

# Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, 7:00– 9:00 pm

by Zoom call

## APPROVED MINUTES

**Attendees:** Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Rosalinda Furlan, Karen Laurence, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Wolfgang Moeder, Mary-Frances Morrison, Lena Mortensen, Nick Provart, Jody Salomon, Moritz Steinbauer

**Regrets:** Jane Perdue, Tania Lewis, Gus Sinclair

1. **Chair's welcome: 7:06**
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Susan moved that the agenda be adopted; Lena seconded. **The motion passed.**
3. **Approval of the July 20, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:** Jody moved that the minutes be approved; Lena seconded. **The motion passed.**
4. **Business Arising from Past Minutes:**

**4.1 Fall Fair report** – Anne reported that the Fall Fair was an incredible successful, more people than ever before, lots of participation from community groups and merchants, amazing music line-up. Lena reported that the numbers are very good. We are back up to what we were making in pre-Covid times. Not quite double but close – to what we made last year. Not only was income up, but lots of costs down – a decrease of \$750. **Anne said** there will be a debrief meeting before everyone forgets.

**4.2 Recruitment update** – Anne reported for Gus that there are a number of board vacancies coming up – area reps for NW, SC & NC, plus secretary and vice or co-chair. He is actively looking for people to fill all these positions.

**4.3 Report on Saxe Meeting** – Anne reported that she had had a meeting with other RA reps to prepare for the RA meetings with the councillor, and it was very helpful. Anne said she would not be able to attend the next meeting with councillor but feels the group is coherent enough now that our concerns will be well presented.

**4.4 Garbage in NW and SC** – Anne said this is an issue that keeps coming up over and over again, and we need to figure out what, if anything, is the role of HVRA. There does seem to be improvement at Doctors' Parkette, but Frances-Mary reported that Bagpipe Lane is a disaster. It has been going on for years. The city cleans up every couple of months, but people continue to come to the Green P to dump their domestic garbage in Bagpipe Lane. We need to get Bloor BIA and the merchants and the councillor to work together on this. Sue said she would write Brian Burchell. **Action Item**, but we also need to keep calling 311 and the councillor; we need to be a squeaky wheel. **Sue** said we need to send a list to the councillor itemizing the kinds of garbage being dumped (needles, human feces).

## 5. New Business

- 5.1 Website update** – Nick reported that the recent system upgrade has resulted in a few glitches. He would like to bring in web experts Codeable, who have helped before, so would like Board approval for that expenditure. Lena said there is contingency in the budget for up to \$1000, so board approval is not needed for this. Sue moved there be a board vote of confidence and thank you to the web team who are doing a great job. Karen seconded. **The motion passed.**
- 5.2 AGM speaker** – Sue reported that she has found potential speaker for the AGM, Shannon Simpson, Senior Director, Indigenous Initiatives. Sue moved that Simpson be asked to speak; Jody seconded. **The motion passed.** Lena reminded that the speaker should be offered an honorarium. Sue suggested that if she refuses it, she should be asked if she would like it donated to a specific group.
- 5.3 Community Builders** – Anne reported for Gus that he had people in mind for the Community Builder Awards, but that it was a work in progress and an e-vote might be needed.
- 5.4 PumpkinFest** – Lena volunteered to co-chair the event. Susan offered to co-chair. Lots of volunteers are needed, so anyone who want to be involved, please get in touch.
- 5.5 Safe Streets Committee** – The board discussed the future of the Safe Streets committee after the resignation of its leader Nicole Schulman in late July. Anne said it was still important to have a committee dealing with these issues, headed up by a board member; alternatively, it could be devolved to Area Reps to be addressed locally. Sue suggested that to think of it only as Safe Streets limits it; perhaps have a “Reimagining Streets” or a “Public Realm” committee. The board then discussed how committees in general could respond to neighbourhood issues. As a start, Anne encouraged board members to consider the ways in which they would like to connect to the wider community. Jody suggested raising this in area groups at the AGM. The board supported this idea. Sue said we need to reserve time at next board meeting to discuss.
- 5.6 FoSTRA** – Anne reported that she, Cathy and Susan have been attending the FoSTRA meetings, but we need someone to be attending their General and Action Committee meetings on a regular basis. Susan said they were very organized and did really good minutes but suggested that if you don’t want to be really deeply engaged with them, you are basically an observer. Sue said that they do reach out to us when they need to, and she doesn’t see much value in participating on a regular basis, given the excellent minutes. Anne said she would, therefore, just circulate meeting information to board members, and people can offer to go to the meeting they want.
- 5.7 Newsletter** – Anne reminded board members that newsletter articles were due soon, so please get your work into Anne K. asap.
- 5.8 Eblast** – Anne reported that over the summer, Kerry Clare had volunteered to take the eblast. Everyone is very happy with this new arrangement, though the schedule is still under discussion. Anne said topics for the eblast should be sent directly to Kerry.

