

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 7:00 pm

by Zoom call

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Gina Buonaguro, Karry Clare, Elizabeth Chen, Simon Coleman, Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Nick Provart, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Frank Davis

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 7:06.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus moved adoption of the agenda, seconded by Kerry.
Agenda adopted.
3. **Approval of the December 14th Board Meeting Minutes:** Gus moved approval of the minutes, seconded by Christian. **Motion Passed.**
4. **Presentation by Jorge Muina of the FYFB:** Jorge gave a brief history of the food bank and outlined the programs it is involved in. He expressed his hope that HVRA and FYFB could work more closely together in future. He spoke about the "Coldest Night of the Year" Fundraiser on February 26th. He encouraged the board to get involved and to urge the general membership to support this cause. Karen volunteered to be liaison with the FYFB and will be in touch with the board about putting together a team for the event.
5. **Safe Streets Committee:** Nicole Schulman gave some background on the Safe Streets committee and some of the recent challenges of communicating with the board during the period in 2021 without a board liaison. She expressed the desire to ensure SSC concerns around the proposed College St upgrade would be heard by the city, as there had been some confusion around who was speaking for the board on the matter.

After some discussion, it was decided that the Safe Streets Committee would provide Bob with their analysis of his proposal to the city concerning the College Street Upgrades and that Bob would respond to this analysis directly. The board thanked Nicole for her Safe Streets work and encouraged her to continue.

6. Business Arising from Past Minutes

6.1 FoSTRA: Anne discussed the survey that FoSTRA had circulated asking associations to list their current priorities. Some issues raised were development, planning, transportation, economic development, affordable housing, environment and infrastructure. Anne assured members that FoStRA was not trying to hand their responsibilities over to individual associations; they just wanted to know what matters were of particular concern to their members so the organization could support members as a group on common areas of concern.

6.2 College Street Upgrade: Robert said that it had been over four weeks since he, on behalf of HVRA and with PARA's support, wrote the city hoping to ignite a real consultation on the College Street Upgrade. He is still waiting for a meaningful response. It is his impression that the city is not interested in constructive dialogue. He believes HVRA needs to take this up with the councillor.

7. New Business

7.1 Webhosting contract: Nick told the board that the current arrangement with WHC is coming to an end and requested that the current \$500 HVRA budget for this service be increased to cover the \$600+ that the cloud offering would cost. Gus pointed out that any expense over \$500 must be voted on by the general membership, so it would have to be an agenda item for the May meeting. Lena said there was, in fact, a web contingency budget of \$1000, and the money for webhosting could come from that line in the interim. Gus thanked Lena for this immediate solution to the webhost issue, but recommended that, as the board spending threshold of \$500 had been set in 2001, it was well past time to up that. He proposed a motion be put to the membership at the spring GM to increase from \$500 to \$1000 the threshold beyond which membership approval is required. It was moved by Gus and seconded by Lena that 1) the additional money to upgrade webhosting come from the web contingency fund, and that 2) the membership be asked to increase the spending threshold. **Motion passed.**

7.2 Website update: Nick told the board that former HVRA Secretary Suzanne Dubeau had gone over the website with a fine-tooth comb and had identified many dead links and missing items. She also dug up Vol 1. Of the HVRA newsletter which has now been posted to the website Newsletters page. She also tracked down copies of old minutes from 2004-2005 which are not on the website. Nick did not know if these were the minutes of record and asked if they should be posted with the rest. Gus offered to look at them, as he was on the board at the time, to make sure they are accurate, after which they could be posted with a caveat that they may not be official. Nick said he would pass these documents to Gus. The board offered their profound thanks to Suzanne for her excellent work on the website clean-up.

8. **Adjournment:** As there was no other business, Gus moved the meeting be adjourned. Christian seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03.

AREA REPORTS

SW report

It's very quiet in the SW area.

No sightings yet of the new sidewalk snow plows. Perhaps next week's forecast will bring them.

Bob has been busy on the College Street Upgrade.

Last week, the Toronto Sun published an article about the many empty stores from Spadina to College.

<https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/warmington-college-st-resembles-zombie-apocalypse-movie-set>

Jane Perdue and Bob Stambula

SC report

There has been some debate among SC residents about the state of the paving in The Doctors' Parkette, and whether snow clearing has been removing any of the stones. The Parks Manager for the area has been informed. We have also been in contact with Kensington Gardens, who may be seeking our help in letting local people know that a temporary post for a care assistant will be advertised at KH: they are short-staffed owing to Covid.

