

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 19th, 2022, 7:00 pm

by Zoom call

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Gina Buonaguro, Elizabeth Chen, Simon Coleman, Anne Fleming, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Jane Perdue, Nick Provart, Gus Sinclair

Regrets: Kerry Clare, Frank Davis, Sue Dexter, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Robert Stambula

- 1. Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 7:06.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** The order of New Business items was reversed to flow more logically. Gus moved the agenda be approved as amended; seconded by Cathy. **Agenda approved.**
- 3. Approval of March 22nd Board Meeting Minutes:** Gus moved that the minutes be approved; Gina seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

An email vote was taken April 21st to amend these minutes. Elizabeth moved that the minutes be approved as amended; Cathy seconded. **The motion was passed 13 in favour; none opposed.**

4. Business Arising from Past Minutes:

4.1 Spring AGM: Anne said that Todd Irvine, an arborist, has agree to speak at the meeting. Mike Layton is available May 25th. We have not heard back yet from Jessica Bell, but we will go with the 25th (from 7:00 to 9:00) regardless as we should start publicizing soon. (This GM will not be in person.) Jane suggested that Todd be paid an honorarium of \$100. Following discussion, Susan moved that we pay the honorarium this time, and have future discussions of whether an honorarium should become standard practice and therefore included as a budget item. Gus seconded. **The motion was passed unanimously.**

4.2 College St. Upgrade Update: Anne said that the staff plan for the upgrade was passed at the Infrastructure and Environment Committee; the only concession HVRA got was the approval of our request for community consultation in future; however, Anne was not sure that this request was passed at the City Council level. Gus suggested that we ask Layton to clarify this, and Anne said she would. **(Action item.)**

Anne also mentioned that the city's Public Consultation Unit would be having a virtual meeting, April 20th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. to walk HV residents through the how the upgrades would be delivered. Anne said that she could attend the first half of the meeting and would try to find someone to cover the second half. She will update the board about this. **(Action item.)**

Anne then addressed point 4 of the Safe Streets Committee April Report (see appendices for full report):

Since the city's Environment and Infrastructure Committee adopted the amendments promising to develop "a working group with key stakeholders" the SSC would like to participate, advising on safety issues -- so we request that the prohibition against our communicating with the city about the College St redesign be lifted.

Anne said that if the city did approve a consultation committee, the SSC would be a part of that group; however, SSC should not be communicating directly with the city on this issue in any case. If and when an HVRA consultation committee is formed, that committee will designate someone to speak to the city on behalf of HVRA. To have SSC communicating with the city on the issue, independent of the consultation committee, would be too confusing and would undermine the work of the HVRA.

4.3 Spring Clean-up: Anne reported that the date for the Spring Clean-up is April 30th. There are fliers up in the neighbourhood, and full details of the event are on the website. Gus moved that the board provisionally provide expenses for the clean-up of up to \$300. Susan seconded. **The motion was passed unanimously.**

4.4 HSBIA Studio Tour: Anne updated the board on this event, which will take place on June 4, 11am – 5 pm. It will be a celebration of Harbord Street businesses; there will be music and children's activities (locations TBA) in addition to the Harbord Street tour. HVRA is responsible for music and kids' activities; HSBIA is doing the rest.

4.5 Weiner's Hardware 100th Anniversary: Anne updated the board on this event. It is happening June 18th, and there will be a street fair to celebrate. The Bloor Street BIA is organizing it, but HVRA is somewhat involved. Anne will keep the board informed of developments.

5. New Business:

5.1 Board Meeting Policy Changes: Karen explained the changes were intended to streamline meetings and to increase clarity and accuracy of the minutes. There were 4 proposed changes briefly described (see appendices for full document)

- 1) motions should be sent to the board in advance of the meeting; if a motion arises from discussion, it should be clearly and simply expressed, or circulated by email after the meeting and a vote taken that way;
- 2) each agenda item would be allotted a specific amount of time, and when discussing a motion that is before the board, each board member may speak just once;
- 3) only a board member may present a motion to the board. If a community member wants to present a recommendation for a vote, a board member must be willing to make the motion;
- 4) all documents and letters sent out as official HVRA documents should have the approval of all board members.

