



## Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:** Monthly Association Meeting

**LOCATION:** 225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206

**MEETING DURATION:** 7:15 PM – 8:10 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell ([TRoell@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TRoell@MerionVillage.org))
- VICE PRESIDENT: Coda Bruce ([CBruce@MerionVillage.org](mailto:CBruce@MerionVillage.org))
- TREASURER: Allison Willford ([AWillford@MerionVillage.org](mailto:AWillford@MerionVillage.org))
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman ([JNorman@MerionVillage.org](mailto:JNorman@MerionVillage.org))
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Nicholas Jenior ([NJenior@MerionVillage.org](mailto:NJenior@MerionVillage.org))

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- NONE

**TOPIC:** Treasurer's Report (Presented by Allison Willford)

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Allison presented the monthly treasurer's report. We made some donations to the Ganther's Place House Sweet it is event at Tatoheads.

**TOPIC:** Future of the Current MVA Info. Center

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We discussed the status of the info. center last month and whether we would continue to rent the center after Acupuncture and Wellness of Merion Village vacates the space. We applied for a United Way Grant to make improvements to the space and we will know if we are awarded this grant in April.

**TOPIC:** Merion Village Pocket Park at Morrill and Bruck

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We had a pocket park meeting last week with roughly 10 attendees. The first meeting in November of last year had more than 20 attendees. Tony is hopeful that we will see more interest in this effort as there is much to be done. We applied for 3 different grants to help make improvements and await to hear if we will be awarded the requested funds.

**TOPIC:** Gateway Kiosks

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We now have signed permission to hang a kiosk on the Red Brick and it will be installed in the near future. We will have homes for 3 of the kiosks said and will need to determine where to hang the remaining 2.

**TOPIC:** Merion Village Block Watch Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The block watch will be hosting a few classes outside of the monthly meetings to help with neighborhood safety and security education. The first class should be scheduled in late spring.

**TOPIC:** MVA Beautification and Zoning Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We had a pocket park meeting last week with roughly 10 attendees. The first meeting in November of last year had more than 20 attendees. Tony is hopeful that we will see more interest in this effort as there is much to be done. We applied for 3 different grants to help make improvements and await to hear if we will be awarded the requested funds. We were hoping to combine the planter rehabilitation project with the cleanup in April but there are scheduling conflicts which won't allow us to do this. We've located a total of 27 planters to date. Only those that can be repaired will be reinserted into the neighborhood.

**TOPIC:** MVA Business Development Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The business development committee is working to schedule their first meeting in the coming week. If you'd like to join this committee, you can visit our website to sign up.



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**TOPIC:** MVA Education Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The education committee will also be having their first meeting in the next couple weeks. Mike Alcock spoke about an initiative the Columbus City Schools has started to seek community recommendations for facility changes, updates and renovations. Mike is happy to discuss this with anyone who is interested. The district released a survey yesterday asking for input regarding many of the changes being discussed. This is all aimed at a ballot measure they hope to bring forward in November. The survey is available online as well and must be completed by March 14th. If you complete a physical survey, you must take it to any Columbus City School no later than March 11th. There will be community forums coming up which have not yet been scheduled but are likely to occur in April. You can find a complete list of scheduled meetings and agendas on the County City Schools website. Columbus City Schools has recently expanded Pre-K. Enrollment being April 4th and you can visit the Columbus City Schools website for more information.

**TOPIC:** MVA Social and Membership Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The social and membership committee is working to schedule our first meeting in the next week. We currently have 6 members and are looking to expand that number to at least 10 as the MVA typically hosts and event each month during the year. We will have a neighborhood appreciation event at the Hey Hey on March 10th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

**TOPIC:** Scheduled Events and Activities

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We will have our spring community cleanup on Saturday, April 23rd. If you know of an area in Merion Village you'd like to target, e-mail Anne at [AStewart@MerionVillage.org](mailto:AStewart@MerionVillage.org). If you'd like to participate in the cleanup, meet at the Info. Center on S. Fourth Street at 9:45 AM. Keep Columbus Beautiful is hosting Kick Butt Columbus on March 19th. JoAnne St. Clair is gathering a South Side group for this event.