**5.9 Major / College genealogy project** – Sue reported on this project. It is a lot of work but very interesting and valuable. There will be a piece about it in the upcoming newsletter, and it there may be a book in it. Lena suggested that if assistance is needed, it sounds like a great project for a digital history student at U of T.

6. **Recording of correspondence, for the record** Anne read into the record e-votes in support of signing the July 30th letter from the Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition (appended) and the September 4<sup>th</sup> Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel's proposal for a Brunswick 4 plaque (appended).
7. **Committee and Area Rep Reports: Acknowledgement** of receipt only unless action or discussion is required.
8. **Other Business** - Wolfgang raised the question of having general meetings in person again or hybrid. Anne noted the difficulty of in person / hybrid GMs, including lack of appropriate space and the cost of necessary technology. She also recognized the importance of "side conversations" and suggested more informal community get togethers between meetings like what the ARA hosts at local restaurants. Anne offered to follow up with Wolfgang to figure out what that might look like.
9. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:51**

## **APPENDICIES**

- 1.** Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition Letter
- 2.** Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel proposal for a Brunswick 4 plaque

Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Office of the Mayor  
City of Toronto  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Olivia Chow,

***Re: our deadly roads, and the need for urgent action***

The deaths of three young people, two within the last 90 days, killed by large trucks in the immediate area of Bloor Street and Avenue Road cries out for urgent action, not only at this intersection but across our city. Unfortunately, there is a long-standing pattern in Toronto of tragedies involving heavy trucks, to which political leaders respond with declarations of deep concern – followed by inaction and more deaths.

The disturbing casualty toll on pedestrians and cyclists by heavy trucks is well known, and today continues despite Toronto's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, a cycling network plan, and the climate crisis that increasingly marks and diminishes our everyday lives.

This year's tragedies are sadly reminiscent of two deaths within weeks of each other in 1996, sparking a death review by the Regional Coroner, and recommendations targeting heavy trucks – recommendations repeated by the Chief Coroner in 2012. What is consistent about these recommendations is the failure to take remedial action.

Today, we call on you to play a leadership role in converting sympathetic words into effective action at the municipal level, while seeking commitments to action from other levels of government or the grant of authority needed for municipal action. Deflecting, deferring, and delaying remedial action is not an option.

We therefore call for immediate and intermediate remedial measures, including the undertaking --- and completion within 60 days --- of a comprehensive report on available measures to prevent road deaths of pedestrians and cyclists in crashes involving heavy trucks, as well as measures to prevent or deter the blocking of sidewalks and bikeways by all types of vehicles or construction materials that deprive vulnerable road users of safe passage.

**A. Immediate Action:**

Over the past several years, advocacy groups have met many times with city staff and police, including as part of the Construction Safety Advisory Group, to highlight and call for action to address unsafe construction zones, the failure to provide safe alternative walking and cycling routes around obstructions, poor construction zone monitoring, and the failure to augment

enforcement to address illegal parking in bike lanes during evenings and weekends. (Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs) dedicated to dealing with illegal parking in bike lanes, for example, generally do not work after 6pm and on weekends.) These matters are already well known and studied by city staff and police. Action should therefore not be delayed, and include:

1. Vigilant monitoring of construction zones or other road work that intrudes on bikeways and sidewalks, with a rapid enforcement response to address illegal obstructions or, where obstructions are permitted by the city, to ensure that safe passage around the obstruction has been planned and provided. The monitoring must extend to signage that is often confusing, outdated, or poorly placed. We note, for example, that signs indicating that cyclists must merge with cars are often put in place or left in place by road construction companies when the signs are not, or no longer, relevant, perhaps for reasons related only to convenience. Montreal, for example, has dedicated staff monitoring such sites. Toronto must do the same;
2. Increase the three-person Parking Enforcement Officer unit assigned to enforcing bylaws that prohibit illegal parking in bike lanes. This work must extend beyond 6pm and cover weekends. This will require the cooperation of Toronto Police Service; and
3. Require companies operating under city permits to only use heavy trucks that have side-guards, while calling on Queen's Park to grant municipal authority to require side-guards on all trucks operating in areas of the city with heavy foot and cycling traffic, at least including Community Safety Zones. In the meantime, call on companies using heavy trucks in the central city to use a "spotter" in the passenger seat to compensate for driver blind spots.

**B. Report within 60 days:**

**Heavy trucks, including construction vehicles**

1. Prepare and publicly release a synopsis, including causes and contributing factors, of all deaths during the past 24 months in Toronto involving heavy trucks;
2. Summarize best practices from other jurisdictions to respond to the danger that heavy trucks pose to vulnerable road users, including, for example, better cab design, state of the art detection systems, community safety zones, prohibitions on right turns, and obligations imposed in municipal construction permits;
3. Report on the feasibility of designating certain areas of the city that have heavy foot and bicycle traffic as zones where heavy trucks that fail to meet an articulated, specific standard, including side guards and effective pedestrian and cyclist detection devices, are prohibited unless employing satisfactory interim safety measures such as the use of a "spotter" in the passenger seat to overcome driver blind spots; and

4. List measures to protect vulnerable road users that require additional authority from the provincial government, and specify what action is being undertaken to engage those levels of government for the grant of the requisite power.

