

Harbord Village Residents' Association Spring Meeting

May 18, 2021, 7.00 pm

by Zoom call

APPROVED MINUTES

- 1. Call to order / Land Acknowledgement:** Anne called the meeting to order at 19:05.

The Chair welcomed residents to the Spring Meeting and reviewed the rules of engagement for the Zoom meeting. Residents were informed that the meeting would be recorded but it would not be posted or shared. There were about 60 participants in the meeting.

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

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Gina Buonaguro moved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Nick Provart. Agenda adopted.

- 3. Chair's Remarks (Anne Fleming)**

The chair highlighted some of the work that has been continuing during the past year even in the face of the pandemic. There is still a lot going on and neighbours continue supporting each other. Highlights include the successful push by Bob Stambula to have the city finally approve the clearing of all the sidewalks of snow in the winter. This has been a long-time coming and thanks to Bob's gentle and relentless persistence, it finally paid off. The socially-distant spring cleanup organized by Kerry Clare on her own initiative resulted in about 60 families participating in a cleanup of the neighbourhood. Anne expressed thanks to everyone who is working hard to make the best of a difficult year.

- 4. Comments from University-Rosedale MPP Jessica Bell**

The HVRA's local MPP gave a brief update about what's happening at Queen's Park: Bill 282, a road safety bill, is going through legislature. It will allow the city to install safety cameras on streetcars; also, for cyclists, better tracking on dooring incidents. Bill 276 is targeting tenants who record tenant/landlord proceedings to identify injustices; she does not see this as good legislation. The provincial budget has been released; no consultations were done and in her view it leaves a lot to be desired. For example, there are cuts to the education budget that she sees as quite problematic. Cannabis shops: working towards facilitating more input from municipalities about the number of stores and how they are being licensed. Any specific questions about these issues or anything else can be directed to Jessica and she will follow up. One question: how can we get an

LCBO in the Rexall location (Brunswick House)? She wasn't sure but perhaps some residents' associations can get together and write a letter to the LCBO.

5. Committee updates

5.1 Financial report (Lena Mortensen)

Lena briefly reviewed the statement of the financial position compared to this time last year. There is a healthy balance in spite of COVID restrictions. She then reviewed the statement of operations that provides a more detailed accounting; this year's figures have many empty spaces because of COVID related cancellations. Most of HVRA's revenue this year came from membership fees. In terms of a budget plan, there are actually two scenarios in play: one with COVID restrictions in place, and one without such restrictions, in which case the plan will be adapted accordingly. The latter has been based on what happened in the previous 'normal' year. In short, the HVRA is in good fiscal shape. The financial statements can be found at <https://harbordvillage.com/about/financial-statements/>

5.2 Membership report (Lacy Lauks)

Currently the HVRA is in good shape with roughly 595 individual members, up slightly from figures in September. It is notable that HVRA has been able to sustain and even grow the membership during this strange year. The online renewal tool has been very successful. The membership committee is working on cleaning up the membership list by deleting lapsed members, or those who have moved out of the neighbourhood. New initiatives are being developed to attract more members, especially in person. Basic membership rate is only \$10.00/year. Please contact HVRA if there are any technical glitches you need resolved.

5.3 Planning & Development report (Robert Stambula)

North of Harbord: New park coming online at Sussex & Spadina resulting from a settlement with the 666 Spadina development; a public space is near completion across the street at Robert & Sussex (settlement with UofT residence being built on NW corner of Spadina & Sussex) and the UofT has committed to this access in writing; a new and reasonably sized and lit gas station will be opening at Harbord and Major; a 7-unit conversion of 225 Brunswick has been approved at the Committee of Adjustment, but the decision has been appealed at the Toronto Local Appeals Body (TLAB) by a group of residents opposed to the proposal. [The hearing is scheduled for August 24th] - the HVRA is not a party to this adjudication; cannabis shops continue to be a concern but the city has few tools with which to fight against these given that the provincial licensing process for these businesses; HVRA has joined with ARA and others to participate in working group dealing with the redevelopment of the 7 Eleven site on the NW corner of Spadina and Bloor; **South of Harbord** – HVRA has partnered with the city, TDSB and the King Edward PS to have public access to the playing fields in the off hours; two new homes are going