It was noted that board policies (and any changes to them) could be found in the About the Board section of the HVRA website.

Following discussion, it was agreed that point # 2 be amended to read:

...and when discussing a *premeditated* motion, *each board member will be afforded one opportunity to speak to the motion; at the discretion of the chair, this may be increased,*

and that voting on point #4 be postponed pending clarification of terms.

Gus moved that points 1, 2 (as amended) and 3 of the Proposed Board Meeting Policy Changes be adopted. Nick seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5.2 Board Transparency: Anne explained that various past board members have expressed concerns about a perceived lack of transparency with the board and a desire to find out what is going on in a timely way. Anne circulated a document prepared by Merrill Swain with suggestions about how to improve board transparency (see appendices for full document). Merrill made five points:

- 1) Agenda items be sent out in an e-blast 5 – 7 days before a board meeting.
- 2) Area reps report at each board meeting on whatever resident input they have receive on each agenda item.
- 3) Motions be recorded with a tally.
- 4) Minutes of the board meeting be posted within a week of the board meeting.
- 5) Minutes/Meeting highlights be sent out in an e-blast within a week of the board meeting.

The board response to these points was:

- 1) Agenda items are being added to and updated up to the day of the meeting and are not approved until the meeting, so it makes no sense to circulate

them in advance of the meeting. Furthermore, the process of area reps responding to questions from community members about agenda items that have not yet been discussed would be cumbersome and prone to inaccuracies.

- 2) Because point 1 is not workable, point 2 cannot be supported. That said, community members are free to get in touch with area reps with any concerns they have, and area reps will convey concerns to the board.
- 3) Motions will be recorded with a tally going forward.
- 4) Minutes are not official until they are approved, and they are only approved at the next board meeting. They cannot, therefore, be published within a week of the meeting where they were recorded. Except in rare very circumstances, the final minutes are posted to the website within a week of their approval.
- 5) Because point 4 is not workable, point 5 cannot be fully supported.

Other ways to increase transparency were discussed. Generating a regular eblast about board meeting highlights is possible; the barrier to that is finding the time as all board members are volunteers, and there is a limit to how much time they can give to HVRA. Eblast, newsletters and the website could be used to remind community members that:

- 1) board meetings are public. Anyone may attend – but not participate except by prior arrangement – any board meeting;
- 2) minutes are posted to the website every month;
- 3) there are two general meetings a year the point of which is to inform the community of what the board has been doing in the last six months, and to encourage members to raise any concerns they have with the board.

6. Committee and Area Rep Reports: Attached as separate documents.

6.1 Planning and Development: Report on Committee of Adjustment Cases. Gus reported that there were two buildings currently under review: 121 Major St. and 29 Borden Street. See P & D Committee (Report) appended for details.

7. Other Business:

7.1 Community Builder Award: Gus said the Friedman family who live on Borden north of Harbord would receive the award.

7.2 Electoral Forum: Gus told the board that the Electoral Forum would be held May 10 as a virtual meeting. The Green Party and the NDP have confirmed. The Liberal candidate may also be there. It will be publicized when everything is in place.

7.3 Snow Clearing: Cathy said she had sent the letter to city with HVRA concerns about the snow clearing and could report on the city response (see appended). Various councillors called for reviews and explanations. At the Infrastructure and Environment Committee meeting Transportation Services said:

“None of the existing Council-approved service levels accounts for extreme weather events, and therefore the levels do not set a feasible response time for a storm of the magnitude experienced in January. In addition, a number of challenges were experienced as a result of the storm including supporting the immediate needs of emergency services, digging out Toronto Transit Commission vehicles, strain on equipment, manual clearing to avoid infrastructure and property damage, logistics of removing and relocating the volume of snow as quickly as possible, some contractor issues and communicating service levels and response times.”

That is, it was not The Transportation Department’s fault.

