

SVRA AGM

June 10, 2025

Executive Committee Members Present:

Barri Cohen, outgoing Chair
George Patricio, Vice-Chair
Jane Wigle, Treasurer
Heather Sloman, Secretary

Trustees Present:

Howard Law, Lisa Freeman, Sally Thomas -

SVRA Committee Leads Present:

Lisa Freeman, Sally Thomas - Governance Committee
Katie Thomas - Safety Committee
Roberta Scott - Events Committee

42 members present in total

1. Barri (online): Intro and Land acknowledgement

2. Jessica Bell, MPP remarks -

- resident of SVRA, will become member tonight, thanks RA for working together, creates a more powerful channel to lobby local politicians
- Noted that \$200 billion budget passed, we did see small increase in education funding, increase in health care funding but not in line with population growth and inflation; will be continued long waits
- Spoke against Bill 5 - any piece of area Ford wants can be exempted from city and provincial law, environmental legislation, workers rights, indigenous rights - there is much opposition, people coming together to fight this Bill.

3. Councillor Saxe (online) remarks -

- thanked Barri for enormously hard work that she has done to resuscitate SVRA, people don't understand amount of work she has put in, and her work has been invaluable, much has been carried on her shoulders
- Spoke about Bill 5, Bill 10, Bill 17 all being pushed or passed by Ford, loss of power to public as a result, we are doing our best to oppose
- Rapid TO is one of the local issues we have heard about
- New TTC CEO - is very pleased about him, thinks he is doing good work
- We need to change Bathurst St. bus travel, deal with long term needs of city residents.
- We have a collection of really valued small businesses, nowhere else to park other than on the street. Has been meeting with business community, has developed set of steps we need to take. Has sent draft to Heather, who sent it out to SVRA, which includes some revisions to the initial proposal. Hopeful that interim changes will make a significant difference.
- Would like us to send comments in asap, as reports have to get drafted and then the Committee meets July 17.

4. Motion to approve agenda.

Susan O'Connor raises, Lisa seconds
All approved, no nays, no abstentions

5. Motion to approve minutes.

Lisa raises, Susan seconds,

All approved, no nays, no abstentions

6. Barri - Chair's Remarks -

List of actions, accomplishments since last AGM:

- Website - set up initially by Matthew, then taken over by Roxann and Charlotte, Susan O'Connor has done ongoing editing
- Parking Issue - Rossmore, Bill Bolton, streets bordering Vermont Park - we pushed back on installation of parking metres
- Park - modest change - seeding, boundary creation (fencing), we are looking for someone to step up and help us work on park issue - Dan Dunsky has had to step down.
- Speakers - Housing, Development, Co-op Housing, City programs, tree walk - most inspiring for Barri was co-op talk - is there a way to get more affordable housing using co-op model?
- Traffic Calming - we will hear more about that later
- Dupont St. study - haven't heard much lately; perhaps others can pop up if they like; was part of Complete Streets project
- FoSTRA - some representation from Heather and others
- Social Events - pumpkin walk, Holiday Party, ice cream in the park
- Development - we have been engaged with both developers; have asked them to support some type of park revitalization which will then be on agenda hopefully for park folks Both developments went from being condos to rentals because condo market has tanked. 91 Barton St - SVRA wasn't officially involved although a number of members were involved as local residents
- Surveys - have undertaken a couple of surveys
 - 1 - priorities of community - reviewed 4 main priorities that came of survey
 - 2 - parking metres

Questions - none

7. Jane - Treasurer Report reviewed -

- Jane has been gathering new memberships tonight.
- Handed out printed copies of report.
- Fiscal year started May 1.
- Reviewed statement of financial position - Have spent almost \$800 this year.
- Last year - Collected \$1270, spent \$750 on meetings, mainly on rental of rooms
- Overspent slightly last year compared to our actual income versus projected income
- Haven't quite made our projected budget for this year; need to gather more member payments
- Ideally we want to spend more on meetings this coming year.

8. Trustee reports -

Howard - finances have been managed responsibly - this is the bottom line

- Thanked Jane for making everything available to them, for spreadsheet
- All expenses pre-approved which is good policy
- Recommend that all expenses be approved at a formal executive meeting
- Recommended that historic surplus has allowed us to run small deficit, no inappropriate expenditures noted however

Discussion -

Heather - requested that small expenditures don't need formal approval of executive; Howard agreeable to this

Aren - if withdrawing slightly more than what we bring in continues, we will run out money in the long run

Jane - may need to increase member fees, will continue to try to recruit more members,

Kathleen Devlin - money was raised in the past via an annual Fathers' Day fundraiser

Bill - can meetings be held at library?

Andre - in the summer, we can have meetings in the park

Liz - is there any kind of cushion of the legacy fund that needs to be retained - do we need to build that in?

