

# Harbord Village Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 18, 2023, 7:00 P.M. – By Zoom

## BOARD VETTED MINUTES

Anne Fleming, the Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The Chair welcomed residents to the Zoom. There were about 40 participants in the meeting.

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

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** With no objections, **the agenda was approved.**
- 2. Approval of the 2023 Spring General Meeting Minutes:** The minutes from the 2023 Spring General Meeting were reviewed by the board and have been on the website since the summer. With no objections, **the Minutes of the 2023 Spring General Meeting were approved.**

### 3. Chair's Report

Anne Fleming reported that HVRA has been returning to in-person events. The **Fall Fair** in September was our second since the pandemic and was very successful. HVRA would particularly like to thank Cathy Merkely who did the permits, Karen Laurence who put together a great Silent Auction team, and special thanks to Christian Mueller who has worked for the Fair for years and is now stepping away, but worked hard this year to make sure the transition was smooth. The downside was that expenses were way up this year, so net profit was only about \$3,000. One upshot of the Fall Fair was the realization that our neighbourhood parks are not as well maintained as they should be, so we have started Friends of groups for Margaret Fairley and Doctors' Parkette to ensure cleanliness is maintained.

The **Net Zero Committee** has been busy. They have produced lawn signs to help promote retrofitting with heat pumps and solar panels. They also continue to hold webinars. If you go to our website, you will find a link where you can read more about their work.

Our **greening work** continues. We are hoping to create boulevard situations where possible, to increase rainwater drainage and tree canopy. That is part of what has been happening on Borden Street. Robert Stambula is the driving force with that. We've also been working to improve city pruning practices. Finally, we are working to save the 300-year-old Bur Oak in Hospice Chapel Lane. Notices about that were delivered to homes today. Tim Grant and Susan McDonald are spearheading this effort.

Regarding **Planning and Development**, we continue to be a part of working groups with developers to ensure that affordable housing and community benefits are guaranteed. I encourage you to read the newsletter that just came out, which details the work this committee has been doing.

Finally, we have been liaising with other residents' associations to share concerns, see what overlaps, and discuss ways we can support each other.

### 4. Treasurer's Report (Anne Fleming for Lena Mortensen)

The **Financial Statements** for the year ending December 31, 2022 (<https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Financial-Statement-Year-End-Jan-Dec-2022.pdf>). Overall, we are in very good financial shape, despite having expenditures that exceed revenues marginally this year. These statements were presented at the spring general meeting in an informational way, and now need to be passed by the membership. Without objections, **the Financial Statements for 2022 were approved.**

The **Budget Plan for 2023** (<https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Budget-2023-no-detail.pdf>). This budget was approved by the Board in the spring. We now need to have it approved by the membership. Without objections, **the Budget Plan for 2023 was approved.**

## 5. Area Caucuses and Election of Area Reps

Members gathered in area caucuses Break Out rooms and discussed area issues and concerns. Area Reps were elected for each caucus.

**North West** – Area Reps: **Kerry Clare** (speaker) acclaimed.

Talked about litter and laneway dumping and getting the city to deal with that, the problem of students exploding things in Sally Bird Park, and problems with parking due to lots more construction workers and students at Niagara College in the Mirvish development. This last problem is only going to get worse as people start to move into those buildings. Also, we potentially have a new rep, though that has still to be confirmed.

**North East** – Area Reps: **Nicholas Provart**, incumbent (speaker), and **Moritz Steinbauer**, new rep, both acclaimed.

There weren't very many of us. We had some concerns: Noise of elevator of Oak House (Spadina-Sussex Residence). We're proposing a noise-bylaw update allowing only counter-weighted hoists within 1 km of housing for future developments. There were questions about the park timeline at 51 Sussex. Spirit of Math parking issues 4.30 pm - 8.30 pm continue. There is still an issue with Esso opening past 11 pm (it is operating without a business licence, as it turns out - I will follow up with TO Municipal Licensing and Standards and Circle K). There continue to be dog issues in Robert St. park. (Maybe U of T police needs to do another sting operation). And there is evidence of drug use in Barbara Goddard Lane.

**South West** – Area Reps: **Robert Stambula** (speaker), **Jane Perdue**, both acclaimed.

There is continued frustration on Borden St. re: the food bank, the state in which rotting food, and other waste is stored/disposed of. It is at the stage of being a health hazard. People have complained but there has been no permanent improvement. Another problem is with neighbours who do not prune their trees and shrubs when they block the sidewalk. We are in favour of greening, but it should not block public walks. Finally, there is a problem with park maintenance. We are among the least parked neighbourhoods in city, but we still do not get the maintenance that we should. Michael from the SW said that he had talked to a park worker who said city staff does not like to come into this neighbourhood because of the hazardous bio-medical waste. Cathy Merkley said discarded needles were a police matter and that is who should be called in that situation. Anne said we would continue to push the city on this.

**South Central** – Area Reps: **Susan MacDonald** (speaker), and **Tania Lewis** both acclaimed

It was a small group. Like the South West, we had concerns about park maintenance. We also talked trees and pruning, but our focus was on trees that drop branches -- through pruning or storms -- onto neighbouring properties and who is responsible for that cleanup. Finally, there was a discussion of on-going safety concerns around the Ulster-Brunswick intersection and drivers going the wrong way along Ulster, then carrying on the wrong way north or south on Major. So some kind of permanent structure or more obvious signage is needed to stop drivers from making that mistake.