- 8. Adjournment:** Gus moved that the meeting be adjourned; Jane seconded. **Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:54**

Minutes prepared by Karen Laurence, Secretary 2021 - 2022

APPENDICES

1. Proposed Board Meeting Policy Changes
2. Transparency Improvement Initiatives
3. Area Reps Reports
4. Planning & Development Committee Report on Committee of Adjustment
5. Safe Streets Committee Report
6. Report on city response to snow clearing issues

Proposed Board Meeting Policy Changes

- 1) Agenda items would be noted as *informational/update*, for discussion, or *requiring a vote*. A board member wishing to present a motion should send it, in writing, to the secretary several days before the board meeting. All such motions will then be included in the agenda, which will go out not later than 3 days before the meeting so that all members have time to think about the motion(s).

The above would not preclude a discussion item ultimately resulting in a motion, but in that instance, the motion must be clearly and simply stated so that all board members know what they are voting for. Should wording of the motion need careful thought, or be too complex to process in the moment, the person presenting the motion (if it is a matter of urgency), can circulate the motion by email following the meeting and a vote be taken that way. The results of such a vote would be an agenda item at the next board meeting and recorded in those minutes.

A discussion that results in some required action will be noted in the minutes as an **action item** with the name of the person responsible and (if possible) the timeframe in which it will happen.

- 2) Each agenda item will be assigned a specified amount of time as a guideline to ensure all agenda items receive adequate attention. Extensions would be possible if a majority of board members agree.

When discussing a premeditated motion, each board member will be allowed, with rare exceptions, to speak just once. **Amended during the meeting to read:**

...each board member will be afforded one opportunity to speak to the motion; at the discretion of the chair, this may be increased.

- 3) Only a board member may present a motion to the board. If a community member would like a motion put to the board, a board member must be willing to present it. If no board member is pre-attached to a non-board motion, the Chair must ask if anyone will make that motion, and if no member is willing, the minutes will record that fact.
- 4) All documents (letters, policy statements, planning proposals, etc.) sent out into the wider world as HVRA documents must have the approval of all board members. If it is not possible to do this in a board meeting, the documents should be circulated by email with a clear indication of when a response is needed. A non-response by the deadline will be understood as approval.

Suggestions for the improvement of transparency related to Board meetings

1. Agenda items are sent out in an e-blast 5-7 days before a Board meeting. This not only informs HVRA members but will also help Area Reps to carry out their responsibilities by giving members the opportunity to provide input on items of interest.
2. Area Reps report at each Board meeting whatever resident input they have received for each item (if any).
3. Motions are recorded with a tally of how Board Members have voted.
4. Minutes are posted on the HVRA website within a week of the Board meeting. If an item needs to be held for further review, then Minutes should indicate that. *In Camera* items are still noted in the Minutes with reasons for exclusion (e.g. negotiations in progress) and a forecasted release date provided.
5. Meeting/Minutes highlights (prepared by the Secretary at the same time as preparing the Minutes) and a link to the Minutes on the HVRA website are sent out in an e-blast within a week from the time of the Board meeting.

March 17th, 2022

NW Report:

-Many residents have enjoyed the Show Love TO heart at Bloor and Brunswick, and a few Harbord Village neighbours were among winners of the contest sponsored by the Annex BIA

-New businesses are arriving on Bloor, including a glasses store where EB Games used to be, and we're looking forward to the new coffee shop opening on Borden south of Bloor.

-Central Tech Community Swim continues on Sundays!

Kerry Clare

NE Report:

Construction continues on U of T's residence and the new rental building south of 666 Spadina. The POPS green area to the west of 666 Spadina (negotiated in part by the HVRA) is taking shape and should be open by the start of the summer according to the site manager, Dimitar Naydenov.

Nick Provart

SC Report:

Susan McDonald is working with a resident from Major St who has been trying to get the disability parking space at 67 Major "decommissioned" as the original applicant at 67 Major has moved away and the space is no longer being used by an approved applicant. The resident contacted 311 several times but has had no response.

There are two additional disability parking spaces at 113 & 111 Major St. (at Ulster). One appears to no longer be used and the other it is not easy to determine.

Susan wrote to Emily Wong in the Councilor's office for assistance.

