



Merion Village Association

Monthly Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2018

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

LOCATION: St. Paul UCC (225 E. Gates Street)

MEETING DURATION: 7:15 – 8:45 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- PRESIDENT | Allison Willford | President@MerionVillage.org
- VICE PRESIDENT | Jessica Norman | VicePresident@MerionVillage.org
- TREASURER | Eric Stegemoeller | Treasurer@MerionVillage.org
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE | Karen Musick | MemberAtLarge@MerionVillage.org

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

- SECRETARY | Katie Eisel | Secretary@MerionVillage.org

Monthly MVA Treasurer's Report presented by Eric Stegemoeller

Two South Side students at South High School applied for the Merion Village South Side Scholarship this year. We did not receive any applications last year when the scholarship was first launched. As such, after reviewing both of this year's applications and essays, we were thrilled to award each student a \$1,000 scholarship to assist them in continuing their education journey. Our spring yard sale generated enough income to fully cover all advertisement and administrative costs associated with the event. The rent check for May has not yet been cashed by our landlord. We continue to work with our landlord to address issues and necessary repairs in the Info Center. We still need volunteers to help with the cleanup and renovation efforts that the MVA will be completing. We will create a list of supplies and work needed after the landlord verifies what she will do on her own. We did not apply for new grants in 2018 because we want to focus on working through the existing funds from previously awarded grants.

Variance Requests for 1581 Parsons Ave.

The applicant is seeking approval to rezone the property back to a single-family home. The applicant was not present at the meeting and no formal presentation was given. Based on the simple nature of this request, a vote proceeded on the request.

VOTING RESULTS: SUPPORT: 11 | OPPOSE: 2 | ABSTAIN: 1

Variance Requests for 1037 Parsons Ave. presented by building Owner & Tenant

The tenant of this property is working to open a gym and community space that will primarily work with recovering addicts. They are seeking variances to reduce the amount of glass required on the front of the building and to allow a parking reduction from 28 spaces to 0.

- This is an existing structure and the current amount of glass is only 40% of what is required.
- The existing structure on this lot covers almost 100% of the lot leaving no room for parking. This will be an issue for any business that wants to use this space. The tenants plan to heavily encourage walking and biking to this establishment and will also install bike racks. Pizza Hut across the street, Stowe Mission and the Church For All People have all agreed to open their existing parking lots to allow parking for this business. They are also discussing special event parking access with the library. An attendee asked if there will be communication plans in place to ensure members know where park. The tenant responded that parking options will be readily communicated.
- The resident who lives on Siebert directly across from this building asked about hours of operation. The tenants believe they will be open Monday – Friday, 6 AM to 9 PM, Saturday from 8 AM to 6 PM and Sunday from 10 AM to 6 PM. These hours may change based on their member's needs.



- If there are parking or other issues, neighbors want to know who to contact. The tenant responded that they want to be very good neighbors and intend to be very accessible. Tony reminded us that on street parking in our neighborhood is technically public parking which means the tenant's cannot demand that their members do not park on the street.
- A resident asked if the tenant has studied the volume of cars in the nearby lots who have agreed to allow gym members to park in their spaces. The tenant responded that they are still working through these discussions with nearby businesses.
- Allison asked if the tenant could at all estimate how many members will be using the facility at one time. The tenant responded that this is hard to predict. They are an organization that supports people in recovery and their facilities include the gym, a kitchen for shared meals, a spall music space and other shared spaces. They will be hosting special events, classes and other meetings so they could see attendance of classes with up to 30 people at a time.
- A resident asked if these kinds of resources are always available elsewhere for recovering addicts. The tenant responded that she is in recovery herself and she was not able to find these kind of resources, which is why she wanted to create it herself. She believes this will be an excellent opportunity to help people find their way back into the community. All will be welcome.
- A resident asked if they will have classes and programs for people who need PT after surgery. The tenant responded that this is not in their current plan but she will discuss this with one of her colleagues working on the facility.
- An employee from Columbus Parks & Recreation asked if the tenant felt this facility would be in conflict with the facilities and services offered at Schiller Park. The tenant does not believe this will be a conflict and would like to partner with Schiller as she currently hosts a few classes in the park.
- This facility will be membership based but the tenant is also working with groups to offer up to 200 scholarship memberships for those who cannot afford to pay on their own. They are also partnering with other organizations to create programs for recovery.
- Tony asked if the tenants have tried to work with the tenant of the vacant parking lot just south of the facility for parking. They have tried to send purchase offers to no avail.
- There is a property just north of this building that is owned by the same owners of this building that is not being maintained. The owner responded that the project will be next in line.
- A resident asked about trash control for this facility. They will need to have a standalone dumpster.
- A resident asked what kind of glass they will use on the building in anticipation of vandalism. They will be using glass that can withstand a brick being thrown at it.
- A resident asked in the Parsons redevelopment will impact this facility. Erin advised that the city hopes to have the project complete at the end of the year. The project will cause an overall slight reduction in parking on Parsons.
- Tony asked if the tenant would be willing to enter into a good neighbor agreement. The tenant responded that they absolutely would.
- Allison received and read aloud an email from Anne S. with her personal words of support for this request based on her experience with the tenant and the tenant's involvement in neighborhood meetings and substance abuse initiatives.

