



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

August 7th, 2019 | 7:15 PM – 8:30 PM | MVA Info Center (1330 S 4th St, Columbus, OH 43206)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

- ✓ PRESIDENT | Jess Norman
- ✓ VICE PRESIDENT | Jessica Hatala
- ✓ SECRETARY | Amanda Harris
- ✓ MEMBER-AT-LARGE | Lauren Larrick

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

- ✓ TREASURER | Eric Stegemoeller

NEW FACES AT THE MONTHLY MEETING

Lots of new faces! Welcome, everyone!

MVA TREASURER'S REPORT

There's a large expense for rent, only because checks had been going to the landlord's previous address and she didn't get them until now. The issue is all cleared up! The garden tour expenses are all in – we're just waiting for a pedicab sponsorship to come in. The next expenses will be for the festival on September 8th.

VILLAGE CONNECTIONS GUEST SPEAKER

Village Connections helps senior citizens stay in their homes. They cut grass, shovel snow, drive to appointments, and provide 3 (soon to be 4) activities each month – a lunch, a brunch, and a social hour with rides provided to all events. They aren't only operational in German Village; they also serve Merion Village, Brewery District, Downtown, and Schumacher Place. Merion Village is an aging neighborhood, so there's a lot of potential. It's a membership based organization - \$500/year for one person or \$750/year for a two person household. This may seem expensive, but think about the alternatives; a medical shuttle is around \$400 for one out and back trip and it's much cheaper than assisted living. Village Connections was the first of its kind in Ohio and now there are 5 similar organizations around Columbus! What can you do? You can volunteer to drive them to and from appointments, visit them, and more. Their website has a lot of information on volunteering! They do a background check, which they pay for, before you're able to volunteer. You can also introduce the program to your senior neighbors. There are also programs in place to help with the fees, such as monthly billing and grants. Final ask: Look within yourself and note how lucky you are. Know you can make a difference in a senior's life.

MERION VILLAGE BLOCK WATCH UPDATE

No one present.

295 E JENKINS AVE VARIANCE REQUEST

Request: Reduce parking from 7 spaces to 0.

Last use of this building was a locksmith and key maker shop. New owners would like to put a small neighborhood fitness center there, possibly with personal training. There's no parking except for a garage there – there's no room for 7 spaces so wish to do on street parking. They're hoping the clientele is from the neighborhood, so not many cars. Fire code is 30-35 people. There will be no new building, just renovating the building that is already there. It's locally owned. The variance would move with the building's owners unless it goes through a change of use such as gym to restaurant. The permit plans are in but they need zoning before they can start. Inside changes will be gutting it and adding new restrooms and finishes. Outside changes will just be repairs and replacements for what is there. The owners are not in attendance, only the architect, so it's unknown what the hours will be, as well as what kind of gym it'll be. The owners didn't come because there was a misunderstanding thinking this meeting didn't take place in August because the Commission meeting doesn't occur in August. Neighbor comments: It's a quiet street and traffic is a nonissue, but the place hasn't been maintained and the fence is falling apart. The neighbors want an understanding of what the business is going to be so they know how parking may be affected. There is no permit parking, so there isn't a lot of choice in the matter.

Wish to push the vote off until the owners can be there to clear up the questions we have. Motion made and seconded. If you have questions in the meantime, email mvaboard@merionvillage.org.



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VOTING RESULTS

APPROVE: 11 | OPPOSE: 2 | ABSTAIN: 0

MVA COMMITTEE UPDATES

Beautification | Membership | Social | Zoning
Updates coming soon!

SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION UPDATES

Columbus Auto Shredding at 2310 Refugee Road between our area and far south – there are lots of variances for smelters, car stacking, reducing trees, reducing separation between residents and their operations, etc. There's a meeting on August 17th at 10am to go over the variances with both commissions and anyone else who wishes to join. EAS is believed to be involved from an environmental impact perspective.

Parks – there will be many meetings for park improvements. There is funding so they're reviewing the community needs to put recommendations in for the planning budget. There is a survey going around where you can give recommendations! It's been shared by the commission on social media.

South Side Area Commission elections are coming up! Think about running!

INFO CENTER RENTALS

The Info Center is now available for rentals!! Free for members or \$15/hour for non-members. This is a new perk for membership that we're especially excited to try out.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

There are board elections every year in November and this year we'll be electing a treasurer, secretary, and member at large. Positions are announced at the October meeting and voting on in November. Let us know if you're interested in running or in being on the committee!

MERION VILLAGE FESTIVAL UPDATE

Sunday, September 8th from 12-6pm. It's our biggest event of the year! Food trucks, alcohol, activities, vendors, music, entertainment, and silent auction. We're collecting vendors and items for the silent auction – let us know if you have items or businesses to suggest! The auction will also be online, if you can't make it to the festival. If anyone lives by the park, we need electric! We'll be advertising this event with posters, Facebook, letting adjacent areas know, and posting on next door. Visit the website or Facebook for more information. We also need volunteers! List to be posted soon.

OPEN FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

- Saint Mary Farmers Market will be on Sunday this week!
- Keep the yard sale in mind as you're cleaning while the weather is nice!
- Where are the meeting minutes located? Merionvillage.org > MVA > Meetings
- Wanderlust is new to the area, featuring yoga and local artisans. 1603 S 4th St.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Saint Mary Farmers Market | Saturdays till October 5 (9 – 12 PM) at Saint Mary School German Village

Merion Village Block Watch Meeting | August 13th (6:30 - 7:30 PM) at Parsons Branch Library

Village Connections Monthly Brunch | August 15th (10:30 AM) at Scrambler Marie's Livingston

PAMA Monthly South Side Happy Hour | August 20th (5 - 7 PM) at Parsons North Brewing Company

German Village Makers Market | August 25th (11 – 4 PM) at 1108 City Park Ave

7th Annual Merion Village Festival | September 8th (12 – 6 PM) at Moeller Park

Merion Village Autumn Yard Sale | October 5th (9 – 3 PM) throughout Merion Village

GENERAL REMINDERS



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

- ✓ 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 join the MVA and signup 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

NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Wednesday, September 4th | 7:15 PM at MVA Info Center (1330 S 4th St)