

# Merion Village Association

## MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2015

**DESCRIPTION:** Monthly Association Meeting

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

**MEETING DURATION:** 7:00 PM – 8:20 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: Michele Audetat ([MAudetat@MerionVillage.org](mailto:MAudetat@MerionVillage.org))
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman ([JNorman@MerionVillage.org](mailto:JNorman@MerionVillage.org))
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Tracey Studer ([TStuder@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TStuder@MerionVillage.org))

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- NONE

**TOTAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 20

**TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 4

**TOPIC:** Introductions

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

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

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

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We have several membership deposits this month which were moved into our bank account from the PayPal system. We also received a Community Rewards check from Kroger.

**TOPIC:** 501c3 Status

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The 501c3 status has been reestablished. The approval was applied retroactively so it's like it was never inactive.

**TOPIC:** GoodSearch and GoodShop

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** About an hour before the meeting, we received the good news that the MVA was added to the directory of approved non-profit organizations in the GoodSearch and GoodShop programs! Visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) to sign up for free! We are also working toward becoming part of the Amazon Smile program. Stay tuned!

**TOPIC:** Southbend Tavern Good Neighbor Agreement

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Good Neighbor Agreement with the Southbend is in the final stages. Anne would like to present the final written agreement to the board before our next meeting.

**TOPIC:** Barrett and Parsons Library Redevelopments

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Tony has been in communication with the developers of the Library and Barrett. The Library is still awaiting utility relocation before they can begin work in the alley. Both the Library and Barrett are looking at a starting schedule in the early Summer. As we have more information we will share with the association members.

**TOPIC:** 360 Stewart

**DURATION:** 13 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Tina Goodman owns and occupies 360 Stewart. She would like to demolish her current garage and build a new structure. Tina provided handouts to the attendees displaying her proposed design. She has been a resident of Merion Village for 15 years and loves the area. She and her Mother have invested in properties in the neighborhood and Southside in general. They are very committed to this area. Tina wants to convert her garage to a carriage house which will eventually serve as a residence for her Mother who currently lives in Shumaker Place. She has a large lot and is seeking a setback, height and use variance. She needs a technical variance for parking because while she will have the required 4 spaces, they are stacked two and two within the garage. The eligible members in attendance voted unanimously in support of Tina's plan.

**VOTING RESULTS:** APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 17 / Members Voting NO: 0 / Members Abstaining: 1)

**TOPIC:** 123 E. Welch

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The property at 123 E. Welch is about to be demolished. If no one shows interest in this property, it will be demolished in three weeks or so. Tony was told there is a list of properties up for demolition. He will locate this and share the link.

**TOPIC:** Safety Committee and Block Watch Update

**DURATION:** 3 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The first Block Watch meeting was a tremendous success with over 60 attendees! The next meeting is April 15th at St. Paul’s Church on Gates beginning at 6:30 PM. We are sadly looking for a new safety chair as Anthony’s house is for sale. He and his fiancé are looking to move closer to her place of work. Chris M. mentioned the Nextdoor app to everyone. Last week, he was in Texas and his neighbor saw someone steal Chris’ recycling bin. When the police responded, they arrested the men who had active warrants. If we see a recycling bin being pushed around, call the non-emergency CPD number at 645-4545. Each bin has a serial number relating to the address where it belongs.

**TOPIC:** Unleashed Dogs at Moeller Park

**DURATION:** 6 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** A member is concerned about the unleashed dogs at Moeller Park. She wanted to know if others in attendance agreed that we should put up a sign asking dog owners to keep their dogs on lead. Another member’s friend who lives on Welch was walking his dog on a leash and he and his dog were attacked by three unleashed dogs. Both he and his dog needed stitches. Several members agreed that a sign would be a good idea. Moeller is a small space and it would be safer to have dogs leashed. Chris M. asked if we should look into getting a fenced area in the park for dogs to run off leashes. Coda wants to reach out to the City to start the process of trying to create a dog park on one of the vacant lots and she will also ask about a sign or space at Moeller.

