

Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2017



Description: Monthly Association Meeting

Open: 7:25 PM **Adjourn:** 8:35 PM

Location: 225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206

Attendance: MM **Members:** 22

Board Members in Attendance:

- **President:** Allison Willford (AWillford@MerionVillage.org)
- **Vice President:** Jessica Norman (JNorman@MerionVillage.org)
- **Secretary:** Phil Birnie (PBirnie@MerionVillage.org)

Absent:

- **Treasurer:** Ibbey Fisher (IFisher@MerionVillage.org)
- **Member at Large:** VACANT

MVA Board Vacancies

Melanie McClure stepped down as the Member-at-large on April 24, 2017. We thank her for her service to the Association and neighborhood. In accordance with the Constitution, the Merion Village Association Board would have normally appointed a replacement member because the member resigned mid-term.

However, at the meeting two motions were proposed to change the process.

Scott Holtz: Motion to postpone the nomination until after the Constitution Review Committee has completed their review and the Membership has had a chance to approve these changes.

Scott's motion was seconded, but later withdrawn in favor of a second motion put forth by Erin Synk.

Erin Synk: Motion to continue the nomination process whereby nominations will be accepted through May 14. Nominees will be presented to the membership and a vote for the position will be conducted on June 7, 2016 Meeting.

MOTION RESULTS: FOR: 22 AGAINST: 0 ABSTAIN: 2

In addition, Phil Birnie, Secretary of the Board will be moving outside of the Merion Village Boundaries and will be resigning as Secretary on June 10, 2017.

Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2017

Columbus Arts Festival Volunteer Update (Presented by Allison Willford)

We will once again be selling frozen beverages at the Columbus Arts Festival June 9-11. We are still short about 7 shifts, but many people attended the training on May 25, 2017 at the GCAC offices downtown. We will receive 10% of our sales and no less than \$150.

Merion Village Bylaw Committee Update (Presented by Scott Holtz)

Scott noted that the Committee has met twice thus far and met once more in May. There are currently twelve (12) articles in the constitution and four (4) articles are expected to be heavily revised. In addition, the committee will perform a number of maintenance and formatting cleanup tasks to get the Constitution in better order. The goal is to make the Constitution easier to read and remove as much ambiguity as possible.

The primary focus will be on Article 6, which deals with the appointment of Vacancies. The Committee has provided their proposed changes and these will be read aloud at the June 7, 2017 meeting. (The changes will be provided in writing in prior to the June 2017 meeting by way of the monthly newsletter). The Membership will have an opportunity to discuss the changes during the June meeting and vote on the changes during the July 2017 meeting.

MVA Yard Sale (Presented by Jessica Norman)

The Merion Village Yard Sale took place on Saturday May 6 and consisted of 46 houses. Nicely printed maps were available at St. Paul's United Church of Christ (225 E Gates) and Bake Me Happy (116 E Moler St). For the most part, the weather was agreeable and there were plenty of shoppers! The next yard sale will take place the first Saturday in October.

MVA Garden Tour (Presented by Mark and Sherry)

This year's Garden Tour event will be on Sunday July 9, 2017. Applications are available online at: <http://www.merionvillage.org/garden-tour.html> There has been a void of gardens from the northeast quadrant of Merion Village (i.e. north of Thurman and east of Schiller Park). The committee is working on recruiting in this area.

Allison Willford raised the possibility of dedicating the Pocket Park during the Garden Tour. As part of this initiative, the Pocket Park Committee is soliciting suggestions for names for the Park. One popular option is calling it the "Walker Pocket Park" in honor of the storeowner that used to have a store on the lot.

During the discussion of the park, a concerned resident raised the question regarding the viability and necessary maintenance involved with the Pocket Park. In response to this question, Allison noted that:

- maintenance is currently an issue and they are working on lower-maintenance plantings and ground cover.

Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2017

- very little out-of-pocket funding is required for park upkeep as most material is provided by grants (e.g mulch is donated, we have receive 30 flats of flowers from Children’s Hospital and 30 bags of mulch)
- there are plans to introduce reading time for children.
- the Association should indeed continue to review the value of the park and make adjustments as necessary.

Committee Reports

Beautification and Zoning (Tony Roell)

No updates at this time. Tony is working on better documenting and outlining the review process for residents and businesses requesting zoning variances.

Farmers Market (Phil Birnie)

The South Side Farmers Market will start in Thursday June 1, 2017 and will be held throughout the summer each Thursday from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. There are a variety of vendors this year selling meat, fresh vegetables, jam, baked goods and other goodies. The market will be located next to Tatoheads Public House at the corner of Gates and Parsons. Visit <http://SouthSideFarmMarket.com> for more information.

Business Development (Eric and Luke)

No update; the membership drive continues.

Education (Anne)

The scholarship geared toward Merion Village residents was due on April 28th and yielded no applicants. The Education Committee is reaching out to South High to see how many (if any) residents reside in Merion Village. Depending upon this response, the Association may open this opportunity to the greater South Side.

Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2017

Block Watch (Mary Cannon)

A number of people attended the Columbus Community Council Meeting at the Reeb Center on April 25th. Folks coordinated their messages to request for greater police presence in the neighborhood. Keep watching the Facebook page or check the Columbus City Council's Calendar (<https://www.columbus.gov/council/information/City-Council-Event-Calendar/>) for future meetings.

Officers have noted that the theft of copper and other metal is starting to increase again with the rise in prices. Much of this is tied to the heroine epidemic. An interesting book entitled "Dreamland" is available that may help better understand the complexities of the Opioid epidemic; part of the book is specifically about the role of Columbus and Portsmouth in the trade.

Reminder: Please always report crimes (even minor ones) online or by calling 614-645-4545.

Social and Membership (Melanie McClure)

The social committee had a Happy Hour on May 10th at the Hey Hey. These will continue on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Please see the Merion Village Events Calendar for the location and time.

MVA Festival (Jessica Norman)

Two food trucks and over 20 vendors have confirmed a spot at this year's Festival, outpacing previous years' registration at this time. There are several shifts that will need to be filled for the festival. Those interested should volunteer under the "Volunteer" tab of the site or reach out to Jessica Norman.

The Festival will be held Sunday September 10 from 12-6 PM.

South Side Area Commission (Jessica C, Erin S., Bob L.)

The previous zoning request for Front Street (see April 2017's minutes) was approved by the Area Commission. The owner of the South High project (also April 2017) did not show up and the request has been tabled.

The South Side Area Commission were also present at the City Council Session on April 25th at the Reeb Center. They discussed issues with crime, the new Cota Redesign and Parsons resurfacing project.

Bob Leighty, Erin Synk and Jessica Clinger all met with COTA. They are currently working to try to put personal stories about how the COTA redesign plan is affecting Merion Village and South Side residents. Please reach out to Erin Synk with any stories or experiences that may be helpful. COTA did note that the South Side has been the most vocal about the redesign plan (which is good). The South Side Area Commission may work on a survey for residents to get a better idea of the impact this summer.

Parsons Ave resurfacing will start May 15th on Northbound lanes (from Hosack) and proceed north.

Open Streets Columbus was approved for Third Street for this September; this is an event where the street is closed to traffic and residents can use the street for biking, scooters and play. More information can be found at: <http://www.openstreetscolumbus.org/>

Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2017

Other Concerns and Discussion

A concerned resident requested information about when Jenkins Avenue would be resurfaced, as many of the surrounding streets have already been repaved within the past year or so. Nancy, our City of Columbus liaison, said she would look into this.

The Council of Historic Neighborhoods seat is now vacant. We are looking for someone to fill that role.