DATE (TIME)	EVENT DESCRIPTION	COORDINATOR(S)
March 10 <sup>th</sup> (6:00 PM - 8:00 PM)	Neighborhood Appreciation Event	Nick J.
<b>LOCATION:</b> Hey Hey Bar & Grill (361 E Whittier St, Columbus, OH 43206)		
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)	Merion Village Spring Community Clean-Up	Anne S.
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood		
May 7 <sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM)	Merion Village Spring Community Yard Sale	Jessica N.
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood (Location Map Will be Available)		
July 9 <sup>th</sup> (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)	Annual Merion Village Garden Tour	Garden Tour Committee
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood (Location Map Will be Available)		
August 27 <sup>th</sup> (TBD)	Annual Merion Village Summer Festival	Festival Committee
<b>LOCATION:</b> Moeller Park (261 Hanford St, Columbus, OH 43206)		
September (TBD)	Merion Village Autumn Community Clean-Up	TBD
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood		
October (TBD)	Merion Village Autumn Community Yard Sale	Jessica N.
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood (Location Map Will be Available)		
December (TBD)	Annual Merion Village Potluck & Bake Sale	TBD
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		



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**TOPIC: Status of the New Library**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Coda, Allison and Nick were able to take a tour of the new library on Parsons a couple of weeks ago. The 19,000+ square foot space is coming along nicely and is going to be an excellent facility for the community. They are targeting to open the branch on June 4th. As they get closer to this date, they will confirm the grand opening event with an announcement. As always, the library will be looking for volunteers to help out around the branch. Bob Leighty is working with others to develop on an interactive display for the library to help promote community events.

**TOPIC: Arts Festival Volunteer Opportunity with the MVA**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We will be volunteering to staff a frozen beverage booth at the Arts Festival again this year. We will have the booth for all three days and open hours, so we'll need lots of volunteers. Visit our website to sign up!

**TOPIC: Merion Village Farmer's Market**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Merion Village Farmer's market will be happening again this year, beginning in June. If you know a vendor who is interested in participating, please e-mail Coda at [CBruce@MerionVillage.org](mailto:CBruce@MerionVillage.org).

**TOPIC: Southside Area Commission Report (Presented by Erin S. and Anne S.)**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The spring into action community event is April 2nd from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at South High School. This is the second annual event where they will be highlighting community improvements. The second annual Karrie Garnes awards will also be presented. You can visit [www.allthingsouth.org](http://www.allthingsouth.org) for more information. We nominated Erin Sync for the Merion Village award.

**TOPIC: The Parsons Avenue Improvement Plan**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** There was an open house to review the Parsons Avenue redevelopment plans. Tony circulated these plans. The project will remove 4 stop lights at Hanford, Hosack, Innis and Sycamore. Left turns will be allowed on all of Parsons. There will be a significant reduction in on street parking availability which is frustrating because it can deter new businesses from coming to the area and can increase requests to build large parking lots. If you have concerns about traffic light removal, you can go to 311 and request a traffic study. This project will likely break ground in July of this year and should complete in a year's time. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please report this to 311. Anne S. commented that it may be helpful of people include common concerns and terminology in their reports. This plan could hinder commercial and economic development as well as pedestrian safety and walkability. For example, there will be no stop lights or crosswalks on parsons between Whittier and Livingston. If the city cannot change their plan, what other assistance and initiatives can they offer the neighborhoods to improve safety and encourage economic growth. A neighbor asked if we've ever had a representative from COTA attend our meetings which we have not. Another neighbor also suggested contacting MORPC about our concerns.

**TOPIC: Changes to the MVA Constitution**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Following our last meeting, a member had some comments about the changes proposed to the MVA Constitution. Accordingly, additional changes have been made and are described below. These changes will be voted upon by all members present at the April meeting.

- There was a minor text modification in paragraph one regarding who is eligible to vote.
- In paragraph 4, there is a correction to notate absentee voting.
- There was a question regarding voting periods and whether or not votes can occur after the meeting has concluded. This is not standard practice for voting or elections and will not be included in the proposed changes.
- We clarified the requirements for the information needed on the absentee ballots.



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**TOPIC:** Local Political Candidates

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Two local Democratic political candidates attended our monthly and introduced themselves to those in attendance.

**GENERAL REMINDERS:**

- ✓ Community Rewards: The board would like to remind members and residents of the reward programs which help support the MVA. Visit our website for instructions to sign up for the 4 community reward programs in which we currently participate, 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, April 6, 2016 in the basement of St. Paul UCC (225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206) beginning promptly at 7:15 PM.