**TOPIC:** Scheduled Events and Activities

**DURATION:** 26 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Our next community is scheduled for 4/18/15. This will coincide with the overall Southside cleanup. Merion Village participants should meet at the MVA Info. Center at 9:45 AM and the cleanup will take place from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Following the cleanup, there will be a community potluck at Barack Recreation center. Anne S. registered our pocket park with Green Columbus which will hopefully result in some helpful items for the location. Anne suggests that we identify 5 key zones that need some attention. The Kroger parking lots are a complete mess and Tony plans to invite the manager to our next meeting. Fran S. mentioned a past good neighbor agreement with Kroger which Tony will attempt to locate. Anne would like us to look into renewing this. Those in attendance felt it would be nice if local businesses offered some snacks or drinks to volunteers who are participating in the cleanup. Anne will reach out to Southeast and to Kroger, Southwood Church of Christ, etc. Sarah mentioned that the alleys are normally the worst areas as they generate a lot of the trash that blows in to the neighborhood. We can identify broken trash cans and report issues to 311. Registered pocket parks are available online. Michelle asked about the trees in the bump-outs on fourth that are dead and need to be replaced. Tony will follow-up with JoAnne St. Clair about this. Chris suggested everyone make a list of blight properties and report them to 311 consistently. The more reports, the more the City will respond. Numbers matter! The Merion Village Community Yard Sale is Saturday, May 9th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, RAIN OR SHINE! We will publish an ad in This Week and Phil B. is working on an app for the sale. The app creates a search engine for the sale allowing people to search for items they would like to buy. We are the pilot for this new app. Michelle suggest that people post on Craig’s list of they will be selling. You can register online for the map which is free for MVA members. We will also partner with Good Will to donate unsold items. The Merion Village Garden Tour Committee is working together to pick a date for the event.

<b>DATE (TIME)</b>	<b>EVENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COORDINATOR(S)</b>
April 18 <sup>th</sup> (9:45 AM - 12:00 PM)	Biannual Merion Village Community Clean-Up	Anne Stewart
<b>LOCATION:</b> Meeting at the MVA Info. Center		
May 9 <sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM)	Merion Village Community Yard Sale	Jessica Norman, Michelle K & Others
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village		
June (TDB)	Annual Merion Village Garden Tour	Garden Tour Committee
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		

**TOPIC:** Wine Tasting Event at MINT

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Coda is still working on the wine event with MINT who will host the evening. We would like to have this event coincide with MINT's current art gallery showing. We are also looking to host a networking event on a patio of one of our local establishments in the near future.

**TOPIC:** Merion Village Fundraiser at the Arts Festival in June

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We still need more volunteers for the beverage booth we will be running at the Columbus Arts Festival on June 12th and 13th. Please visit our website to register as a volunteer!

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

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** PAMA meets the first Wednesday of the month at noon at Scrambler Marie's. If you know of local businesses, please encourage them to get involved with PAMA.

**TOPIC:** Pride Center Update

**DURATION:** 3 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Sam has been interning at the Pride Center for the last several months and part of her final project is to gauge community opinion of the Pride Center. She brought a survey with her and passed it out to attendees, asking for input.

**TOPIC:** Local School Updates

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Stewart Elementary will now have Pre-K. The Beck school will be repurposed.

**TOPIC:** Children's Hospital Updates

**DURATION:** 4 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Children's Hospital is expanding and provided updates at a recent community meeting. They are building an underground tunnel for employee travel which will reduce pedestrian traffic. The Healthy Homes program has several homes under contract and are partnering with the land bank, rehabbing, rebuilding and reselling the homes. Columbus has been rated one of the most intelligent cities worldwide. Check out AllThingsSouth.org. There are new pools being installed in our area at a cost of 10.5 million.

**TOPIC:** Gateway Kiosks

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We are still researching a company who can help us repaint and remount the Gateway Kiosks.

**TOPIC:** The Buy Local Rewards Program and Business Development

**DURATION:** 2 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Business Development project is well underway. The final packets have been prepared and we have begun providing them to local businesses. The board passed around copies of the packet for attendees to view. Interested businesses can get more information by e-mail Coda or visiting our website!

**TOPIC:** Pending Grants

**DURATION:** 5 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We applied for a grant to help us redo the Merion Village planters. We will get these finished by the summer, even if we don't receive the grant, we have a backup plan for the makeover. Michelle K. mentioned that they original plan for these planters was that they would be placed in high-traffic areas. Anne S. volunteered to help with distribution once they are ready to be redeployed. We should hear back from the United Way this month regarding the two grants we requested including the beatification and crime & safety proposals.

**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](http://www.311.columbus.gov)

**NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.