

**Harbord Village Residents' Association Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:00– 9:00 pm**

by Zoom call

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees: Sue Dexter, Anne Fleming, Jordan Leith, Susan McDonald, Cathy Merkley, Frances-Mary Morrison, Nick Provart, Jody Salomon, Merri Salmoni, Gus Sinclair, Fiona Smith, Douglas Walker

Absent: Rosalinda Furlan, Wolfgang Moeder, Lena Mortensen, Moritz Steinbauer

1. **Call to order:** 7:03
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Sue moved that the agenda be adopted; Gus seconded. **The motion passed.**
3. **Approval of the November 19, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes:** Jody moved that the minutes be approved; Jordan seconded. **The motion passed.**
4. **Business Arising from Past Minutes:**
 - 4.1. **Committee Review update** – Gus and Sue created a document titled “HVRA in the World” pulling together thoughts and ideas to start a conversation. Possible topics are Complete Streets, Community Education, Net Zero Committee, Community Greening, Heritage, Engineering Student Project (See Appendix A). Gus went over the ideas and there was a good discussion about major concerns in the neighbourhood especially laneway housing, high-rise development and Bloor St. We can piggyback on work of other RAs and BIAs on these issues. Anne will turn this into a document and we can work on it and begin to move things forward.
 - 4.2. **In Person Gatherings** – Anne reported on the community dinners that were organized by Tim Grant, including one at the new Maven restaurant. Tim would like to organize weekly dinners but needs some help. Jordan offered to be involved. Anne, Tim and Jordan will talk.
 - 4.3. **Harbord St. upgrade update** – Anne reported that construction is being paused on Harbord St on December 18 and will restart January 20. End date is October 2025. Dianne Saxe has a new contact person and Anne will share the name with us.
 - 4.4. **U of T student project** - Engineering professor approached us about ideas for a student project involving an engineering problem that needs solving. However, the deadline has passed for this year. If anyone has an idea, we can still contact him. Sue coordinated it one year, but the project wasn't well designed and we didn't get much from it. Projects have to be real engineering problems. Unfortunately, the green plan, suggested by Jody, is not a potential project. Anne said to think of projects for next year.

5. New Business

- 5.1. **Update on street marker at Harbord and Spadina** - There was a long thread on email dealing with this issue. Gus gave an overview of the issue. The marker was done in the 90s as a joint project between the TTC and City however there was no maintenance clause. Each claims it is not their asset. Neil Wright and Gus went on CBC and the next day the City said they will take it out before Christmas.
 - 5.2. **Planning & Development - response to Saxe letter** - Sue talked about a letter from Dianne Saxe (attached) which is too little too late and approaches the issue from a legal point of view rather than a political point of view. We are choosing not to respond. Anne will pull out past correspondence.
 - 5.3. **Coldest night of the Year** - Anne reported that Tanya Lewis, formerly on the board, is running the event. It is in late February and is an umbrella fundraiser for several charities. Our local charity is Fort York Food Bank. Two teams compete, those living north of Harbord vs those living south of Harbord. You can do a walk or just donate. Information will be forthcoming. Use of the food bank is ballooning.
 - 5.4. **Bur oak laneway paver update** - Susan gave an update on the project. The city put in a large swath of pavers. There is still some money left from the \$15,000 raised which is to be used for fertilizer next spring. We can ask the City to do more with pavers. Anne said a Green Committee could follow up.
 - 5.5. **FoSTRA committees** - Anne gave an update. FoSTRA has a new committee on housing which Anne attended. Issues raised are widespread. Next meeting will decide the focus for the committee. FoSTRA also raised concerns to the city about their proposal for commercial spaces in residences saying there aren't enough parameters. We sent a letter saying there needed to be more guidelines.
 - 5.6. **Tents in Margaret Fairley Park** - There was some discussion on the Friends of Harbord Village Facebook page about a tent in the park and potential impact on people and especially children using the park. Nothing we can do as a group. Anne suggested reaching out to the City if there are concerns with needles and safety or individuals can contact the councillor's office or contact street outreach. Some comments about the ugly concrete structure in the park which is a storage place for summer Parks and Rec staff.
6. **Recording of correspondence, for the record**- Anne read into the record the vote for TLAB hearings to be kept virtual. Voted in favour of keeping virtual.
 7. **Other business** - Anne thanked Gus for a wonderful party after last month's meeting.
 8. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:32. Gus moved. Seconded by Frances-Mary. **The motion passed.**

Minutes prepared by Fiona Smith, Secretary

Appendix A

"HVRA in the World"

Here are some possible topics for uptake by Board committees:

1: Complete Streets (not just safe streets)

- push for implementation of the Boulevard concept introduced by Bob
- set up a way to find out how many people are cutting through HV
- keep an eye on signage replacement or add new signage.
- and the like

2: Community Education

Set up maybe 6 webinars for various topics. Possibilities include:

- renovictions : what are they and how to manage them
eg: The displacement of people from housing to make new towers on Dalton (not HV but an example)
- road/traffic congestion: how it happens and what can be done
- how new buildings conform to needs of public realm
- renters: who are they and how do they survive
- geo-thermal: where to install and good practice
- tree canopy: how is it doing and how to make up losses
- remove asphalt in favour of permeable surfaces: how it works and how to promote
- Talk about housing- here is something Sue sent around a few days ago from Nate Erskine-Smith on what the Finns have done

<https://x.com/beynate/status/1866953991470596568?s=58&t=XitDsCOFWJieyiyvli0wwQ>

3: Net Zero Committee

Both Jody and Susan are on the HVRA Net Zero Committee. They should be encouraged to report on what is happening on the Committee and it should maybe be a regular part of the agenda.

4: Community Greening

-There is an [HVRA Green Master Plan](#) from 2015 that should have a champion or champions on the Board.

-We could work towards community self-help projects such the one that took place [in Croft Street](#) 9 years ago. See also [article](#) on early plans for the 666 Spadina parkette

5: Heritage

Heritage preservation has been an ongoing concern for the Association from the 1990's. <https://harbordvillage.com/projects/heritage-issues/> We need someone or two to advocate for Heritage eg

- advocate for the Heritage rules from the HVRA Heritage Districts #1 and 2
- publicize how to apply for Heritage grants

6: Engineering Student Project

Sue has worked with the Engineering Faculty at U of T to present problems to their students, who then do projects on how to solve them. It came by this year but fell off the radar.