

## **Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 19, 2022. 6:30 pm**

**By Zoom call**

### **APPROVED MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Gus Sinclair, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Robert Stambula, Gina Buonaguro

**Regrets:** Kerry Clare, Elizabeth Chen, Simon Coleman, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Frank Davis, Nick Provart.

1. **Chair's Welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus moved that the agenda be approved; Lena seconded. **Agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of June 21, 2022, Board Meeting Minutes:** Gus moved that the minutes be approved; Lena seconded. **Motion passed unanimously**
4. **Business Arising from past minutes:**
  - 4.1 **College Street Upgrade** – Anne reported that she attended the most recent information meeting (virtual), and Transportation presented the same content as the previous public meeting. City staff explained what to expect with street closures, access points, noise and traffic diversion. The City's website has the complete deck. At the public meetings, there was a question about the location of bike lanes, and another, an expression of surprise at the closure of one lane.
  - 4.2 **Todd Irvine Walk** – Board members Karen Laurence and Susan McDonald attended the walk but were not present at the July Meeting. Instead, Tim Grant reported: "On June 27<sup>th</sup>, arborist and tree advocate Todd Irvine led 4 Harbord Village tree enthusiasts on a 90-minute walk about. His goal? To educate us about proper pruning of front yard trees. During our time with him, we came to recognise the tale-tell signs and we learned how lack of inspections encourages practices that are harmful to individual trees as well as the overall tree canopy in our neighbourhood."

Anne noted that the other attendee, Margaret Proctor, asked what are the next steps? It was suggested to wait until Karen and Susan are back to follow up.

Possible next steps include:

- re-convening the HVRA tree committee, to include circulating a sign-up sheet at the Fall AGM

- Researching and re-enacting the Boulevard Projects, modelled on the Markham Street Projects.
- Reconnecting with Todd Irvine, the University of Toronto as well as other experts, as we aim to produce narrow and safer streets with 1,000 new trees.
- Encourage the next councillor to assist

It was noted that if the city isn't prepared to care for trees and planters, neighbours will always organize and step up to care the newly planted trees and perennials.

Anne encouraged all board members to RSVP for the August 11<sup>th</sup> walk with Todd.

#### **4.3 King Edward PS Yard Upgrade:**

As per Robert Stambula's letter that was circulated to the board, he pointed out to the City Manager, that, contrary to Council Direction, the agreement between the City and the TDSB was drafted and signed without including HVRA input. Bob got a confirmation that his letter has been redirected and Bob is awaiting formal response from the City. He has been told that the School Board is proceeding with the revised landscape drawings.

#### **4.4 Fall Fair:**

Gus reported that 5 music bands were approached and 4 have confirmed.

Christian emphasized that he needed another person to work with him to obtain city permits. He wants to mentor someone and "pass the torch", as he has volunteered this work for 10 years. The Porta Potty is already in place, from other City work near the Margaret Fairley Park.

Anne agreed with Christian, acknowledged his hard work and need for someone to shadow the approval process.

Bob added that there's excitement for this year's fair, a yearning for people to get together.

#### **4.5 Search Committee:**

Gus reported that efforts are being made to replace one board member (Gina) and a temporary replacement while Simon is away. There are efforts to try to find a Vice-Chair to work with Anne.

### **5. New Business:**

#### **5.1 D&O Insurance Renewal:**

Lena reported that she had been contacted by the insurer, and the HVRA Board would be renewing its insurance, as per expected. It was the exact quote we were provided last year, and the funds are in the budget. Insurance will be renewed in late August.

## 5.2 P&D Report:

Sue reported on 112 Harbord Street – Under new ownership, a fresh proposal has been put forward for a 3-storey building containing two apartments and a restaurant at grade. HVRA will facilitate a meeting to ensure the developer had community feedback. This meeting will occur in late July, as the CofA hearing is in October.

Sue's group, including the Annex Resident's Association, Huron Sussex Residents' Organization and other individuals, has made considerable headway on the University of Toronto Secondary Plan, which is currently before City Council for approval. They wanted the head of the street to reflect the Queens Park nature as it goes down to College, and the proposed secondary plan had not done that. Now the language of the plan identifies the L. Massey building, and ROM as Gateways in both the Bloor and Queen's Park character areas is part of a motion to be moved by Councillor Layton.

Gus reported on the Esso Station, Harbord and Major. Initially the owner complied with the approval conditions, and kept the hours of closing at 11 pm, opening at 6am. Following some break-ins, the owner decided he would be open 24 hours, to deter any more crime. Gus met with the owner, but he did not understand he needed to comply with the conditions. With board member Frank Davis, a letter was sent to owner, who now has his business hours as originally agreed. MLS is monitoring the site.

## APPENDICES

### Area Reports

6. **Other Business:** no other business
7. **Adjournment:** Gus moved that the meeting be adjourned; Lena seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Jane Perdue, acting secretary July 2022

## **APPENDICES**

1. King Edward PS Yard Upgrade letter to City Manager
2. Area Reports
3. Safe Street Committee July Report

# HARBORD VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Box 68522, 360A Bloor St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1X1



July 16, 2022

**By Email Only to: Chris.Murray@toronto.ca**

Mr. Chris Murray  
City Manager  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower, City Hall  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON, M5H 2N2

Dear Mr. Murray:

I am writing with regard to the attached "Public Use Agreement for Improvements to King Edward Junior and Senior Public School's Schoolyard" dated May 13, 2021, hereafter Community Access Agreement (CAA). Kerri Voumvakis signed for the City and Wendy Walberg approved the document "as to form."