up near Ulster and Bathurst to replace a burnt out derelict house; at the Sneaky Dee's site at Bathurst and College, the HVRA is partnering with a working group dealing with a 13 storey proposal there; HVRA has joined with 150+ other residents' associations concerning the redevelopment of the Queen's Park precinct, specifically the planetarium site, in opposition to a UofT proposal. Finally, the HVRA is thrilled that the city is going forward with the city-wide snow removal initiative.

5.4 NetZero Committee report (Tim Grant)

This is an ambitious 10 year project to see if a single neighbourhood can actually achieve the 50% carbon reduction target of the Paris Climate Accord. As part of this the committee needs 500 residents to complete a very brief preliminary survey that is now running online, linked on the HVRA website. On June 1st there will be an online webinar explaining what incentives are available to assist the carbon reduction efforts.

5.5 Central Tech Community Liaison Committee (Gus Sinclair)

HVRA is only one member of this advisory committee. It is up to TDSB to call the meetings and the prior chair retired some time ago; there had not been a meeting in more than a year. At the recent meeting [on April 30th], the new chair committed to honouring the minutes of settlement. According to Razor management they would like to take the dome down but so far have not been able to do so because of lockdown rules so nothing will likely happen before June 2nd. Gus, as HVRA representative, did forward a request from the running community about getting public access again and the committee said they would welcome a presentation from the running community. The next meeting will be in September.

6. Constitutional Amendment re Vice Chair

The constitutional amendment to clarify the role of the vice-chair was inadvertently omitted from the previous Annual General Meeting in October and must be addressed during this meeting.

The current wording reads:

6. Officers

- a) [...] The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-Chair will stand in for the Chair in the event of absence. The Vice-Chair serving during the final year of the Chair's last term will succeed as the Chair the following year.

The proposed change reads:

The Vice-Chair shall be elected annually by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Vice-Chair serving during the final year of the Chair's last term is expected to succeed as

Chair the following year, subject to ratification at the Annual General meeting. The Vice-Chair will stand in for the Chair in the event of absence. If the Vice-Chair is unavailable, the Past Chair will stand in.

Moved by Gus Sinclair. Seconded by Gina Buonaguro. **Motion passed.** HVRA is still looking for a Vice-Chair. If interested, please contact Anne Fleming.

7. Area caucuses (break out rooms) and reports

Anne reminded attendees of code of conduct that discussions should be respectful and cordial.

- **North West report (Christian/Shafeeq):** The entire discussion was dominated by the folks unhappy with the 225 Brunswick redevelopment. They feel betrayed by the HVRA and are demanding a meeting with the board sooner rather than later about how the P&D process works, and specifically how the HVRA has handled this project. They feel that the board is not listening to the community it purports to serve.
- **North East report (Nick/Carolee):** Concerns were raised about how long it will take to finish Robert Street field, and whether HVRA will need to keep on top of UofT and hold them to their commitment regarding public access. Some commented that online meetings are easier for some people to attend than in person. Can we get new trees on Harbord with proper silva cells? Concerns were expressed about the upcoming construction at Sussex & Spadina, and just south of 666 Spadina and which way the trucks will turn. Where can people get plans for the 290 Major project? Concern was expressed about the number of cannabis shops on Harbord, about the 225 Brunswick project, and about the Central Tech field. A question was asked about the status of 4 inground street planters not yet installed.
- **South East report (Cathy/Gina):** Newly planted trees desperately need water this spring; neighbours are encouraged to do this directly if they can. The Silver Dollar sign is now up but the Comfort Zone is not coming back. More survey submissions are needed for the NetZero project. A T&T store moving is into the space vacated by Independent City Market on College. A Lord Lansdowne PS neighbour is planting seeds to look forward to near the school.
- **South West report (Jane/Bob):** More kudos to Bob Stambula about the sidewalk snow-removal win. Ongoing concern about the bike lane that goes along Ulster between Brunswick and Borden. Councillor Layton says there will be a one year review for this bike lane, and other bike lanes. It was pointed out that at the rate the city is moving, a review will happen before things are even set up. Concern was expressed about the new chain link fence outside King Edward PS, and also a big metal bin both of which could use improvement as part of a school playground area. There is continuing concern about garbage outside the food bank and the impact on the neighbourhood.
- **South Central report (Susan/Simon):** The usual traffic issues: speeding, wrong way on 1-way, etc. More enforcement is required. There is a need to pay attention to what's happening on the College Street periphery. If no Fall Fair is possible, perhaps some other