Emily said it was not uncommon for disability parking space holders to move away and not inform the city. She has agreed to ask Transportation Service Staff to check with the Ministry of Transportation to see if there are still valid permit holders on file for the three addresses above.

Disability parking spaces are very important and necessary for those individuals who require them but if a space is no longer being used by an approved applicant they should revert to regular use.

The usual work to try to maintain the Doctor's Parkette; from early May John Yip will move from being CEO of Kensington Health to becoming President and CEO of SE Health—he's been a good friend to HVRA and we might use these minutes (among other things) to acknowledge his contribution.

Susan McDonald and Simon Coleman

SE and SW

No news is not bad news.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

121 Major Street originally proposed a completely new 3rd floor that covers the existing second floor. This included a cantilevered section over the 'notch' at the north side which brought the FSI index to 1.4 x coverage. The neighbours and P&D thought the FSI was too high and that the cantilever was not a good idea as we have objected to this feature in prior applications. The applicant agreed to remove the cantilevered portion which brought the FSI down to 1.34 which is the same as the neighbour to the north and we approved of the changes and wrote a letter of support.

29 Borden proposed a 3rd floor addition that took up the entire footprint of the existing house including the rear (east) wall in line with the rear of the existing lower floors. This presents a sheer wall at the rear of over 35 feet and an FSI of over 1.4. We suggested doing a setback on the 3rd floor which would reduce the FSI as well as lighten the visual extreme sheer wall. The owners agreed to a redesign and asked for a deferral which HVRA P&D supported

SafeStreets April 2022 report

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)
- Still awaiting painting of stop lines at signalized intersections where they are absent and also the painting of even more visible zebra crossing marks for the Sussex/Robert intersection

New Stuff:

1. In response from persistent complaints by Sussex/Robert residents, the councillor's office has now requested a **speed study to be done** on the block of Sussex between Spadina and Robert. This is a prerequisite for in installation of speed humps, which residents have requested.
2. Following our letter to the Bloor St. BIA we've been promised **more ticketing of delivery bikes on the sidewalks** there but have no means of assessing the results. We welcome the community's observations about the frequency of this problem.
3. Some members of the community have repeatedly expressed doubt that the city is collecting accurate data about collisions involving bikes or pedestrians, particularly in regard to the Brunswick/Borden contraflow lane. Would the board please publicize that **it is now much easier to report cycle/pedestrian collisions**, since one can do it online at pedcyclist.accsupport.com/home This should improve the quality of the data.
4. Since the city's Environment and Infrastructure Committee adopted the amendments promising to develop "a working group with key stakeholders" **the SSC would like to participate, advising on safety issues** -- so we request that the prohibition against our communicating with the city about the College St redesign be lifted. Although we were generally in favour of the city's proposals, the devil is in the details. More perspectives lead to more robust design.

From the "Major Snow Event Post-Operational Report" Summary from IE28.11 of the March 29th IEC :

Summary

On January 16-17, 2022, the City of Toronto experienced an extraordinary winter storm that involved extreme cold temperatures, very rapid snowfall, and an ultimate snow accumulation of 55 centimetres in just 15 hours.....

"None of the existing Council-approved service levels accounts for extreme weather events, and therefore the levels do not set a feasible response time for a storm of the magnitude experienced in January. In addition, a number of challenges were experienced as a result of the storm including supporting the immediate needs of emergency services, digging out Toronto Transit Commission vehicles, strain on equipment, manual clearing to avoid infrastructure and property damage, logistics of removing and relocating the volume of snow as quickly as possible, some contractor issues and communicating service levels and response times."

Full documentation is

here: <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2022.IE28.11>

MOTIONS resulting from the presentations March 29th which passed in council April 6/7:

City Council Decision

City Council on April 6 and 7, 2022 adopted the following:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to consult with internal and external stakeholders and to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on an Extreme Winter Weather Response Plan in the first quarter of 2023.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to implement initiatives and service improvements as soon as feasible and in advance of the next winter season where possible.
3. City Council request the General Manager, Transportation Services to meet with Ward Councillors in advance of the next winter season, regarding improvements to snow services, including ward-specific contracts and measures.