



# MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

January 2, 2019 | 7:15 PM - 8:15 PM | St. Paul UCC (225 E. Gates St., Columbus, OH 43206)

## **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

- ✓ PRESIDENT | Jess Norman
- ✓ VICE PRESIDENT | Jessica Hatala
- ✓ TREASURER | Eric Stegemoeller
- ✓ MEMBER-AT-LARGE | Lauren Larrick

## **NEW FACES AT THE MONTHLY MEETING**

Welcome to the neighborhood, Marcia!

## **MVA TREASURER'S REPORT** presented by Eric Stegemoeller

The year-end bank balance is \$32,514.71, around \$8,000 of which is restricted to specific grants/funds. Income during 2018 included \$1,600 in residential member dues and \$3,500 in business memberships. Donations were received through a variety of individuals and community programs totaling over \$2,400. The festival was the largest income generator, bringing in over \$5,000 even with the weather challenges we faced. We had a number of recurring and fixed expenses such as rent/utilities. We also purchased reusable event supplies and a yearly subscription to accounting software. Expenses also included 2 scholarships awarded to South High School seniors this year, fees related to the festival, etc. We have not yet been reimbursed for the wine donated to this year's festival due to an issue with the distributor's accounts payable department. Eric and Tony are working through this issue.

- *Question: Are we concerned with the overall net loss for the year?*

*Response: Not at this time; the festival income is typically much better and was impacted by poor weather.*

## **SOUTHSIDE STAY GUEST SPEAKER** presented by Mike Alcock

Mike Alcock serves as the Board Chair for Southside Stay. Southside Stay is a community group with a board of 7 members. They work to support and empower public schools on the Southside with a focus on the local pathway for 7 Columbus City Elementary Schools. Stay also works to connect neighborhood members with community schools, raise public awareness of events and fundraisers, serve as liaisons between schools, the community and the district on the push to shake things up, and foster partnerships between public schools and organizations. Neighbors can get involved by joining the Stay board when there are openings, offer donation support, volunteer time at public schools in the reading buddy, community mentor or family ambassador programs. If you'd like to learn more or join these efforts, email [southsidestay@gmail.com](mailto:southsidestay@gmail.com) and follow the group on social media!

## **MVA BOARD ELECTION FOR SECRETARY**

Our 2018 Secretary, Katie Eisel resigned her position on the board at the end of last year. A nomination period to fill this position was previously announced at the Monthly MVA meeting in October and in our monthly newsletter. We received 1 nomination for Amanda Harris. A vote was taken at the January 2018 meeting and Amanda was elected to fill the remaining portion of the current term through 2019. She will join the board immediately.

## **VOTING RESULTS**

APPROVE: 12 | OPPOSE: 0 | ABSTAIN: 0

## **MERION VILLAGE INFO. CENTER**

Two individuals broke into the MVA Info. Center on December 13, 2018. Allison worked with the landlord to secure the center and the police to file a report. She was also able to obtain security footage of the suspects from the Southbend Tavern. At this time, no arrests have been made. If you live or own a business near the center and may have additional footage from this date, please email [mva-board@merionvillage.org](mailto:mva-board@merionvillage.org). Lost in the break-in were most of our Merion Village t-shirts, an old safe containing no items of value and a new carbon monoxide detector.



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## **MERION VILLAGE BLOCK WATCH**

There were no representatives present from the block watch to provide an update from recent meetings. The next block watch meeting is scheduled for January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. The board will be reviewing recent requests from the block watch during our next two meetings.

## **MVA ZONING PROCESSES & PROCEDURES DRAFT** presented by Tony Roell

Tony R. prepared a draft of procedures to be followed during the zoning and variance request process. These procedures are in line with current requirements from the City and provide further refinement and clarification for our internal processes. While these procedures would not alter our constitution or bylaws, we will still ask members to review and vote on the draft before it is fully implemented. The current draft is attached. Please email [zoning@merionvillage.org](mailto:zoning@merionvillage.org) if you have suggestions or questions.

## **20TH ANNUAL MERION VILLAGE GARDEN TOUR** presented by Eric Stegemoeller

This year, we will hold the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Merion Village Garden Tour. Allison would like to start forming the planning committee immediately to ensure this event is our biggest yet. We will need lots of gardens and interests to feature as well as volunteers to help plan and execute the events. Please email [gardentour@merionvillage.org](mailto:gardentour@merionvillage.org) if you're interested in participating in any way and follow our social media pages for announcements of meeting dates.

## **2019 MERION VILLAGE FESTIVAL** presented by Jessica Norman

Planning for our annual festival in September will begin in the next two months. We have already submitted the annual letter required by the City of Columbus to be included in the liquor legislation that will allow us to sell beer and wine at this event. We always need lots of volunteers for this event, so please email [festival@merionvillage.org](mailto:festival@merionvillage.org) if you're interested in participating!

## **SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION UPDATES** presented by Erin Synk

The SSAC has 2 at large appointment positions open including business at large and religious social services. No update on when traffic lights on Parsons are going to be working. The apartment building on Jenkins was unanimously approved.