#### **Illegal obstruction of bike lanes and sidewalks, and assessment of intersections**

5. Articulate what measures the city is taking, and how often those measures are being enforced, to prevent illegal incursions by construction and other companies onto bikeways and sidewalks;
6. List what obligations the city imposes on companies that are permitted to block bikeways or sidewalks in terms of providing safe alternative passage for vulnerable road users around such obstructions -- and whether the city considers closing some roads to cars altogether to allow for and ensure the safety of people on foot and bikes. Prepare and publish data about how often penalties are imposed for a lack of compliance with such obligations;
7. Report on feasible measures, including additional police or camera enforcement, to deter illegal parking in bike lanes, including the steps taken to increase (or compensate for) the currently weak enforcement activity during evening and weekend hours; and
8. Assess the city's busiest intersections in terms of foot and cycling traffic, and determine by December 2024, what additional measures are necessary to protect vulnerable road users. We note, for example, that the westbound Bloor Street bike lane on the approach to Avenue Road ends abruptly, replaced by conflicting lane markings with sharrows directing cyclists to go straight and a right turn symbol directing motorists to turn right.

#### **C. Publish, by the end of 2024, a progress report on completed actions**

By the end of 2024, report on the new measures that have been taken to address the danger of heavy trucks to vulnerable road users and the measures to address illegal obstructions of bikeways and sidewalks, and report on what measures are still pending.

We look forward to your response, and to action to protect vulnerable road users to advance goals set out in our city's Vision Zero Road Safety Plan.

Sincerely,

*List of Signatories (below)*

**Cc** City Councillors

Toronto Police Service, Parking Enforcement

Traffic Management, Toronto Transportation Services

## Groups

- Advocacy for Respect for Cyclists (ARC)
- Annex Residents' Association (ARA)
- Avenue Road Safety Coalition
- Bike Law Canada
- Bloor Annex Business Improvement Area (BIA)
- Brown & Storey Architects
- Coalition to Reduce Auto Size Dangers (CRASH)
- Etobicoke Voice
- Green 11
- Harbord Village Residents' Association (HVRA)
- Lytton Park Residents' Organization (LPRO)
- Mirvish Village Business Improvement Area (BIA)
- Parkdale-High Park 4 Climate Action
- Safe Parkside
- Toronto Community Bikeways Coalition (TCBC)
- Toronto East Cyclists
- Walk Toronto
- We Belong on Bloor
- Women's Cycling Network

## Individuals

Geoff Bercarich

Joey Schwartz

Jun Nogami

Jessica Bell, MPP for University Rosedale

Patrick Brown

Albert Koehl

Lyn Adamson

Tom Worrall

Jennifer Alexander

Bob Murphy

Paul MacLean

Melissa Dowrie

Shelagh Pizey-Allen

Jessie Ye



Michael Black  
Roger Morier  
Robert Zaichkowski  
Mark Fernandez  
Mark Fernando  
Arthur Klimowicz  
Jonathan Schmidt  
Liz Addison  
Ersan Ozon  
Michael Holloway  
Thorben Wieditz  
J.J. Fueser  
Adam Rodgers  
Wayne Copeland  
Linda Nicolson  
Geoff Kettel  
Ingrid Buday  
Janet Joy Wilson  
Carolyn Heath  
Pamela Gough  
Sigrun Frey  
Anne Fleming  
Helen Qu  
Faraz Gholizadeh  
Michelle Gholizadeh  
Michael Barkley  
Gary Burrows  
Kyle Duncan  
Treshaun Thomas-Wright  
Ann Russell  
James Brown

Kim Storey

Rita Bilerman

Tammy Thorne

Jesse Frohlich

Leslie Ford

Hello HVRA,

I hope you are well.

2024 marks the 50th Anniversary of the 1974 Brunswick Four incident at the Brunswick House Hotel. This was a pivotal event in Canada's 2SLGBTQ+ history.

The TEYCPP is proposing that a Heritage Toronto plaque be funded by Community Benefits Funds to commemorate this incident and that this be installed in front of the former Brunswick House: <https://www.dayofpink.org/brunswick-four> and <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/the-brunswick-four>

This is supported by two of the members of the Brunswick Four (Dr. Adrienne Rosen and Lamar Van Dyke), as well as The ArQuives: Canada's National 2SLGBTQ+ Archives. We've reached out to the Bloor-Annex BIA and are awaiting their response.

Would the HVRA support this initiative?

Thank-you,

Adam Wynne  
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel  
416-676-2441 | [adam.g.wynne@gmail.com](mailto:adam.g.wynne@gmail.com)