

**Harbord Village Residents Association
Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 20th – 7:00 – 9:00 pm
By Zoom Call**

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Kerry Clare, Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Gina Buonaguro, Elizabeth Chen, Simon Coleman, Frank Davis, Nick Provart

1. **Chair's welcome:** Anne called the meeting to order at 7:05
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Gus moved the agenda be approved; Kerry seconded. **Agenda approved.**
3. **Approval of the July 19th Board Meeting minutes:** Gus moved the minutes be approved as amended by Sue; Susan seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Business Arising from past minutes**

4.1 College St. Upgrade: Construction began on Sept 12. Anne urged everyone to sign up for weekly update newsletter, and also reminded the board that there is a bi-weekly drop-in at the virtual trailer for anyone who has questions or concerns about the construction.

4.2 King Edward PS Yard Upgrade: Bob: Our support of the King Edward Public School Yard Revitalization Project facilitated the City's contribution; it required a Community Access Agreement. City staff failed to consult, as required by the facilitating Council motion, and the resulting Community Access Agreement was faulty. It had old plans attached to it, which did not include changes made to accommodate the community input necessary for our support of the project. While we received oral assurances that the correct plans were actually being implemented, the paperwork needed correction.

The TDSB provided the City with the correct plan for only the playing field and not for the full property. The City asked for our consent to use the field-only plan proposed by the TDSB. A meeting has been scheduled with City and TDSB officials to finalize the correction of the community access agreement.

Sue reported on several development matters.

4.3 U of T Secondary Plan: The gateway situation for the Massey Building on the northeast corner Bloor and Queen's Park has now been honoured in the U of T Secondary Plan. There are now height limits that do not allow for a midrise, and its density and height are no longer judged in the context of the Bloor Street corridor, which probably means there will be no to very modest development there. The Queen's Park character area also now describes Massey as gateway building, so it is now given standing in both the Bloor and Queen's Park corridor.

112 Harbord St. We've had 2 meetings to change the plan to meet our concerns; we've signed off on it, and it's going to CoA. There is going to be a restaurant and apartments above. We feel it was a very success negotiation.

The Metro site (425 Bloor St. – Robert St. to Sussex Mews, south to the playing field) is going to be redeveloped, furthering the intensification of the Bloor/Spadina area. We have had a preliminary Zoom meeting with the agent for the developer. They have a general understanding of community concerns and will hold a meeting with residents, facilitated by HVRA, once they get their rezoning application in to the city. Discussions will include rental or condo, heritage and low-rise issues, moving the building loading area off Robert St., and improvements to the public realm. The Metro will continue business.

Other issues: There's been a proposal to change the boundaries of our federal riding, and that will change present boundaries at all levels of government. It will have our present northern boundary along to Avenue Road, then it will loop up to St. Clair, then along St. Clair to the ravine, so we pick up the south side of St. Clair. That starts to change representation at city council. The problem is this change is based on the last census; it does not take into account the new/proposed development in our area, so it is not forward-looking, but looking back to 2015. There is a public consultation, which will hear from the Deer Park neighbourhood on St. Clair which may not like their neighbourhood split. We are not optimistic about changing these proposed boundaries.

Finally, looking the upcoming election, someone has done an analysis of the number of things approved in council on which nothing has been done, and it is dreadful. It amounts to fraudulent governance. Gus added that the ratio of projects approved but not funded is about 30:1.

4.4 Fall Fair: Anne reported that everything went really well, there were lots of volunteers who did a great job. Special shout out to Christian for soliciting donations for the Silent Auction when the volunteer who has done that in the past did not come back. Also, with the barbeque person not coming back, Kerry made sure that ran smoothly. All in all, it was a logistical success.

Elizabeth ran the membership drive at same table as tickets, so had a card reader, which worked well. There were a number of new sign-ups and a lot of renewals. Elizabeth was not able to be here tonight, but she is preparing a report which she will share.

Lena gave a rough report on the money side.

