

Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

November 5, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

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

MEETING DURATION: 7:00 PM – 8:25 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: 26

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 8

TOPIC: Introductions

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Introductions of board members, all members, non-members and guests in attendance.

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

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Michele reported on income and expenses for the month of October. Thanks to Tracy Studer and the Explorer's Club, we had a very successful Pasta Dinner and raised over \$500.00 for the Association.

TOPIC: 501c3 Status

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The check for our application has been cashed. We await final re-approval of 501c3 status.

TOPIC: Kroger Rewards Reminder

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Remember, it's easy to support the Merion Village Association just buy shopping for groceries! Just visit <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and Sign In or Create and Account. You'll input your Kroger Rewards Card number and the MVA will receive credit every time you shop with your card. Participation must be renewed annually and will not cost you a penny. This program will not deduct any of your personal rewards.

TOPIC: Safety Committee

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The next safety meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 19th and will begin at 5:30 PM. As always, the meeting will be held at the MVA Information Center.

TOPIC: Updates from Wes Miller

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Wes provided an update to attendees as to the upcoming events hosted by T.Y. Fine Furniture. On November 21st, they will host an abstract art showing of works by local artists. The event will have food and wine as well. The next Chamber Music Series will be on November 30th and will feature a bluegrass band called "Grassahol". This event will begin at 5:00 PM.

TOPIC: Good Neighbor Agreements and Local Complaints

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Anne Stewart has agreed to help out with the Southbend Good Neighbor Agreement that was discussed at a previous meeting. She has already distributed the forms to several residents and will compile issues some neighbors have with the bar. Anne had examples of the forms that are consistent with what the City recognizes as Good Neighbor Agreements for individuals to view. Once the forms are collected, they will draft up an agreement and then follow-up quarterly to see if there have been improvements. While this is not legally binding, it does give residents an outlet to voice concerns and work together outside of 311 and CPD reports.

TOPIC: Additional Zoning Variance Requests for 1224 S. High St.

DURATION: 25 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The owner of 1224 S. High Street is seeking additional variance requests to accommodate a change to the parking plans and a front patio. The owner came to the association previously to request approval on his variance request for parking. He has altered their plans based upon costs and expenses and is seeking an additional variance change to further reduce the parking. The individual speaking on behalf of the owner and project indicated that they hope for this to be a high-end bar with a couple of pool tables. They are still in the early planning stages. They anticipate their hours of operation to open in the afternoon and close by midnight. A member raised a concern about the lack of a stoplight or crosswalk across high street from the parking lot they will rent and the location of the bar. The presenter indicated that the establishment will offer a free valet service to patrons. Jessica Norman asked if the bar would require mandatory valet in order to park in the rented lot. The presenter was not sure but said she would look in to this. Anne Stewart commented that this proposal and project seem to be completely different from what was previously presented. As it was then, this proposal was largely debated. Anne also felt that the “pitch” presented at this meeting indicates they don’t want the residents of this neighborhood to patronize their bar as it was mentioned several times that they want the bar to be “high-end” and “not just another South-Side bar”.. The speaker responded that when they say they want this location to be “high end” she means to indicate that they are putting in nice wood floors, nicer fixtures, granite countertops, etc. Many members were very concerned about the presentation being so different as there are safety issues with patrons crossing the street. One member wanted to table this issue, but the Southside area commission will vote this month regardless of whether or not we table the discussion. Tony reminded those in attendance that we have the ability to vote to oppose these issues if we are not satisfied with the presentation and requests. After the votes were counted, both issues passed. However, Anne asked the presenter to discuss this meeting with the owner and request that they come back to the Association to update us as to their further plans for the space.

VOTING RESULTS - PARKING VARIANCE: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 13 / Members Voting NO: 10)

VOTING RESULTS - FRONT PATIO: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 15 / Members Voting NO: 8)

TOPIC: Barrett Redevelopment

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Neighbors who live adjacent to the site are having a meeting soon regarding their concerns about density, parking and building height. These variance and zoning requests were approved by the MVA and by the Southside Area Commission.