Simon Coleman

SE report

The big SE news is that Flock has closed and will be moving out of the neighbourhood to the Harbord & Ossington area (delivery still available). Word is that a French restaurant will be moving in. Additionally, although not strictly in the SE, Rasa is upgrading the heating on its patio, Her Father's Cider Bar has a nice heated and covered patio open for business, and Elchi Chai Shop is closing permanently.

Sad update to the SE report for the minutes: The snowstorm unfortunately ruined Her Father's Cider Bar patio set up.

Gina Buonaguro

NE report

1. Excavation and shoring has started for both the U of T residence and for the new rental building south of 666 Spadina Avenue. Toronto Council adopted TE29.37 at their meeting on Dec. 15th, 16th, and 17th. One of the HVRA NE co-reps had pushed for the addition of the requirement that the applicant for changes to city property for construction staging (Daniels/U of T for the residence) be required to install "No Construction Vehicles beyond this point" signs west of Sussex Mews.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2021.TE29.37>

2. Gas station that replaced Tino's garage is now open for business

3. A 3rd pot shop (2nd legal one) opened in "Reefer Row", just to the west of Sussex Mews, called Canvas Cannabis.

Nick and Frank

NW report

On the coldest day of the new year so far, it's all quiet on the (north) western front.

Looking well into the future, however, I'm hopeful of a time when we may see a return to our Fall Fair in the south central. With this purpose in mind, I've submitted an application to the City Parks Department to reserve Margaret Fairley Park on Sunday, September 11th, 2022. Technically, this is a renewal application because it harks back to previous years when we gathered in the park before Covid-19 restrictions were imposed. Yesterday was this year's deadline.

Christian Mueller

SafeStreets January report

Apologies for not sending a report for December -- we were unaware that the meeting date had been changed

Ongoing business:

- Still waiting on completion of parts of Brunswick/Borden counterflow (raised intersection at Borden & Ulster and the installation of bike crossing at College has been tied to College St. renewal, see below, in 2022)
- Still awaiting painting of stop lines at signalized intersections where they are absent -- Councillor's office has assured us that the request is in the queue!

Awaiting from the board:

- Was there a response to our July letter to the Bloor St BIA about trying to discourage delivery bikes from using the sidewalks?

New Stuff:

- **Automatic Speed Cameras:** There are currently two for the ward, and they get rotated every 6 months. Provincial legislation requires them to be near schools (and daycares and such). The new locations for April(ish) are on Spadina South of Bloor and on Manning, South of Lennox (North of Harbord by Harbord Collegiate). While we are fortunate to have both reasonably nearby, there really need to be far more and they should not be limited to being near schools (since that does not mirror the most dangerous stretched of road in our neighbourhood). While Layton has been advocating expanding their use, and Council has voted to increase their number, the approved increase is only by one per ward. Council is also asking the Province to allow them to be installed in a greater variety of places.
- **Addressing dangerous driving on Sussex, between Robert and Spadina:** This has been an ongoing problem. Residents have petitioned the city to install speed humps, but even if approved these won't address the wrong way issue. We recommended a small measure, moving the planter with the do not enter sign into a more prominent position so that it actually served to block wrong way drivers. The councillor's office was quick to initiate this with Transportation and the planter is now moved (albeit not as much as we hoped). If the problems persist we will consider whether we should press for other changes to calm traffic. The residents have made

some bold proposals, but any significant change would almost certainly need to be tied into Transportation's schedule for maintenance on the street.

- **Addressing poor sight lines for turning vehicles at Bloor and Major:** The city is aware that this is a problematic intersection, and Transportation's response is to erect a sign to warn vehicles to look for bikes. The problem, however, does not appear to be that vehicles are unaware that there are bikes but that they cannot see them, so added signage is unlikely to really solve the problem. Committee has one potential solution, echoing the arrangement at Borden and Bloor with bike parking being used in the parking section nearest the intersection. As this would probably involve the loss of one car parking spot, it is unlikely that the city will be keen unless we show that users of that intersection feel strongly that it is dangerous . This might involve some kind of community outreach for local feedback. If the board has any suggestions please let us know!
- **College St rebuild:** We discussed ways to improve the safety of the city's proposal (the major focus was the way in which CafeTO would interact with the bike lanes) but were subsequently prohibited from any communication with the city on this topic, so we have not been able to pursue it. Bob Stambula's paper on the rebuild was shared with me, the Chair, on December 20th, but the committee has been prohibited from reading it so we cannot comment at this time.