- The big innovation was the use of a square reader, so credit, debit, phone, Apple and Google Pay could be used for payment. This was a test run. The fees to use it seem a bit high but less than pay pal. We should discuss a square reader as payment strategy, comparing e-transfer and other financial charges, and find ways to reduce fees in the future. But the square reader did seem to be a success.
- We processed \$1386 in sales, that includes tickets sales, membership, silent auction.
- Membership sales totalled \$1285, vs our last Fall Fair which had membership sales \$980, which is good, because rest of income a lot less than in previous years. It is significant that more than half people paying membership used the square reader.
- Total revenue from all sources, excluding membership but including donations (\$500 from RBC and \$150 from the BIA) was just under \$6000; the last time there was an in-person Fall Fair the total income was about \$10,000. That is a significant difference, but there were a lot of extenuating circumstances, so there is really nothing to be worried about.
- Expenses this year were close to previous at just over \$5000, so net revenue, not counting membership, was just over \$1000. That is down, but we didn't lose money, and the Fair was a great success in all other ways. This sentiment was repeated by the board.

4.5 Search Committee: Gus said he had invitations out for tea, and hoped to soon have a replacement for SE Area Rep Gina, and people to stand in for Simon (SC rep) and Nick (NE rep) who will be on sabbatical. He welcomes anyone's suggestions for other possible candidates.

Anne mentioned that we also need nominations for the Community Builders' Award for the AGM, so if anyone has any suggestion there, that would be great.

4.6 City Pruning Project: Karen said she was still doing preliminary research, but wanted to expand that. She moved that the board approve the use of the association name and logo in making enquiries of the Canadian urban forestry community about the best pruning practices and policy at a municipal level. Susan seconded. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Karen also said, given what HVRA had already done in this area, she thought it made sense to fold the pruning issue into the Greening of Harbord Village initiatives. Sue thought this

was a good idea, as we will have a new councillor soon, and there have been a number of failures on the part of the city – green plan was approved but never funded -- and it is time to start putting pressure on our councillor to support our green plan. It was agreed that the tree subcommittee should be reactivated.

5. New business

5.1 Fall Newsletter: Anne reported that the newsletter is in the works. It will come out in a few weeks. People very prolific this time, so it may result in 14 rather than 12 pages, which is going to be a few hundred dollars more -- \$1635 rather than \$1462. Gus said we should go for it, as our newsletter is one of most important forms of communication for the association. Lena said fine for the budget for now, but we should not make it a regular thing – only when the content demands – as the newsletter is one of our most expensive items.

Gus moved that this Fall newsletter be approved at 14 pages. Lena seconded. **Motion passed unanimously.**

5.2 60 Borden St rooming house: Anne reported there are concerns about the running of this personal care rooming house. At issue is the safety of the 30-odd residents of the house and other residents of the neighbourhood because a couple of the rooming house residents have begun to behave in threatening and dangerous ways, including setting bins on fire, issuing verbal threats, and breaking into houses. As a result of actions from neighbours, the permit for this rooming house will be reviewed in a hearing. The tribunal is set for September 21st and will hear from 8 neighbours and Anne.

5.3 Municipal All-Candidates debate: Gus reported that there the debate will be October 12, with 8 of the candidates. It will be a webinar format involving the two BIAs and 4 residents' associations.

5.4 Pumpkinfest: Anne pointed out that this was the last regular board meeting before Pumpkinfest. We're not sure it's going ahead, but probably. If anyone is interested in helping let her know. Lena said she was happy to co-chair, but that we need to hear from Neil Wright and the Harbord BIA, because doing it without them is hard. Lena and Anne agreed to talk about it this week and confirm the BIA involvement.

5.5 AGM planning: Anne said she hadn't contacted our representatives yet, so we don't know for sure what day it will be. Also, we need a guest speaker. Sue suggested Adam Vaughan --to talk about state of local democracy. Board members thought this was a good idea. Sue or Gus will reach out to Adam.

5.6 FoSTRA: Anne reported that after taking a survey last year, FoSTRA identified 4 issues that they will put their energy into: development intensification, infrastructure, environmental concerns, and housing affordability. She asked if anyone could attend their AGM on Sept 28th. Susan volunteered.

6. **Committee and Area Rep Reports:** Acknowledgements of receipt only unless action or discussion required.

