Davis (both acclaimed)

- Turnout of 9 residents
- Issues included:
    - Wrong way drivers: cars, and especially construction trucks and cyclists; the latter especially at night with no lights; and especially e-bikes
    - Four new parking spots at Major and Bloor are becoming a brewing issue. It's just going to get worse with new house going in on parking lot behind Sleep Country. Can we contact Spirit of Math and ask them to get drivers (parents picking up and dropping off) to not double park or block bike lanes.
    - Crosswalk issues at Borden Street - a near miss there.
    - Speeding
    - Community policing – increase in dubious individuals in the 'hood. Can we get more patrols, in the immediate term? Others suggest that every incident should be reported to non-emergency police number (416-808-2222)
    - Planning & Development – 225 Brunswick issue.
    - Concern that the Robert Street Field is already locked at all times when not in use. The Association has been great in responding to the resident and he understands it's on an agenda coming up. It would be a real disappointment if that part of the deal is not honoured. EDITED to add: Rules for the Robert Street Field - Section C of the U of T settlement with HVRA & the City has all the rules that U of T is required to follow - and agreed to follow. Unless they consider incomplete, these rules should be followed now. http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.CC44.25

South West – Robert Stambula

Area Reps: Jane Perdue and Robert Stambula (both acclaimed)

- Affordable housing – how to split houses into condos? Need to encourage city to simplify process to split a house into 2+ units. Apparently this is common in Montreal.
- Safe sidewalks, not just streets! On Harbord, near miss with cyclist on sidewalks.

South Central – Susan MacDonald

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

- Large turnout of 18 people
- Kensington Health (KH) construction project is very behind. Important for everyone to pay attention that garden is restored to former glory. Tree replanting is supposed to start soon. Simon will continue communicating with (KH).
- NetZero Committee - Two neighbours are interested in getting involved. There were also questions about EV charging stations in HV.
- Wrong way and speeding traffic, and bikes on sidewalks
- Resident who brought long-standing battle with an illegal rooming house next to her property.

South East – Gina Buonaguro

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

- Turnout of 8 people
- Proliferation of illegal rooming houses and what to do about it. Suggestion to report them to fire department for fire infractions
- Affordable housing concerns – interest in Mike Layton's mention of inclusionary zoning policy.
- Bikes on sidewalks and pedestrian safety
- Snowplowing and what needs to be done about landscaping near sidewalks; needs to be monitored this winter.

7. Slate for the Constitution and Nominations Committee

The slate for the 2020-2021 Constitution and Nominations Committee consisting of Celia Denov (Convenor), Samiha Sayed, James Murdoch, Colin Furness, and Graham Rempe, was presented to the membership. Gus Sinclair moved that the committee be approved. Seconded by Simon Coleman. As there were no further nominations from the floor, the slate was declared duly elected.

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

Celia Denov presented the slate of officers for the 2021-2022 term:

Chair:	Anne Fleming
Vice Chair:	*Open*
Secretary:	Karen Laurence
Treasurer:	Lena Mortensen
Membership Secretary:	Elizabeth Chen
Webmaster:	Nicolas Provart
UofT Liaison:	Sue Dexter

There were no nominations from the floor. Celia Denov declared the slate acclaimed, and thanked everyone who is and has stepped forward to serve.

The Chair thanked outgoing Board members Suzanne Dubeau as Secretary, Lacy Lauks as Membership Secretary, and Regine Schmid as HVRA's longtime webmaster for their service and contributions to the Board.

9. Community Builder Awards

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

Maria Pasquino and Leslie Thompson

The citations for their awards may be found in the Fall 2021 HVRA newsletter.
https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FINAL-newsletter-5Oct2021.pdf

Anne Fleming encouraged residents to let the board know if they know other HV neighbours who are worthy of such recognition. Awards are presented both in the spring and fall.

Gus took the opportunity to also thank outgoing Board member Shafeeq Armstrong and Carolee Orme who is stepping down as NE representative. Carolee will continue to serve on P&D.

10. Net Zero Report – guest speaker Matt Hoffman

There was an excellent presentation from HVRA Resident and UofT professor Matt Hoffman. He recapped the work of the Net Zero Committee. Two pieces of context: climate crisis, a lot going on in political and policy processes around climate change, i.e. COP26. Current commitments are not enough but there is some progress. National climate and municipal climate plans are in place to reduce emissions, and targets to meet Net Zero goals. To do this we need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Change is coming to the neighbourhood – how we get around, how we heat our homes, how buildings are constructed. Opportunity to be pro-active in managing this change and make a contribution to the effort, and to serve as a model for other communities. In Toronto 55% of emissions come from buildings and 36% from transportation. Need to bring homeowners and citizens on board.

Committee led by Tim Grant started meeting in 2019, and became a formal HVRA committee in 2020. HVRA is one of the greenest areas of the GTA but we need to do more and be active participants. Two goals: developing and sharing knowledge; building partnerships with stakeholders such as TransformTO and the Toronto Atmospheric Fund (TAF).

How to make changes affordable for residents – information gathering, bulk buying, partnerships with vendors, building relationships.

Neighbourhood Survey – 400+ responses. Funded by TAF. Still being analyzed but the headlines are as follows. People are very interested and are looking for information, finance incentives, and so on. The Net Zero project is focusing on meeting these needs.

EVs - mostly walkers, bike and (old) car owners who are taking short trips. Lots of curiosity about electric mobility, especially cars, but little experience.

Home retrofits – mostly long-time homeowners. About half have not renovated over the past 10+ years. Most use natural gas, and most have A/C. Big potential pool to do retro-fits. Financial incentives are important, lots of opportunities for pilot projects, bulk-buying. How to address biggest concerns? Information, connection, and financial incentives. Having an HVRA programme in place would be very motivating.

Home retrofitting project – to fill knowledge gap. Info webinars, energy audit support, retro-information kits. There is a webinar on heat pumps coming in late November. Webinars can be viewed later; links will be shared on HVRA website. These are open to all – not confined to HV.

EV projects: charging stations, E-bikes (like the very successful bike fair organized by Nicole Schulman recently)

For more information about the project, see https://harbordvillage.com/projects/netzero-carbon-project/

Matt can be contacted at matt.hoffmann@utoronto.ca

Q. re car-sharing – is this helpful? A. yes, if true car sharing, and less car ownership – not Uber/Lyft.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

David Booz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Cathy Merkley.

9:30 pm Meeting adjourned.

Minutes prepared by Suzanne Dubeau, outgoing Secretary.