

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 7:00– 9:00 pm**

by Zoom call

MINUTES

- **Chair's welcome: 7:07**
- **Land acknowledgement**
- **Approval of Agenda:** Gus Sinclair moved; Moritz Steinbauer seconded. **The motion passed.**
- **Approval of the May 21st, 2024 Spring General Meeting Minutes:** Jody Salomon moved; Gus Sinclair seconded. **The minutes were approved.**

- **Chair's Report:**

The chair reported on some of the over-arching goals of HVRA:

- Community building: We had a very successful Fall Fair. The other big fall event – PumpkinFest on hiatus for 2024 because of construction on Harbord.
- Climate change: we are working with PARA on the Zero Waste
- Heritage: as reported in the newsletter, Sue Dexter is taking part in a project to help counter the provincial government's move against heritage designations.

Those are the highlights of the last few months.

- **Financial Report:** The treasurer presented the Financial Statement for the year ending December 31, 2023, ([chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Financial-Statement-Year-End-Jan-Dec-2023.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Financial-Statement-Year-End-Jan-Dec-2023.pdf)), and the Budget Plan for 2024 ([chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Budget-2024.pdf](https://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://harbordvillage.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Budget-2024.pdf)). She reported that the budget anticipated a normal pre-covid year, and we are pretty much in line with that. The HVRA is currently in very good financial shape. Lena Mortensen moved that the Financial Statement and the Budget be approved. David Booz seconded. **The motion passed.**
- **Area Caucuses** Election of Area Representatives (breakout rooms).
 - **NW** David Booz reported for the NW. The topics of discussion were concern about litter, and parking in no parking zones. **FM Morrisson was declared NW Area Rep.**
 - **NE** Nick Provart reported for the NE. They did not have too many issues. People are very happy to hear about the new food court going in in old RBC building.

One concern is about the difficulties turning southbound from Bloor onto Major, both eastbound and westbound. **Nick Provart and Jordan Leith were declared NE Area Reps.**

- **SW** Wolfgang Moeder reported for the SW. Concerns were largely about greening and the poor plantings in some of the bumpouts in the area. **Wolfgang Moeder and Merri Salmoni were declared SW Area Reps.**
- **SC** Susan McDonald reported for SC. There were four main areas of concern: 1) parking issues around the lack of short-term space for delivery people, cabs, disability vans, and so forth; 2) Doctors' Parkette which was a terrible problem over the summer, but is much better now thanks to Brunswick residents in conjunction with the city; 3) The bioswales on lower Major and lower Brunswick are in very bad shape. People are in contact with the city about this, but it is an ongoing issue; and 4) the dangers presented by the streetcar stop on College St. at the west side of Major. **Susan McDonald and Jennifer Weinberger were declared SC Area Reps.**
- **SE** Jody Salomon reported for the SE. They talked about a few things: tree inventory, the number of trees we've lost in the neighbourhood in the last few years, and how we can renew the tree inventory; heritage – which houses designated which aren't and if it might be worthwhile to do this for whole neighbourhood; the problem with Airbnb and if the city following up on complaints; and finally graffiti. There has been some very derogatory graffiti on upper side of Robert St. regarding Palestinian situation, and that is a concern. **Jody Salomon and Cathy Merkley were declared SE Area Reps.**
- **Election of Constitution & Nominations Committee:** The slate presented was Jane Perdue (Chair), Colin Furness, Carolee Orme, Graham Rempe, and Samiha Sayed. Gus Sinclair moved that they be elected; Suzanne Dubeau seconded. **The slate elected by acclamation.**
- **Board Elections:** The slate of board officers presented was— Chair Anne Fleming, Vice Chair, Moritz Steinbauer, Treasurer Lena Mortensen, Secretary Fiona Smith, Membership Secretary Rosalinda Furlan, Webmaster Nicholas Provart, and Sue Dester as U of T representative. Jane Perdue asked for nominations from floor; there were none. **This slate declared elected by acclamation.**
- **Community Builder Award:** Gus Sinclair awarded the community builder award to Bob Stambula. (See information about his contribution to the neighbourhood here: <https://harbordvillage.com/neighbourhood-events/public-meetings/community-builder-awards/>)
- **Remarks from City Councillor Dianne Saxe.** The councillor spoke about:
 - Antisemitic graffiti is a problem, and the city is working hard to clean it up.
 - In terms of parking problems, the city tries to maintain a number of permit-free spots

for short-term parking, but this does get abused. Efforts are being made to find solutions.

- Construction on the speed hump that people have been waiting for on Sussex will begin next week. If there are more speed humps needed, please ask for specific locations.
- The Annex Residents' Association has a very effective transportation committee, so you may want to reach out to learn how they are dealing with transportation issues.
- The number of automatic speed enforcement cameras will be doubled December 9th from three per ward to six per ward. There is no limit on red light cameras. If there are intersections where they are needed write the councillor's office.
- The Sussex/Spadina park is going to be a great park when it gets built this year.
- Harbord and Hoskin water mains are going to be replaced, paving will be redone starting in November.
- the College St. streetscape is being revisited. Any ideas from the community would be welcome.

- **Remarks from MPP Jessica Bell.** The MPP spoke about:

- her party's commitment to livable and green city and province, real solutions to our housing affordability crisis and homelessness crisis, and sensible plans to improve our public services, health care and transit.
- the Ford government is looking at closing consumption and treatment sites. The NDP believes these sites are part of the solution, not the problem. In addition, they concentrate drug use in small areas where there are health personnel, rather than spreading drug use throughout the streets.
- The Ford government said today that they are looking at taking out the Bloor and University bike lanes and passing legislation that would require their approval for the installation of any bike lane that takes away a lane of traffic. This is very concerning because it limits people's means of getting to work and denies the fact that bike lanes are a part of the solution, not the problem. The government needs to tackle the problem of congestion by moving forward with sensible urban planning and investing in transportation and transit

13. Guest Speaker: Shannon Simpson, Senior Director, Indigenous Initiatives, University of Toronto. (See video here: - [HVRA Fall AGM 2024 - Shannon Simpson presentation](#))

- **Other Business:** Anne Fleming addressed a question that comes up repeatedly – When are we going to resume in-person meetings. In favour of Zoom, they are easier for people to attend, we haven't found a new space to hold in-person meetings, and we can't afford the technology for hybrid meetings, but we are going to try to have more in-person gatherings that are not meetings.

15.. Adjournment: Gus Sinclair moved the meeting be adjourned. Jody Salomon seconded. **The meeting was adjourned at 9:05.**

Minutes prepared by Karen Laurence, Secretary, 2023 – 2024