**This agreement fails in process and content and corrective action is required.**

When I was informed of the CAA on May 2, 2022, from Councillor Layton's Office, I was shocked that the promised consultation with us never materialized, that the actual plans attached to the agreement were NOT the plans agree with the King Edward Team, and that boiler-plate content was not modified to reflect expressed community interests.

## **Background:**

I lead the community discussions for the Harbord Village Residence Association (HVRA) with King Edward Yard Revitalization Team; i.e. parent representatives, and both local school and TDSB officials. The Team was seeking HVRA support for their request of \$150,000 in Section 37 funding. A short history:

- Our engagement with the Team could have not been better. Even though their project plans were mature when we entered the discussion, they understood and were receptive to community concerns and made adjustments to address those concerns.
- June 25, 2020: my email to Councillor Layton et al reported news of the successful discussions, including the revised plan, and comments on the CAA draft motion for Council.
- July 14, 2020: email from the Councillor's office confirmed HVRA's participation in CAA discussions (through their office).
- July 28, 2020: Council adopts Motion MM23.11 and includes: "City Council request the City Solicitor to draw up the Agreement, in consultation with the Ward Councillor and Community Planning staff."

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**Issues and Consequences:**

- April 2022: Construction started at King Edward with no news of a CAA.
- May 2, 2022: Ms. Wong's email from Councillor Layton's Office reports, **"contrary to Council direction, the agreement was drafted and signed without our consultation." With the Councillor's office excluded, HVRA was excluded.** The email included the CAA.
- **Reviewing the CAA, we discovered material failures:**
  - Old plans that excluded substantive changes that were agreed to by the King Edward Team and HVRA, were attached to the agreement (page 10).
  - Other Community interests that formed part of our agreement with the King Edward Team were missing; e.g. insuring that community access could not be replaced with the expansion of "permitting" beyond the level that existed at the time. The CAA has no such protection.
- A scramble occurred in April 2022 to understand what was actually being constructed. After several days of waiting and anxiety, Ms. Wong was able to report that the revised plans, the agreed plans, were indeed being followed, NOT the plans attached to the May 13, 2021 CAA.

**We are struggling to understand what and why things went so wrong:**

- Why was our Councilor not consulted as directed by City Council?
- How can Planning Officials and the City Solicitor, absent input from the Councilor's Office, have any idea of what was agreed to in support of the Section 37 request?
- How did the wrong plans get attached to the CAA?
- Knowing that the attached plans are faulty, what corrective action has been taken? If so, when and how? If not, why not?
- Are there consequences for such failures?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



Robert Stambula (for HVRA)

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Councillor Layton

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Anne Fleming

Chair, HVRA

[Chair@Harbordvillage.com](mailto:Chair@Harbordvillage.com)

Attachments:

2020 6 25	Stambula (HVRA) email reports success with revised plan included.
2020 7 14	Wong (Councillor's Office) email confirming consultation/draft Council motion.
2020 7 28	Motion MM23.11 adopted by City Council.
2022 5 2	Wong (Councillor's Office) email reports "no consultation" occurred.
2021 5 13	King Edward CAA supplied by Councillor's Office on May 2, 2022

## Area Reps Reports

### NW

Between July 6th and 17th, the Tranzac Club played a notable role in hosting this year's Toronto Fringe Festival. This celebration of independent theatre, which ended on Sunday, included the performance of at least one NorthWest Area resident (Dr. Sheldon Wagner -- *The Animal That Talks*).

In the Green P parking lot, until recently, there was a clothing donation bin in the northwest corner. Now it's gone, and an electronic billboard has appeared close to where the bin used to be. [There's no indication that these changes are related.]

An unlocked Bike Share bicycle was found a few weeks ago languishing in the laneway behind Sally Bird Parkette. Within 24 hours of having notified Bike Share of this abandoned bicycle, they appear to have promptly taken it back into their care.

## Safe Streets July 2022 Report

### Completed Stuff:

- Stop lines finally painted at all signalized intersections AND Zebra crossing painted at Sussex and Robert (adjacent to the new parkette)

### 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)
- Awaiting the promised speed study on the stretch of Sussex between Robert and Spadina as a required preliminary step towards installing speed bumps
- In ground planter installation has been expanded by the city to now include the Robert/Sussex intersection (where there are currently planters) in the hope of improving traffic calming. This is in addition to the scheduled replacements at: Ulster and Lippincott, Ulster and Brunswick, Robert and Harbord, and two at Sussex and Brunswick.

### New Stuff:

1. There are concerns about turning cars from Harbord down Borden being a pedestrian hazard. Councillor's office clarified that there are no current plans to upgrade the Borden/Harbord intersection to a signalized intersection, but there MAY be room to improve sightlines when the Harbord Bike lane is modified. We will try to follow up.
2. Bob Stambula raised the concern about large trucks parking illegally on residential streets. Please see our attached report.