**South East – Cathy Merkley and Jody Salomon**, both acclaimed, Graham Rempe speaker

Big issues were Airbnb's which seem to be proliferating in our area, on Russell Street especially. These do not appear to be owner occupied, as is required. Councillor Saxe suggested complaints to 311 would give results. There are also concerns about illegal building, and permits that seem to be open forever, though we're told building inspectors – also a 311 call – are quite responsive. And the Scott Mission project at the very SE corner of our area looks like its going to go ahead, so some concerns around that. There will be a construction committee and local representation is expected.

## **6. Election of Officers to the Board of Directors.** (Colin Furness)

This election is run by the Constitution and Nominations Committee. Carolee presented the slate of officers for the 2022-2023 term:

**Chair:** Anne Fleming

**Vice Chair:** *Open*

**Treasurer:** Lena Mortensen

**Secretary:** Karen Laurence

**Membership Secretary:** Elizabeth Chen

**Webmaster :**Nicolas Provart

Colin asked if there were any nominations from the floor; there were not. **He declared the slate acclaimed for 2023/2024.**

Anne said that Elizabeth Chen could not continue as Membership Secretary and would stay on only until a new volunteer could be found, so we will be recruiting for that position. Please get in touch if you think you would be interested.

## **7. Appointment of the Constitution and Nominations Committee** (Anne Fleming)

Anne explained the role of the Constitution and Nominations Committee, which is made up of former board members in each area. She then presented the slate:

Celia Denov (Chair), South Central

Carolee Orme, Northeast

Samiha Abdel-Sayed, Northwest

Colin Furness, Southwest

Graham Rempe, Southeast

Anne asked for nominations from the floor; there were none. **Anne declared that the slate for the Constitution and Nominations Committee acclaimed.**

## **8. Community Builder Awards** (Anne Fleming)

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the community, Community Builder awards were presented to:

The Board of the Bloor Borden Farmers' Market: Helen Goldlist, Terri Chu, Adam Barnes, Lettie Gariba, Jerri Jones, Eleanor Levine and Jim Jacobs, plus volunteers Jan Muszynski and David Booz, as well as all the people who have worked for this market since 2008.

The citations for their awards (and those of all previous Community Builder award winners) may be found on the website: <https://harbordvillage.com/neighbourhood-events/public-meetings/community-builder-awards/>

We would also like to recognize the group of neighbours that has been instrumental in helping create positive change in the management at 60 Borden St. This is a Supported Living rooming house, home to vulnerable adults who need extra care, and the neighbours' group in question has worked for years to ensure the residents get the care and accommodation to which they are entitled.

## 9. Update from Councillor Dianne Saxe

Councillor Saxe reported on:

- 1. on motions at City Council, including efforts to increase affordable rental housing.
- 2. greening efforts including the bump-outs on Borden and the work to help save the Bur Oak
- 3. work with RAs including efforts to remove the utility pole from the middle of Bathurst St.
- 4. the installation of charging stations in the Lippincott Green P lot
- 5. efforts to improve security at the JCC, one of the most vulnerable Jewish institutions in the city
- 6. Sussex Park consultation
- 7. status of the Community Benefit from the development at 425 Bloor
- 8. Knox Church development
- 9. climate related things, i.e. built-in performance standards for existing buildings

## 10. Update from Jessica Bell, M.P.P for University Rosedale

Jessica started by addressing issues raised by the area reps:

- 1. Airbnb's – the city is holding consultations on how to strengthen the regulations in the last week of October, and the NDP is pushing the provincial government to do something about the problem.
- 2. Services that are not as good as they should be, again, will require the province to properly fund cities. The NDP is working for that.

She then talked about what was happening in the legislature:

- 3. The crisis in Israel and Palestine is being discussed daily. NDP believes there needs to be a political, not military solution, and that civilian lives must be protected.
- 4. As a result of the pressure we all put on the Ford government, they have backed down from opening the Green Belt to development. The legislation they have drafted to do this is good and the NDP will be supporting it. In addition, the RCMP will be investigating the relationship between government members and developers.
- 5. The NDP has asked the auditor general to investigate Doug Ford's use of municipal zoning orders.
- 6. Finally, the NDP is also working to ensure that Ontario Place remains a public park.

## 11. Appointment of U of T Liaison (Anne Fleming)

One last bit of business that was overlooked earlier. The HVRA U of T Liaison has a special duty to attend all meetings of the U of T Liaison Committee, which consists of representatives of the university and surrounding communities. Sue Dexter has done this for the last 20 years, as well as heading up the HVRA Planning and Development Committee. She has agreed to serve another term. Anne asked if there were nominations from the floor. There were not. **Anne declared Sue Dexter acclaimed to the position.**

## **12. Guest Speaker Shyla Machanda Reynolds, Chief of Staff for the Scott Mission**

Shyla Machanda Reynolds brought us up to date on information about the work of this important local organization and addressed ways we as neighbours can confront homelessness. (The recording is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pofuG9BDp1g>)

## **13. Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.**

Minutes prepared by Karen Laurence, Secretary, 2023 – 2024