

HVRA Board Minutes (revised)  
December 18, 2007  
Kensington Gardens

**Present:** Gus Sinclair, Leslie Thompson, Jane Perdue, Bachir Rabbat, Richard Gilbert, Sue Dexter, David Booz, Margaret Beare, Tim Grant, Eva Janecek-Rucker

**Guest:** Steve Klein

**Regrets:** Katrina McHugh, Colin Furness, Samiha Sayed, Wendy Duff; Stuart Schoenfeld,

1. **Chair's Welcome:** The meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m. with introductions around the table for the new Board members. Gus welcomed a HVRA member Steve Klein and the new secretary, Eva Janecek-Rucker.
2. **Agenda:** The agenda was approved with changes – Additions: 5. New Business, Tim Grant – Pumpkin Festival
3. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of November 20, 2007 were approved with one correction, moved by Margaret Beare and seconded by Sue Dexter.
4. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. *Environment*
    - i. *Trees* Tim  
Tim reported that he had submitted a funding request of \$24,932 to the Toronto Parks and Recreation Foundation in mid-December. They have promised to get back to us in mid-January with their decision. The funding proposal included the following components:
      - On a first-come, first-served basis, provide 60 large trees at half price and 15 large trees at 10% of their cost (for low-income residents) for planting in backyards on the last weekend in April. Public meetings will be organized and a special outreach effort will be made to make Italian, Portuguese and Chinese-speaking residents aware of this opportunity. Over ninety percent of the project funds would be dedicated towards backyard tree planting.
      - Encourage businesses on main streets in our neighbourhood to “Adopt a Street Tree”, and commit to watering “their” tree twice weekly (if needed) throughout the Spring and Summer of 2008.
      - Hire an arborist to train local residents to prune and maintain existing trees in two training sessions.
      - Solicit bids from 10-20 arborists to become our neighbourhood arborist, charged with the responsibility of doing cyclic pruning of the trees in backyards of all the participating

households.

*ii. Solar*

Tim gave a brief update on phase 2 of the solar project

*iii. Graffiti*

Colin Furness has agreed to chair this subcommittee formerly chaired by Michael Heydon

b. ***Membership***

Suggestions on how to remind membership to pay their 2008 dues were discussed.

c. ***Community Liaison***

The comment was made again that Adam Vaughan is doing very well as our Councillor, he is making progress on a number of fronts and is well-regarded.

d. ***College St.*** Richard Gilbert said he would report next meeting

e. ***Zoning***

Nothing to report

f. ***Communications***

Richard encouraged Board members to submit contributions to the Web

g. ***U of T Liaison***

No news to report

h. ***Community Police***

No news to report

**4. The Bloor Visioning**

Sue Dexter reported the Bloor Visioning public process, which has been underway for the last eight months, is now complete and the plan, as presented at the final Bloor Visioning Study public meeting Dec. 17, was well received except for objections from cyclists who felt the plan did not adequately reflect the need for cyclists to share Bloor with cars and pedestrians, and that cyclists did not have an adequate route through this part of the city. The plan, presented by city planner Jennifer Keesmaat, envisioned a Bloor Street with less automobile traffic, its buildings more energy efficient, and its streetscape more pedestrian friendly and greener. Intensification was anticipated along the corridor, but developments along Bloor St. from Avenue Road to Lipincott must address improvements in the quality of life and environmental sustainability. In general, there will be increases in population if the street is built out to what is permitted under present zoning rules. These will remain in place,

although it is anticipated there will be increases in heights at the Spadina-Bloor intersection and at the junction of Avenue Road and Bloor (and will likely occur should there be redevelopment of the Bathurst-Bloor node). The business section of the street, from Lipincott to ~~XXX~~Walmer, which forms the northern border of HVRA, is to remain low-rise. The street should be more pedestrian friendly, and one lane on the north side should be eliminated to allow for better pedestrian movement and the planting of trees. This **Visioning** report expressed a consensus of representatives from stakeholders along the street-- including the University of Toronto, the Bloor and Harbord BIAs, the developer David Green, the Annex Residents' Association, Huron-Sussex Residents' Organization and HVRA. The report will be complete in January and will go to City Council for adoption some time after that.

**5. New Business:**

- a. Possibilities for a *Farmer's Market* were explored.
- b. *Robert St. rink* status was updated
- c. Bachir presented the idea of organizing and keeping *emails* that follow particular threads in easily retrievable groups on the website; members were supportive of the idea
- d. Tim summarized his ideas about a *Pumpkin Festival* modeled after Roncesvalles area Festival (previously e-mailed to members). The Board members were in favor of such endeavor and encouraged Tim to pursue the planning of this event.

Next meeting January 15<sup>th</sup> 2008, same time, same place.

Adjourned 9:00 p.m.