

Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

January 7, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

LOCATION: 1330 S. Fourth Street, Columbus, OH 43206

MEETING DURATION: 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell (TRoell@MerionVillage.org)
- VICE PRESIDENT: Anne Stewart (ASTewart@MerionVillage.org)
- TREASURER: Michele Audetat (MAudetat@MerionVillage.org)
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman (JNorman@MerionVillage.org)
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Tracey Studer (TStuder@MerionVillage.org)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

- NONE

TOTAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 15

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 5

TOPIC: Introductions

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Introductions of board members, all members, non-members and guests in attendance. Welcome to our new Vice President, Coda Bruce!

TOPIC: Treasurer's Report (Presented by Michele Audetat)

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Treasurer's report. Proceeds from the bake sale were \$225.00 which included t-shirt sales. We purchased corrected key tags from the business development grant. We had only 1 new membership in December but we received a check for over \$300.00 from the Kroger Rewards Program. Signup online at Kroger.com with your KrogerPlus account. Remember to choose the Merion Village Association as your elected group once a year.

TOPIC: 501c3 Status

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Our 501c3 status is still pending. We are in the queue and should be assigned a handler in the next couple weeks. Once assigned, the process will be pending for 60 to 90 days.

TOPIC: Use Variance of 101 E. Moler Street

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The new owner of 101 E. Moler wants to obtain a variance to use her residential property as an actual residence. In 1928 the property was zoned for commercial use which makes it very difficult to obtain a conventional loan. This matter was discussed and put to vote by ballot by all members with voting privileges in attendance.

VOTING RESULTS: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 13 / Members Voting NO: 0)

TOPIC: Barrett Redevelopment

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Barrett Redevelopment requests have passed through the Southside Area Commission and are headed to City Council.

TOPIC: Parsons Library Redevelopment

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Association voted to approve the Parsons Library proposals in November after attending a special meeting with a presentation and questions session with the developers. This proposal passed through the Southside Area Commission late last week and will now head to City Council. The City is going to require the library to put up a fence on the residential side of the property which was not part of the original proposal.

TOPIC: Details...

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The MVA t-shirts are awesome, go to www.MerionVillage.org/Shop and order yours today!

TOPIC: Safety Committee

DURATION: 14 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Safety Committee meetings will now begin at 6:30 PM but will still be held in the Merion Village Info. Center. The first meeting of 2015 will take place on January 21st at the new time. There will be quite a few topics on the agenda. Several neighbors are interested in starting a block watch program, some of whom contacted our House Representative, Michael Stinziano about this. Anthony, the MVA Safety Committee Chair met with members of the Columbus Police Department just before the monthly MVA meeting and obtained a large packet of information and requirements. With the increase in popularity of the Nextdoor.com application, people are more aware of crime. Tony Roell conducted a crime analysis and found that overall there has been a 10% decrease but the additional discussion on social media may make it appear that crime has increased in our area. A member mentioned that State Legislation that passed a year or so ago which released non-violent offenders from jail, he felt that may contribute to the petty crimes. A member stated that he feels we need to continue to apply pressure to our City and State that we should not have to tolerate these crimes. We all agree that we would like to see more investigation and follow-up from the police. If you have issues with an officer or detective, we can follow-up with our liaisons. On January 28th, the Southside block watch group will be having their monthly meeting at Barrack Recreation Center and the Columbus Police Department will be in attendance. The overall Southside neighborhood feels that Merion Village does not participate in the large groups and block watch, so please help us improve that impression. To keep these discussions going and improve our overall awareness, please join our meetings and reach out to Anthony at ADillard@MerionVillage.org.

TOPIC: Southbend Tavern Good Neighbor Agreement

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Anne S. and Michelle K. are working with the Southbend Tavern and local neighbors to create a good neighbor agreement. They drafted a survey and distributed them to roughly 20 local residents. Only 4 of those residents responded. Anne recently contacted the owners and is working toward a meeting to discuss some thoughts.

TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tracy takes his employees from the Explorer’s Club to the local bowling alley, buys them food and pays for bowling as an appreciation event each year. We would like to try this activity as a neighborhood social event. Tracy has reserved 3 lanes for Merion Village on Sunday, January 25th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Please e-mail Tracy if you’d like to participate. The board thought it would be nice to have a wine tasting in February. Ohio law prevents donations of alcoholic beverages, so we have some details to discuss before we can fully plan this event. We will e-mail an update soon. One member has attended something similar where all attendees brought a bottle of wine and participants rate the wine, the “winner” gets a prize. This idea was added to our list of considerations. We would like to have a chili cook-off in March and have April tentatively scheduled as a community cleanup. The goal is to get everyone out all over the neighborhood. In May we will have an annual yard sale. Tony will reach out to previous planners and Jessica has also volunteered to help coordinate this event. We will host our annual Garden Tour in June. If you have ideas or suggestions for events, please let us know.

DATE (TIME)	EVENT DESCRIPTION	COORDINATOR(S)
January 25 th (6:00 to 8:00 PM)	Merion Village Neighborhood Bowling	Tracy Studer
LOCATION: Rainbow Lanes / Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl (3224 South High Street)		
February (TBD)	Wine & Spirits Tasting Event	Coda Bruce
LOCATION: TBD		
March (TBD)	Community Chili Cook-Off	Tony Roell
LOCATION: TBD		
April (TBD)	Community Cleanup	TBD
LOCATION: Merion Village		
May (TDB)	Merion Village Community Yard Sale	Jessica Norman
LOCATION: TBD		
June (TDB)	Merion Village Garden Tour	TBD
LOCATION: TBD		

TOPIC: Local Education Updates

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Stewart Elementary is now open. This was a big concern for Southside STAY and it is now complete. Anne S. will follow-up with the group to see what their next projects include.

Anne S., Sarah R. and Michelle K. went to the Dream Big event hosted by the Columbus School District. It was a nice event with an opportunity to meet the teachers and staff. Anne recently spoke to a Columbus Police Officer who is moving to Dublin because he feels the schools are safer. It's unfortunate to lose a local officer and to see this mentality perpetuated. We should continue to work together to improve our neighborhoods and schools.

TOPIC: Gateway Kiosks

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tony has attempted to contact the Idea Foundry several times about the cleaning of the buildings, refinishing and remounting of our kiosks, etc. He has received no response and will be stopping in to the studio.

TOPIC: Southside Area Commission Report (Presented by Chris Macisco)

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Chris attended a land redevelopment training seminar before our meeting this evening. Chris was provided several great resources for people who want to make improvements but do not have the financial resources to do so. There are also programs for people to use if they lose heat and have less than 80% of the median income which is \$39,000.00 per person. Children's Hospital is working with PAMA to create a permanent monument at the corner of Parsons and Livingston.

TOPIC: Nationwide Children's Hospital Good Neighbor Meeting

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tony and Coda attended a Good Neighbor meeting at Nationwide Children's Hospital where they discussed upcoming developments. The meeting was about a month ago and the notes were just circulated. Everything from the meeting was very positive. There will be some traffic modifications at 18th street, so Tony and Coda will share the meeting notes for review.

TOPIC: Business Development Grant

DURATION: 13 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: A flyer including updates on the business development grant was distributed. Tracy, Coda and Jessica are developing this project. The "Buy Local Rewards Program" will launch in the next couple of months and all active members will be eligible for these rewards as part of their annual membership. This program will help develop our local businesses and strengthen our community. There will be four levels of participation for businesses who take part in the program. Tracy feels the association in general is on a great path thanks to involvement of our residents and members. Please be sure to renew your membership! Not sure if you're a member? E-mail Tony at TRoell@MerionVillage.org.

TOPIC: Grant Season

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Its grant season and United Way grants are due on January 23rd. We are seeking two grants this year. The first grant focuses on safety including potential classes and education sessions for our residents. The second grant focuses on neighborhood beautification. We would like to repair and repaint local planters, add benches, upgrade trashcans, etc

GENERAL REMINDERS:

01. Kroger Community Rewards: Remember to sign-up with through your Kroger card account, selecting the MVA as your designation for rewards. When you register and shop at Kroger, you contribute to the percentage of funds the MVA receives from the program each quarter. There is no cost to you for this program.
02. Report potholes, and other requests for City services through the 311 Program. Call 311 from your telephone or visit www.311.columbus.gov

NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Wednesday, February 4th at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.