TOPIC: Board Elections

DURATION: 10 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tony Roell is running to continue as President. He looks forward to the next two years. Coda Bruce introduced herself to all in attendance and briefly spoke about the move she and her Husband made to Merion Village two years ago. They recently purchased the home they were renting which use to be a dance studio on High Street. They are renovating the home from the inside out. Coda wanted to be more involved in her neighborhood and is excited to have this opportunity. Tracy Studer is running to continue as member-at-large. He hopes to have the opportunity to continue working with the board and the association.

VOTING RESULTS: PRESIDENT - Tony Roell (Members Supporting: 22 / Members Opposing: 0)

VOTING RESULTS: VICE PRESIDENT - Coda Bruce (Members Supporting: 22 / Members Opposing: 0)

VOTING RESULTS: MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Tracy Studer (Members Supporting: 22 / Members Opposing: 0)

TOPIC: Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner!

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Someone in attendance tonight has two tickets for the Gates Forth Chicken Dinner on November 5th and 6th. The lucky attendee found his tickets!

TOPIC: Gateway Grant and Kiosks

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The mounted kiosks have been temporarily removed as the “clear coat” meant to prevent rusting was not working. The building will be cleaned and the kiosk will be recoated before they are re-mounted.

TOPIC: Southside Area Commission Report

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Heyl Elementary School may be redeveloped into condos and townhomes which would also include a community education space. The public services committee is taking a look at the Parsons Avenue Improvement Plan and are looking to gather feedback and potentially address a list of recommendations and concerns in order to improve upon the plan. If you would like to submit comments, please email Erin Synk at EESynk@yahoo.com. Anne Stewart asked Chris Macisco why he abstained from voting as the South Side Area Commission Representative for Merion Village at the South Bend Site Hearing. Chris could not recall this meeting but said he understood that we would expect him to vote consistently with the majority vote of the Association.

TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We will be hosting the annual MVA potluck and bake-sale on Wednesday, December 3rd, in place of our regular monthly meeting. Bring your neighbors and friends and a potluck dish to share! If you'd like to donate homemade baked goods to be sold at the bake sale, please e-mail Jessica (JNorman@MerionVillage.org).

DATE (TIME)	EVENT DESCRIPTION	COORDINATOR(S)
November 13 th (6:00 - 8:00 PM)	MVA Happy Hour	Tony Roell
LOCATION: Red Brick Tap & Grill (292 E. Gates Street)		
December 3 rd (7:00 - 9:00 PM)	MVA Potluck and Cookie Trade	Jessica Norman
LOCATION: T.Y. Fine Furniture (106 E. Moler Street)		

TOPIC: Business Development Grant

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We ordered and received our 2015 and 2016 keytags for the MVA membership rewards. Unfortunately, there was a typo in the final artwork we provided to the vendor and the tags were printed with the error. We contacted the vendor who has graciously offered to print corrected tags for the association at a discounted rate. These will be part of the 2015 memberships. Tracy and Jessica are continue to build the group of businesses who will participate in the program and offer rewards to members.

TOPIC: Southside Pride Center

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: A ribbon ceremony was hosted at the center. Regular meetings take place on the 3rd Monday of every month. Due to policies at h Maloney Center, the South Side Pride group will need to move their location. Block watch meetings are held at the Barak Recreation Center at 6:30 PM on the 4th Wednesday of every month. E-mail Samantha Hudson for more information. SRHudson@columbus.gov

TOPIC: Crime Concerns

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Several members discussed their recent experiences with theft and crime at and around their homes. One member said his neighbor reported that the CPD will not come out to investigate unless \$3,000 or more is stolen. Victims must submit their reports to the CPD online. Car batteries are also being stolen from cars parked on the streets. Stay vigilant and remember that 80% of crimes occur out of opportunity.

TOPIC: The MINT Gallery

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: There is a benefit on December 5th and 6th at the new MINT gallery located at 42 E. Jenkins. MINT is renovating the old chicken factory which has been abandoned for 15 years. They will have a community garden next year and several various art medium stations which they will make available to the community. For more information, contact MINTColumbus@gmail.com.

GENERAL REMINDERS:

01. 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, January 7th at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.