Jane- may lead to overspending.

Margaret - Are trustees like an audit committee?

Howard - created this position when we drew up bylaws, small organizations use trustees instead of auditors

Margaret - are we incorporated, non-profit - have we a need for trustees at all?

Member - the whole point of having a cushion is for use during an emergency

Barri - would it be appropriate as part of looking at the bylaws at a separate meeting tabling a bylaw addition that would include a spending ceiling? Not a hard figure but a percentage of whatever remains.

Howard - we've had one year's experience with very modest drawdown on surplus - maybe at some point we need to look at that

Roberta - volunteered use of her Zoom account

Aren - Howard didn't answer from a governance point of view

Barri - what do people want to do? Do people want to let it go for a year?

Motion from the floor to let it go for one year, and then discuss next year

Discussion -

Lisa - Take the view that bylaw shouldn't be changed too quickly. May be a slight conflict if someone introduces a motion to amend the bylaws.

Motion approved. No nays and no abstentions.

Kathleen - motion to approve Treasurer's report

Motion passed. No opposed, no abstentions.

9. Committee Updates -

P and D - Barri - nothing noteworthy to report; 914 Bathurst is coming down. Both Dupont/Christie and Bathurst St. now planned as purpose built rentals.

Vermont Square Playground - Elena sends regrets, working on playground revitalization, on getting anchor donor. Don't want to do any work while Palmerston playground under construction.

Traffic Calming - Jenny Foster - - Ann Mullen is Committee Chair, speaking on her behalf.

UPDATES:

- The committee surveyed Seaton Village residents for "hot spots" that need attention, compiled a detailed list and shared the information with Councillor Saxe's office. Items on the list were discussed in several meetings, including plans to address each of the matters. Residents will hopefully notice changes, maintenance and attention to the concerns they raised.
- There was a brief summary of the evolution of the traffic pressures on Barton, as well as a profile of the current proposal from Councillor Saxe's office. The context of looming spikes in pressure from surrounding developments combined with wayfinding apps that direct outside traffic onto Barton were also discussed.

KEY DATES:

3 June: SVRA meeting to discuss proposed changes to Barton, attended by staff from Saxe's office

24 June @ 7pm: SVRA meeting to vote on proposed changes

8 July @ 9.30am: Toronto and East York Community Council meeting that Saxe would like to move motion for changes to Barton

Discussion:

Participant: will Barton be one-way for cyclists as well?

- clarification: there has been no mention of restricting cyclists and Barton is an official City of Toronto bike route. The traffic calming committee had recommended painting or marking it as a bike route

Howard: need to survey community preferences; concern re:proposal not representing the whole community

Aren: can prepare an online survey

Barri: transportation department has no budget for traffic study so residents have to monitor anecdotally

- clarification: traffic calming committee is organizing systemic and reliable monitoring

Sally: need to flyer Clinton and knock on each

clarification: should flyer affected streets of Barton, Clinton from Barton to Follis, and Follis from Christie to Clinton. unclear who will fund and commit labour

Barri - have they provided the motion being brought to council?

Jenny - hasn't seen that; but the issue is making Barton one-way west from Clinton to Christie. Will be relying on community to evaluate its effectiveness. Traffic calming committee has already begun looking at ways to evaluate.

Barri - we should get the specific motion from the Councillor's office before the 24th

Jenny - yes, but only need to decide on whether pilot will be one or two years.

Lengthy discussion ensued about Barton St which had to be discontinued due to time constraints

Bathurst St. proposal - George - spoke briefly about press conference tomorrow re:Bathurst st.

Events Committee - Roberta - reviewed the events that SVRA had taken place

Thinks fundraisers are a good idea. Events however need organizers so please consider volunteering. Would be happy to do a CPR event, along with SVRA member Margaret as a fundraiser.

Safety Committee - Katie

Initiatives - crime, auto thefts, break-ins, robbery, cycling safety

Objectives - get in speakers police spokesperson

If people are interested, Katie can provide more focused data on crime stats in the neighbourhood

Attends police meetings at 14 Division; they recommend bike safety checks

Jeannette - is graffiti considered a crime?

Parking Working Group - Susan

We need to remain vigilant about parking because the spectre of parking is always there, and now more of an impending problem with Bathurst St. bus lanes. All should come to press conference tomorrow, including those people in support of Bathurst St. project.

10. Elections Committee and Election for Chair and Treasurer - Lisa and Sally

Lisa - sent out notice as prescribed in the bylaw, one nomination for Chair and Treasurer

No nomination from the floor for either position - Chair is Heather and Treasurer is Jane

Trustees - Howard and Mable agreed to remain Trustees

Sam Petheridge - volunteered to be secretary

11. Motion to adjourn - Lisa with Jane seconding