small event could take place? Heritage designation project – what’s happening with this? Kensington Health project update. Paving on Brunswick: is there a definitive date yet? The latest according to Emily Wong is that it might be this spring?

Notes will be reviewed by the Board and acted upon as possible. Issues raised will also be brought to attention of Councillor Layton, who was unable to attend this meeting.

8. Community Builder Awards (Gus Sinclair)

There were three community builder awards presented at the meeting. The citations are included here.

Andre Roy has lived in Harbord Village all his life. He was a French immersion student at King Edward Public School and went on to be President of the Student Council at Harbord Collegiate. Andre’s dedication to municipal politics and neighbourhood engagement led him to pursue a degree in urban planning. He graduated from the University of Toronto in June 2020 with a B.A. in city studies. Over the years, Andre has worked on many political campaigns at all levels of government and while canvassing the neighbourhood has spoken to thousands of residents about their concerns. He has probably knocked on every door in Harbord Village! He has volunteered in constituency offices where his knowledge of several languages is an asset. He volunteers at the HVRA community clean up and the Fall Fair and attends local hearings on construction projects and parks. We are proud to have this dedicated and civic-minded young man in our community and he is an ideal candidate for the HVRA Community Builder Award.

Kensington Health and John Yip, CEO. Kensington Health is a not-for-profit, community-based model of providing specialized healthcare services to its clients. More than that, the ethos of Kensington Health is in recognizing the symbiotic relationship of the moving parts of the whole organization: leadership, staff, residents and their families together with the community. This fosters the belief that good outcomes arise when all know and trust that each will perform at their utmost. The COVID-19 pandemic has been an incredible challenge for Kensington and their model was tested to the fullest. The various components of the organization, with the extraordinary leadership of CEO John Yip, have performed miraculously well in the crises. Although there is still more work to do and the threat is not over, the Kensington Team is proud of how far they have come.

Colin Furness has become famous across Canada as a much-needed and mostly heeded voice on how we are doing with the Co-vid 19 pandemic. He is an Assistant Professor at U of T and holds a Master of Epidemiology from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where he now holds a status cross-appointment as Assistant Professor of Health Informatics. Since January 2020, Colin has done over 1000 media interviews including the CBC, the Toronto Star, the Globe & Mail and the New York Times inter alia. Closer to home, Colin is a past member of the Board of HVRA and now sits on the HVRA Constitution and Nominations Committee.

9. Guest Speaker Colin Furness : “What COVID can teach us about community”
Colin spoke as an epidemiologist with expertise on the COVID situation. He described how the pandemic has exposed many rifts and wondered what creates social cohesion? He spoke of the need for orientation to community vs. orientation to self and the need to teach importance of public health to the younger generation. The next step in orienting people to community will be the need for a vaccine passport and the need to be vaccinated for the good of the community. His talk was followed by a short Q&A.
10. Other Business
- Resident Monica Walters expressed concern that the group opposed to the development at 225 Brunswick had been labelled “angry” in correspondence with the HVRA. She then expressed her desire that whatever people’s position on the matter, everyone should work in a cooperative manner to resolve the issues.
11. Adjournment – Cathy Merkley moved. Robert Stambula seconded. The meeting adjourned at 21:23.

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