6.1 Safe Streets Committee Report: (attached) Chair of the Safe Streets Committee, Nicole Shulman, asked for updates on HVRA involvement in the College Street Upgrade and the changes to the bike lanes on Harbord. The board responded that 1) the current phase of the College St. redesign is a fait accompli. Nothing more can be done to alter what the city has decided to do. Should further upgrades be considered in future, HVRA will be asked to consult, and the Safe Streets Committee will be a part of that, and 2) as far as anyone on the board knows, there has been/will be no consultation about the bike lanes on Harbord. Anne heard (third hand) that upgrades were going to happen, that staff had made that decision, and that was it. No other board member knows anything more about it.

7. **Other Business**

7.1 Gus reported that the city is going to be resurfacing the Green P lot where the Farmers' Market starting on October 3rd, and that will mean the last 3 markets will be cancelled. Several of our farmers depend on those last 3 markets to make the season for them. We have tried, so far without success, to have the resurfacing postponed, so we may have to move the market to Sibelius Park.

8. **Adjournment:** Gus moved that the meeting be adjourned; Lena seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Karen Laurence, Secretary, 2021 - 2022

APPENDICES

1. Area Reps Reports
2. 2. Safe Streets Committee Report

Area Reps Reports

NE

The community green space on the northeast corner of Robert and Sussex was well used by the community over the summer. The University recently replanted several shrubs and grasses that did not survive last winter. The "Ninoododadiwin" mural by First Nations artist Mike Ormsby on the east fence of the park is now complete. A reminder that as per the community agreement with the University, no dogs are allowed on the Robert St. field (the University can block community access completely if this directive is not followed).

Construction continues on two projects – the University's Spadina-Sussex residence has reached the 2nd story, while the new rental building south of 666 Spadina is approaching grade level.

Consultations have begun for a new City of Toronto park of about 600 m² north of 666 Spadina.

Two rounds of discussion with proponents to renovate and expand 112 Harbord yielded some beneficial modifications as will be reported by the P&D committee.

A "Your Speed" sign was installed on Sussex westbound to Robert, except there is no sign showing what your speed should be (30 km/h)!

Nick Provart

NW

- Value Village has opened its "boutique" location where the Brunswick House used to be.
- The illuminated red heart next to Value Village, which went dark for some time after someone cut the wires, is again lit up (at least on one side) at night.
- Glass Monocle Eyecare has opened at 519 Bloor (where EB Games used to be)
- Bagel Time on Bloor has permanently closed.
- Near there, one of the last remaining public pay phones that used to be on the street (on the same corner as Pauper's Pub) is gone forever.
- Animals have burrowed into the ground and under the wooden structure belonging to Central Tech on Borden. This appears to be an elaborate tunnel system judging by the sizable number of holes that are clearly visible ... and potentially dangerous if your feet were to be caught in them.
- Construction has been completed on the Central Tech Parking Lot on Borden Street
- Central Tech Community Swim returns Saturday, September 24, 2022
- A neighbour has been monitoring continued failed inspections at house under construction at 201 Brunswick. Her complaint prompted the city to send an inspector again to the property, and all inspections continue to be not passed.

Christian Mueller and Kerry Clare

Safe Streets Committee

The recent complaint by a resident about the recently installed speed cameras along Spadina, outside the JCC, indicates that they've been installed. It also reflects a too wide ignorance around what the local speed limits are. Speed limits have been lowered in the past few years but there is little public awareness and almost no signage. I'm sceptical that more signage is the answer, but we definitely need to raise public awareness of the limits.

Residents on Sussex/Robert are continuing in their efforts to improve the safety of that street. A speed monitor was installed and a speed sign, but facing the wrong way... The city has also said that the planters on that intersection will be replaced with in ground planters in about a week (in addition to the other locations -- these are all traffic calming features, as well as greenery). Not sure what the status of the speed bumps on that street are, but things are happening.

The success in getting zebra crossings installed at Sussex/Robert has led us to create a petition to add them to Brunswick/ulster. We had asked for them back when the contra flow was being designed but told that it was not possible. However clearly it IS possible when a kid is almost hit by a car next to a playground... we got some signatures at the Fall Fair and Daniel Suss is seeing if he can add more from local residents and users of Margaret Fairley Park. We are hoping that the petition will add force to our arguments when we raise this with the new councillor after their election.