A member proposed a motion that should the member present vote to approve this request, we would only pass that approval along to the SSAC and City at the signing of a Good Neighbor Agreement and verified parking contingencies. The motion passed with 13 in support, 0 opposed and 1 abstention.

VOTING RESULTS: SUPPORT: 14 | OPPOSE: 0 | ABSTAIN: 0



Merion Village Block Watch Update presented by Mary Cannon

The Block Watch is still looking for neighbors who will volunteer to assist in leading as coordinators. A portion of Merion Village currently has officers from the Safe Streets Program which bring cops on bikes into the community during the day shifts throughout the summer.

Beautification & Zoning Committee Update presented by Allison Willford

Allison and some neighborhood kids spent several hours last weekend working in Walker Park (fka the Pocket Park at Morrill & Bruck). We have a new sign for this location which will I soon be installed.

Education Committee Update

We awarded two scholarships to south high seniors this year. The library summer reading program started last Saturday and is open to all ages. The library is also hosting a college prep. program. This year's senior class president at South High School was one of only 300 nationwide recipients of the Gates Scholarship! South High School scores are currently the best in the district.

South Side Area Commission Update presented by Present Commissioners

- The commission voted to support the C2P2 plan in concept and to be an early adopter. The city is trying to clean up old policies related to zoning and planning. There are currently 2 plans in the south side which will be aligned with the SSAC boundaries to a single plan for overlays, etc. This will help streamline the policies for our area. For example, the current plan doesn't address things like commercial storage, so they will look at where and how that land use should work. This will go before city council in July. As an early adopter, the Commission hopes to be an active voice in how the plan is structured.
- Tom and Tony met with a city planner about our conservation plan project. History conservation is not covered in C2P2, so if our plan is adopted, it can help with those preservation efforts.
- Deb Roberts and Bob Leighty have been working with Rep. Stinziano for over a year to seek funds for pedestrian cosmetic improvements on Parsons. \$140,000 will be available for this effort. If you have suggestions of things you'd see, contact Bob.
- City council is having an Air B&B hearing to discuss how the legislation for this should work. It's Thursday June 14th 5:30-7:30 at Schiller park. You must fill out a speaker slip to speak.
- The council had a press conference today on safety issues.

19th Annual Merion Village Garden Tour presented by Allison Willford

We still have a few spaces open and you can apply on the website. We're thrilled to host this event for the 19th year! We'll once again offer free Pedi-cab rides from garden to garden.

6th Annual Merion Village Festival presented by Jessica Norman

We continue to plan the 6th annual festival which will take place on Sunday, September 9th from 12 to 6 PM. We need lots of support and volunteers for the planning and execution of this event. Please e-mail Jessica at jnorman@merionvillage.org if you'd like to volunteer!

Merion Village Neighborhood Survey presented by Jessica Norman

We received over 100 responses to our recent neighborhood survey! We'd like to thank everyone who participated and helped us to gather valuable information. We will be providing more expansive summary of the results in the near future, but for now, the biggest takeaways show that the neighborhood wants to focus on safety, beautification and our annual events.



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Community Events & Activities

- PAMA South Side Happy Hour | Thursday, June 21st (4PM-7PM) at Snow's Bar (2114 Groveport Rd.)
Join PAMA along with local businesses and residents for an evening of networking and getting to know your neighbors! All are welcome and encouraged to attend!
- SSAC Monthly Meeting | Tuesday, June 26th (6:30PM-8PM) at Parsons Library (1113 Parsons Ave.)
The Columbus South Side Area Commission makes recommendations to the City regarding zoning, events and changes in the south side area. Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of every month (except in August) beginning at 6:30 PM and vary in duration based on agenda items.
- 19th Annual Merion Village Garden Tour | Sunday, July 8th (10AM-3PM) throughout Merion Village
Don't miss the 19th Annual Merion Village Garden Tour! This event features pedi-cabs and is free and open to the public.
- Ganthers Place Garden Tour | Sunday, July 29th (10 AM–3 PM) throughout Ganthers Place
Ganthers Place is proud to hos their 14th Annual Garden Tour! This event features pedicabs and is free and open to the public.
- 6th Annual Merion Village Festival | Sunday, September 9th (12PM–6PM) at Moeller Park (261 Hanford St.)
The Annual Merion Village Festival celebrates artists, crafters, local businesses and organizations as well as the beautiful and vibrant atmosphere of the Historic Merion Village neighborhood. The event includes live music, a variety of food trucks and vendors, a beer and wine garden, activities for children, handmade wares, non-profit organizations, local businesses and a silent auction.

GENERAL REMINDERS

- ✓ 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
- ✓ Visit our website at www.MerionVillage.com for information about the MVA, past meeting minutes, details about upcoming events and a variety of helpful resources. You can also signup for our monthly newsletter!

NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Wednesday, July 11th | 7:15 PM, location to be determined.