

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00– 9:00 pm

by Zoom call

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Kerry Clare, Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Michael Jara, Karen Laurence, Tania Lewis, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Nick Provart, Gus Sinclair, Jody Salomon, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Elizabeth Chen, Frank Davis

Special Guest: Andre Roy, constituency assistant

1. **Chair's welcome:** 7:05
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Kerry; seconded by Gus; **passed unanimously.**
3. **Approval of the December 20, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes:** Moved by Susan; seconded by Jody; **passed unanimously.**
4. **Business Arising from Past Minutes:**
 - 4.1 **Welcome New Area Reps:** Tania Lewis and Michael Jara, whose appointments as interim area reps for SC and NE respectively, were confirmed by email votes, were welcomed to the board. Their appointments will be reconfirmed at the 2023 Spring GM.
 - 4.2 **CNOY :** Kerry summarized the work of the Fort York Food Bank, outlined HVRA's participation in the Coldest Night of the Year event, and encouraged board members to participate any way they could.
 - 4.3 **Changes in the Bylaws for Property Standards and Maintenance:** Jody said she had been researching this as requested but needed more clarity as to what kind of information Area reps were looking for. Anne suggested Jody could send an email to area reps to that effect. Gus said of particular interest is how the changes to the bylaws will affect MLS entry into rooming houses, and what enforcement is available if the rooming house in your neighbourhood is not up to standard. Jody will go through the details and summarize info on this issue for the board. **Action item.**
 - 4.4 **Net Zero Artist:** -- Sue said that Tim had found someone to design the lawn signs, so no action was required by the board on this matter.

4.5 Net Zero: Susan briefly summarized for Andre Roy what the Net Zero committee did. Andre asked if he could attend the committee meetings as their goals aligned exactly with the councillor's. He also said he would suggest to the councillor that she have a meeting with the NetZero committee to apprise her of what is going on in HV and to discuss some next steps. Susan will follow-up on this. **Action item.**

4.6 Boulevard Project/Councillor Saxe: Bob said circumstances prevented him from sending the councillor the Boulevard Project documents in time for her December meeting with the tree people, but that he would do it soon. **Action item.**

Bob then outlined the Boulevard Project for Andre. Andre said improving tree canopy was definitely a high priority with the councillor.

Sue said she would send the councillor the HVRA green plan, the tree audits, and the canopy enhancement plans, as well as a link to a study being done by the Forestry Department of U of T. **Action item.**

4.7 Traffic Safety Concerns/ Councillor Saxe meeting: Anne said we were still waiting for a meeting to be set up with the councillor on the subject. Andre said he would give William (the councillor's Director of Operations) a reminder about the traffic safety meeting. Anne said we just want to be sure that things promised by the last councillor would be followed up on.

4.8 SSC Report: Referring to the SSC report (appended), Anne made the recommendation that the temporary bollards placed across Ulster St. at Brunswick should be made permanent. She also mentioned that there were things that were supposed to come in with the College Street upgrades have not yet happened, and residents are concerned that these things may not happen. Andre requested that Anne send this in a separate email as it is a straightforward, concrete issue. **Action item.**

4.9 Planning and Development: Sue said the councillor is the chair of the U of T Area Liaison Committee which meets quarterly to deal with all the development on campus. On that committee is City Planning, University Planning and Administration, the ROM, inter alia. With all the U of T development taking place in the neighbourhood at the moment, it is a very important committee, but we are waiting on the call of the chair – that is Councillor Saxe. Andre asked that Sue send him a note about that, and then mentioned that the councillor's in-house planner is Holli Butrimas, and she should also be contacted. **Action item.**

4.10 Friends of the Golden Horseshoe: Anne confirmed that HVRA is now a member of Friends of the Golden Horseshoe.**1st Narayever Synagogue security cameras:** Anne reported that she had met earlier in the day with representatives of the synagogue and was assured that their cameras would not impact in any way with neighbour privacy.

4.11 FoSTRA: Cathy described the organization for the new members, then reported on the January board meeting (report appended).

5. New Business:

5.1 Eblast/Communications committee: Anne reported that she is looking for someone(s) to assist or replace Margaret and herself in writing and editing the eblast. Someone with social media expertise would be very useful as we need to be more active in that area. She asked board members to think who they knew who might be willing and able. **Action item.**

5.2 City Budget: Anne asked if anyone were deputing. Sue said there was not enough time to prepare and take an email vote on an official HVRA deputation.

5.3 Membership: Elizabeth prepared a membership update but was unable to make the meeting, so Anne reported that work had been done to remove people who had died or left the neighbourhood from our membership list. She is also working to make more accessible the stated interest of members so that volunteers could be recruited on that basis.

6. Committee and Area Rep Reports: Acknowledgement of receipt only unless action or discussion required (reports appended).

