

Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 7:00– 9:00 pm

by Zoom call

DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees: Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Karen Laurence, Cathy Merkley, Lena Mortensen, Nick Provart, Jody Salomon, Robert Stambula

Regrets: Kerry Clare, Elizabeth Chen, Simon Coleman, Frank Davis, Tania Lewis, Susan McDonald, Christian Mueller, Jane Perdue, Gus Sinclair

Special Guest: Andre Roy

1. **Chair's welcome:** The meeting commenced at 7:06.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Jody moved the agenda be adopted; Sue seconded. **The motion was passed.**
3. **Approval of the June 20, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes:** Lena moved that the draft minutes of the June 20, 2023 board meeting be approved; Jody seconded. **The motion was passed.**
4. **Business Arising from Past Minutes:**
 - 4.1 **NE Area Rep requests for the councillor's office** – Nick reported on the following issues in the NE and requested Andre Roy enlist the councillor's support in finding solutions.
 - 1) noise from Spadina Sussex Residence construction site, needs attention; there is a hoist emitting noise at a level that may be a health & safety issue.
 - 2) new City of Toronto park at north end of 666 Spadina is just place holder grass and is looking very neglected. We would like the city to at least cut that lawn, but we would also like to see some action on the actual park completion.
 - 3) Speed bumps on Sussex between Sussex Mews and Robert St were promised by the previous councillor, but they seem to have gotten lost in the transition. Can Councillor Saxe get those installed asap. **NICK** has all the relevant documentation and will provide it to Andre. **Action Item.**
 - 4.2 **Central Tech:** Anne summarized the situation for Andre: the original agreement with the TDBS and Razor Management guaranteed community access to the field when it was not booked. The addition of Futsal courts in the ends zones was done without consultation and undermines that agreement. Residents are upset by the reduced public access. Razor appears to be acting within the terms of the settlement, but we as an organization do not have much leverage without the councillor. Could the councillor get involved? Andre asked for the relevant documents and a statement that laid out clearly what the councillor's office should do. **Bob** will send this information to Andre. **Anne** will send an email to the concerned residents explaining our limitation and indicating that the councillor has been asked to intervene. (Also see point 4.3 below) **Action Item.**

- 4.3 PARA letter re: public sports space:** Anne said that the email vote in support of PARA's letter had passed, but the motion was withdrawn in light of Bob's objections. Bob's version of the letter (see appendix) points out some of the things we have just been discussing. We will be sending a letter based on Bob's draft. **Bob and Sue** will draft letter which Anne will review and send. **Action Item.** Sue said that letter needs to tie the issue to all the Bloor Street development that is going on in our neighbourhood. – that needs to be the reason we send the letter. Andre said the councillor likes the idea developing more green space in the city, so please include notes about the lack of green space in the neighbourhood. Andre will research what, if anything, the parks department has done with this idea.
- 4.4 Bur Oak:** Karen reported that the group is currently looking for grants and a charitable organization to partner with us in fundraising. Jody reported that the city said they would cover the cost of permeable pavers in the lane but work on the neighbouring properties will still cost thousands of dollars. Sue suggested Scadding Court as a possible funding partner. **Anne** said she had contacts there and would approach them. **Action item.**
- 4.5 Conversation with Councillor Saxe assistant Andrew Green:** Anne reported that she confirmed with Andrew Green that HVRA would prefer to use our "Councillor time" for specific issues as they arise, rather than have Councillor Saxe attend our meetings. It was agreed that a member of her office (generally Andre Roy) would regularly attend for the first 45 minutes of each meeting.

5. New Business:

- 5.1 Science Centre – Proposed Motion:** That the board make a written submission to city council in support of Councillors Josh Matlow and Jon Burnside's motion to protect the Science Centre in its current location. (see letter appended) Karen moved; Lena seconded. **The motion passed. Anne** will send this letter. **Action Item**
- 5.2 Kensington Market street reconfiguration:** Anne reported that despite strenuous objections from the Kensington Market Action Committee who were concerned that the proposed street reconfiguration limiting car access to the market would fundamentally alter the historic nature of the market and threaten the livelihood of most market vendors, Councillor Saxe voted in favour of the plan. The plan was passed by council. **Anne** will meet with a member of the KMAC about this issue. **Action Item.**

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

- 6.1 P & D:** Sue updated the board on the 425 Bloor (Metro Site) development. The final working group meeting will be tomorrow, Wednesday, July 19. A package of concerns/requests for the developer (see appendix) will be presented. Negotiation of the final agreement will take place between now and December.

7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

APPENDICIES

1. PARA letter and Robert Stambula response
2. Matlow/Burnside letter in support of Science Centre
3. Area Reps Reports

PARA Draft Letter to Mayor and Councillor re:Central Tech Field Model

DRAFT Dear (recipients - councillor, school trustee, mayoral candidates)

In 2015 an agreement was reached between TDSB, Razor Management and two Residents' Associations (HVRA & PARA), for the construction and use of the field at Central Tech. The TDSB and Central Tech achieved their goal of a championship field. However, an important aspect of this agreement was the provision for free community use when parts of the field and track were not being used by the TDSB or permitted out to other groups.

This agreement has been a success and the field is well used and well managed.

Informal research has revealed that the free community usage is extensive and people come to play and exercise from across the city, not just from the immediate neighbourhoods. Many of these people remark that there is no comparable facility near to their residence.