## **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**

Merion Village Block Watch Meeting | January 8th (6:30 - 7:30 PM) at Parsons Branch Library  
PAMA Monthly South Side Happy Hour | January 15th (5 - 7 PM) at The Crest Parsons  
Village Connections Monthly Brunch | January 17th (10:30 AM) at Scrambler Marie's Livingston  
South Side Area Commission Monthly Meeting | January 22nd (6:30 - 8 PM) at Parsons Branch Library  
South Side Pre-K Options & Parent-Teacher Panel | January 23rd (6 - 7 PM) at Southwood Elementary School  
MVA Monthly Meeting | February 6th (7:15 PM) at St. Paul UCC  
House Sweet It Is | February 9th (1 - 4 PM) at Schreiner Ace Hardware

## **OPEN FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS**

- Hoping to do schedule our annual South Side Scholarship Chili Cook-Off in collaboration with South Central Commons Block Watch on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Still working through confirming a space to host this event.
- A neighbor who is new to the area would love to start a Merion Village Book Club if others are interested!
- There are currently no plans to revitalize the Southside Farmer's Market due to lack of volunteers able to organize and run these events. If a group of volunteers from any South Side neighborhoods would like to take on this effort, the MVA will excitedly support its resurgence.
- 3 South High School seniors received scholarships to Denison University this year!
- There are 2 additional work days scheduled at the MVA Info. Center in the next couple months. We are excited to unveil the new space soon and will be planning an Open House event for neighbors to checkout the center and meet the new board members!



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## **GENERAL REMINDERS**

- ✓ Visit our website at [www.MerionVillage.com](http://www.MerionVillage.com) for information about the MVA, past meeting minutes, details about upcoming events and a variety of helpful resources. You can also join the MVA and sign up for our monthly newsletter!
- ✓ Community Rewards: Remember that you can help support the MVA through our community reward partnerships! Visit our website for instructions to sign up for the 4 community reward programs including AmazonSmile, GoodSearch, GoodShop and Kroger Community Rewards.
- ✓ Report non-emergency crime to the Columbus Police Department by calling 614-645-4545.
- ✓ Report potholes, code violations, broken dumpsters and other requests for City services through the 311 Program. Call 311 from your telephone or visit [www.311.columbus.gov](http://www.311.columbus.gov)

**NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Wednesday, February 6, 2019 | 7:15 PM at St. Paul UCC (225 E. Gates Street)

# Merion Village Zoning Process and Procedures (draft)

The following is intended to describe the Merion Village Association (MVA) process and procedures for the BZA, Council, or Graphics Variances as well as Demolitions within our boundaries. For additional information regarding the South Side Area Commission and its process please refer the information located on the City's website here, <https://www.columbus.gov/areacommissions/southside/>.

While the MVA is aware that each request is important, we also have a responsibility to balance new development and demolitions with the whole of the neighborhood. Please keep in mind all positions are volunteer and that some communications may have to occur outside of business hours. We welcome conversations early in process and always welcome informal discussions prior to formal applications filed with the City.

## Formal Reviews of BZA, Council, or Graphics Variances

- Upon receipt of the application from the Commission the MVA Zoning Chair will coordinate with the applicant and the MVA board to schedule a presentation to the membership within 45 days. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled meeting to be considered for the agenda. Should that month's agenda be full the review could be pushed to the next month or held at a special meeting
- Applications will be reviewed by the MVA Zoning Committee for completeness, request appropriateness, and continuity with the surrounding neighborhood. The Zoning Chair shall communicate with the applicant to review additional information and to discuss potential concerns regarding the request.
- Notification of the request will be provided by the Board to the membership no less than ten days prior to the meeting.
- As a courtesy, written notification of the request and meeting date will be provided by the Zoning Committee to residents and businesses within 125 feet of the subject property. Additional notifications can be distributed as deemed appropriate for the project.
- The Applicant shall attend the MVA meeting to present the project to the membership. Failure to appear will result in the request being tabled with notification sent to the Commission.
- Following the Applicant's presentation and open discussion the Membership shall vote to Approve or Disapprove the request. The Zoning Chair shall provide a completed Recommendation Form to the MVA Board and Commission for their records.

## Informal Reviews of BZA, Council, or Graphics Variances

- Informal reviews by the membership of proposed projects are welcomed and encouraged. Informal reviews shall be scheduled prior to 7 days before our regular meeting date by contacting the MVA Zoning Chair listed above or as otherwise scheduled. These reviews are intended to provide feedback on proposed projects and will not be considered as a final approval for a project or request.

## Demolitions

- Upon receipt from the Commission, applications will be reviewed by the MVA Zoning Committee. The Committee chair shall communicate with the applicant to review additional information and to discuss potential concerns regarding the request. Reviews and responses will be handled based on the following:

-Demolition requests for structurally unsafe structures will be reviewed by the Committee and a recommendation provided to the Board. The board shall review the information and provide an Approval/Disapproval of the demolition to the Commission within 10 days of the demolition request. For a structure to be considered unsafe an accompanying stamped engineering report shall be provided indicating the immediate structural concern.

-Demolition requests for secondary structures that are structurally sound will be reviewed by the Committee and a recommendation provided to the Board. The board shall review the information provided and provide an Approval/Disapproval of the demolition to the Commission within 10 days of the demolition request.

-Demolition requests for primary structures that are structurally sound will be reviewed by the Committee and a recommendation provided to the Board. Primary structure demolitions will be reviewed and discussed with the membership at the next scheduled monthly meeting. The discussion is to determine if there is a legal, cultural, or other rational important to the specific site. Based on the discussion the Board will provide an Approval/Disapproval of the demolition. Should this process extend past the 10 day window allotted by the Commission the Zoning Chair shall request an extension.

Note demolitions requested in conjunction with a BZA or Council Variance will be reviewed and included on the membership vote for that project / request.