Anne, referencing the NE Area Reps report, mentioned to Andre that the Spadina-Sussex student residence has been deemed “government” allowing construction to begin earlier than usually permitted, so construction noise begins at 6:00 am., and neighbours are suffering. Anne asked if the councillor could do anything. Andre asked that an email be sent to himself, copied to Jessica Miller, the councillor’s administrative assistant. **Action item.**

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Minutes prepared by Karen Laurence, Secretary, 2022 - 2023

APPENDICIES

- 1. Safe Streets Committee January Report**
- 2. Report on FoSTRA January Board Meeting**
- 3. Area Reports**

SafeStreets Report January 2023

So far there has been no virtual meeting with the councillor and we have no contact in her office. Request permission to reach out to at least find out whom we should contact since it is not looking like the councillor will be meeting with us (and we really need to know who to address questions to)

Despite the last heads up about imminent work building the Borden Ulster street hump, nothing seems to be occurring. This is disappointing.

Anne F. told us that the work on College has now been deferred to the Spring. We are very worried that the city will decide not to do it, given the cutbacks to infrastructure and the lack of a clear advocate. Despite the HVRA's previous opposition to the proposed upgrades we strongly encourage the board to encourage the city to make good on its commitment the College Street upgrades.

We are told that the Bathurst Harbord signal now has an advance turn. This is great news as it is among the most dangerous of our intersections.

The traffic cones that were erected at Ulster and Brunswick to address the stream of wrong way through traffic caused by the College St construction remain, for reasons that are unclear. We have no complaints about this, as it does serve to deter wrong way driving which is always an issue.

Still no movement on the painted zebra crossings at Ulster and Brunswick that were promised and we have not heard anything about the speed humps for Sussex between Robert and Spadina.

The new in ground planters have had do not enter and caution signage erected. This time they did not plant the posts in the concrete curb (as they did with the earlier ones) so we are hopeful that they will resist getting smashed down (as the earlier ones were). They provide an attractive deterrent to wrong way traffic.

In addition the former planters (tree coffins) that had been at those corners have all been moved to the no parking section of the Brunswick and Sussex intersection. This had seemed a temporary measure, but at least one now has caution signage on it suggesting that they are intended to be permanent. We would like to contact the councillor's office to figure out what the plan is here (but still need a contact).

FoSTRA AAC Meeting - January 11, 2023

Meeting Minutes available from FoSTRA board – a few highlights here:

- Reports were heard from Strategic Initiatives Working Groups (4)
- FoSTRA Board publishes its new Land Acknowledgement:

“FoSTRA acknowledges that South Toronto has been the site of human activity for at least 15,000 years. It is the traditional territory of many nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and Wendat peoples. We acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13, signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

Today, Tkaronto continues to be home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make things right. As a treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work towards justice and reconciliation.”

Highlights from Other Business:

- Regent Park Neighbourhood Assoc is considering FoSTRA membership
- FoSTRA will send a representative to the OLT Case Management Conference Feb 9th
- A Google Drive will be set up for Members as resource of FoSTRA initiatives, communications re legislation, etc. More details to come
- Ric Amis (Board Member, Waterfront for All) will be in touch as Ontario Place Development information becomes available so that FoSTRA may determine how they might help
- Ontario Line – FoSTRA will ask Adam Vaughan to speak at next AAC meeting as a coalition of groups working towards a better Ontario Line builds. Goal to seek meaningful and binding discussions with Metrolinx and representation from groups all along the Line.

The next AAC meeting will be held on February 9th @ 5:30 p.m.

AREA REPORTS

January 2023

NW

No new (which is good news)

Christian Mueller, Kerry Clare

NE

There have been reports that the new Esso station convenience store on Harbord is staying open well past the permitted 11 pm closing time. Frank Davis, my northeast co-representative, is following up with the appropriate bylaw officer.

Construction continues on the Spadina-Sussex student residence. Work is commencing earlier than usually permitted (workers on site at 6.15 am, start of work at 6.30 am) in order to expedite construction. The project is considered "governmental" so apparently doesn't need an exemption for an earlier start. The Community Liaison Committee has requested that loud banging start after 7 am if possible. Sussex Ave. will be closed on the Saturday the 21st of January 2023 between Spadina and Sussex Mews for crane operations to remove the exoskeleton supporting the old 10 Editions Bookstore facade.

The POPS for 666 Spadina won't officially be open until the new build is finished.

Renovations are afoot at the old River Thai /Ring Music building on Harbord...and happily the City did clear up a large bin of garbage that had been tipped over in the Sussex Mews alleyway beside the building. Thanks Sue for the suggestion as to how to deal with this.

Please welcome Michael Jara as my replacement while I am on sabbatical! Thanks Michael for doing this.

Nicholas Provart, Frank Davis

SW

So happy to have the College Streetcars back, now running east of Bathurst. A huge difference in public transit.

The former and very grand Nova Scotia Bank, NE corner of Bathurst and College is finally rented. Signs that Starbucks is moving in, and it looks like the main tenant, which has been advertised in windows, is now leased.

The lineup at the Fort York Food Bank (Borden and College) is getting longer every day and more support is needed. (A good reason to contribute to the upcoming fundraiser, led by Kerry Clare and Karen Laurence).

Robert Stambula, Jane Perdue