In the very near future we will be welcoming approximately 1500 people to the Mirvish Village apartments across the road from the field. The site will attract many more through its retail, office and educational facilities. There are already 1000 students registered at Niagara College. These people are all potential users of the CTS field.

The increased density at the corner of Bathurst and Bloor is but one example of anticipated increased population in the City. In addition to all the other amenities needed for healthy living these people will need facilities for sport and exercise. These facilities are already in short supply in our city.

The model of the Central Tech field - a partnership between TDSB, a for profit organization, and two residents' associations - is one practical way to address what will be a pressing need. We urge you, as an elected official, to consider the need for sports and recreation facilities that will come from increased population and to explore creative options in consultation with local community associations for public spaces to ensure the health of our citizens.

Yours sincerely etc.

Bob's response to PARA Letter in support of increased public sport and recreation facilities

BOLD is my addition.

In 2015 an agreement was reached between TDSB, Razor Management and two Residents' Associations (HVRA & PARA), for the construction and use of the field at Central Tech. The TDSB and Central Tech achieved their goal of a championship field; **a privatized operation that has those who can pay, use the field and dome. In contrast the neighbourhood lost its only large playing field for use after school hours and during school breaks. While community access to the track was maintained through the hard negotiation of HVRA, PARA, the City and others, what was kept was a small remnant of what was there.** ~~However, an important aspect of this agreement was the provision for free community use when parts of the field and track were not being used by the TDSB or permitted out to other groups.~~

If one ignores the great loss of a public field and looks only at things after the main damage was done, the Facilities Management Group has worked to address community concerns for what remained for their use. ~~been a success and the field is well used and well managed.~~

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Keep the Science Centre in Place

Councillors Josh Matlow and Jon Burnside have put forward a motion that will protect the Science Centre to support Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park. This motion will be made at the next City Council session on July 19th to 21st prior to the summer recess.

Summary

Earlier this spring the Provincial Government announced their intention to move the Ontario Science Centre to a much smaller location at Ontario Place. This announcement was done without consultation with residents of Thorncliffe and Flemingdon Park who rely on the Centre for employment and education opportunities.

The cultural attraction is an important economic driver for the local community as it brings visitors from across the city and around the world to Don Mills and Eglinton. It would be a real blow to this community to lose the Science Centre just as the opening of the Eglinton Crosstown's "Science Centre" station is about to make the attraction more accessible to the entire city.

The City of Toronto has an obligation to explore all possible means to keep the Science Centre at its current location. This motion requests City Staff to explore avenues to have the Province continue operating the site Don Mills and Eglinton and the feasibility of the City operating the Science Centre as it does the Toronto Zoo.

FoNTRA asks all city residents' associations to write in to support this motion, and ask their resident members join the letter writing campaign.

AREA REPORTS – July 2023

NW

Nick's point #4 may serve as this month's NW Area Report.

Christian Mueller, Kerry Clare

NE

I am resuming my role as NE co-rep. Here's what's been going on in the northeast of HV this past month or so:

1. The hoist noise for the Spadina-Sussex Residence has been very loud and has a pitch akin to nails on a chalkboard. Numerous complaints have been lodged with the Daniels team and a meeting is set for tomorrow. Robert Barnett recently measured the noise and found one of them to have a noise level of 70 dB. Noise above 70 dB over a prolonged period of time may start to damage hearing. He also measure the hoist at Mirvish Village, which was quieter, around 60-67 dB (keep in mind the decibel scale is logarithmic so difference of 10 is actually a 100 times louder or quieter). Could Daniels build a noise-dampening enclosure around the gearbox? Use some grease? Given that the sound starts at 6.30 am, anything would be an improvement on the current situation. The building has topped out and restoration work has commenced on the old 10 Editions Bookstore part of it.
2. Our outgoing acting NE co-rep Michael Jara reached out to the Spirit of Math (thanks Michael for your service while I was away!) to ask if management there could strongly encourage parents to use the Green P lot when picking up their kids, instead of parking on the sidewalks. We're awaiting a response.
3. Ongoing issues with Esso station/Circle K hours on Harbord - the terms of the agreement for a new gas station were that gas would not be sold after 11 pm. The Circle K is open until midnight. Frank Davis is following up with the City to see what can be done. Are the pumps open after 11 pm or just the store? If anyone's a nightowl and able to observe, let me know.
4. Well-used futsal courts have been added to end zones at the Central Tech field, without consultation (with the HVRA at least). The end zones were supposed to be available for community use, and were quite well used by the community until the futsal courts were installed. There was some talk of other community members taking on the role Gus Sinclair has played in acting as a liaison.
5. Bell roadwork on Harbord seems to be wrapping up.
6. 666 Spadina construction: concrete work is now at the 7th or 8th floor of 11 storeys total. The new City of Toronto park with placeholder grass at the north end is looking very neglected.
7. Former River Thai restaurant/Ring Music property on Harbord is undergoing a complete gut-job, as are the apartments above it. Ditto for the Hutoshi property at the NE corner of Robert and Harbord. This will become a restaurant with apartments above it. Old brickwork has recently been revealed.
8. Speed humps on Sussex between Sussex Mews and Robert seem to been lost in the new councillor's office...
9. Plantings in U of T's Robert-Sussex community green space have filled in very nicely and the park is very well used. U of T Grounds managed to reattach the decapitated bee head from one of the park playground pieces. Thanks to Stan Szwagiel for his welding skills!

Nicholas Provart