

Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

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

MEETING DURATION: 7:00 PM – 8:10 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell (TRoell@MerionVillage.org)
- VICE PRESIDENT: Coda Bruce (CBruce@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: 19

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 3

TOPIC: Introductions

DURATION: 3 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: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We issued two checks to PAMA last month from their United Way grant funds. We are holding these funds as the fiscal agent for PAMA. The board created a process by which all fiscal agent funds are withdrawn. This includes a formal, written request from the group with follow-up approval and issuance notes by the board member(s) who complete the transaction. In addition to the regular monthly financial report, the board also provided all attendees with an annual summary for 2014 showing summarized beginning and ending balances as well as expenses and income.

TOPIC: Adobe FormsCentral and JotForm

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We currently use Adobe FormsCentral for our various registration forms, order forms, surveys, etc. Unfortunately, this service will be retired in June of 2015. Jessica researched other vendors and found "JotForm" which will not only meet our needs, but will provide additional abilities for our forms. This program is also less expensive and offers a far more customizable product. Jessica will recreate our current forms and publish all relevant links to the website and to Facebook.

TOPIC: 501c3 Status

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Our assigned 501c3 representative contacted Tony requesting some additional information for our renewal application. Due to an increase in our annual income over the last few years, there will also be an additional, one-time fee required. A portion of the increase is related to the funds we are holding for PAMA. Members were concerned that the association could be charge fees by the IRS for funds which do not actually belong to our group. The board will establish a protocol for all future fiscal agent acceptances which include a fee from the requesting group. While the fee will be small, it will ensure the MVA takes no financial loss in holding funds as a fiscal agent for another organization.

TOPIC: Kroger Community Rewards

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Thank you for your participation in the Kroger Community Rewards program! The association brought in nearly \$800.00 in 2014 simply by registered participants sopping at Kroger. Remember to sign up each year!

TOPIC: Southbend Tavern Good Neighbor Agreement

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Anne and Michelle presented a summary of the local concerns to the Southbend owners. The owners will review the summary and contact Anne for a follow-up afterward.

TOPIC: Barrett Redevelopment

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tony attended the Barrett Redevelopment city council meeting on Monday the 2nd. All requests were approved. Bob L. spoke in favor of the project and three Barrett neighbors spoke in protest. Tony felt City Council genuinely listened to neighbor concerns. Tony suggested a good neighbor agreement between the developers and neighbors, but the neighbors in the area have declined. Please contact Tony if you would like more information about creating a good neighbor agreement.

TOPIC: Library Redevelopment

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The library redevelopment project is progressing. All demolition is complete. Currently, the plan includes an iron fence with shrubbery. Between the parking spaces and the residential homes.

TOPIC: Safety Committee and Block Watch Update

DURATION: 12 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: At the last monthly association meeting, we asked for resident feedback regarding a potential block watch. We received a fair amount of feedback and interest from residents. Anthony and Mary C. began the process of establishing a recognized block watch program with the Columbus Police Department. A certain level of resident commitment is required in order to establish a block watch recognized by the City. A news article was published in This Week on the Merion Village block watch topic and Anthony and Mary were interviewed by Channel 6 news on a story which aired the evening on our February meeting. There will be officer-led block watch establishment and training meetings in March, April and May. If the required level of participation is not present, our program will be dropped by the City. E-mail Anthony at Safety@MerionVillage.org if you'd like to participate. There has to be commitment in all areas of Merion Village for this to happen. The CPD will train participants at the first three meetings about block watch participation, processes and requirements. Recognized block watch groups and neighbors have more access to certain neighborhood grants. Erin S. mentioned that other local block watches tend to have better and more direct communications with the police when issues occur.

TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Sunday, March 8th is the Explorer's Club chili cook-off. All proceeds go to Pets Without Parents in Clintonville. Tracey would like to have a Southside chili champion at the end of all of the local cook-offs.

<u>DATE (TIME)</u>	<u>EVENT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>COORDINATOR(S)</u>
February (TDB) <u>LOCATION:</u> Hey Hey	Merion Village Chili Cook-Off	Tony Roell
March (TDB) <u>LOCATION:</u> TBD	Merion Village Wine Tasting	Coda Bruce
April 18 th (TBD) <u>LOCATION:</u> TBD	Biannual Merion Village Community Clean-Up	Anne Stewart
May 9 th (9:00 AM - 3:00 PM) <u>LOCATION:</u> Merion Village	Merion Village Community Yard Sale	Jessica Norman, Michelle K & Others
June (TDB) <u>LOCATION:</u> TBD	Annual Merion Village Garden Tour	Garden Tour Committee

TOPIC: Council of Historic Neighborhoods

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Council of Historic Neighborhoods is trying to come back together. One upcoming focus is the maintenance of stone and brick roads in place of tearing them out and replacing them with blacktop.

TOPIC: Merion Village Kiosks

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Tony was finally able to get a response from the Idea Foundry regarding our kiosks. They were up for one month and were removed as they were bleeding rust down the buildings. The Idea Foundry feels that they do not have the resources to help us complete this project. As such, they are returning \$3,000.00 of our fees and we will find someone else to coat the kiosks and help us remount them. The board will review this offer and determine if this acceptable.

TOPIC: Southside Area Commission Report (Presented by Erin Synk)

DURATION: 12 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Urban Infrastructure Recovery Funds program provides funds to areas that need assistance to fix neighborhood issues, typically more than just potholes. Our area commission has been working with the group for several items as they tie into the Parsons Avenue Redevelopment plan. Tony felt it would be nice if the neighborhoods could give input in these projects. This year, the area commission tabled the list of items submitted but will vote at the end of February. This project is done every 4-5 years. The list of items to address is currently very vague. The public service committee is working to put out a request for feedback in the 10 areas covered by the area commission program. The Southside Area Commission has a deadline to move forward or we will lose the funds. The commission has approved a number of demolitions, many are emergency and outside of Merion Village. There is a proposal for a Verizon cell tower across from Corpus Christi that has received mixed reviews. The commission is taking a look at their bylaws in the next few months. A group is trying to launch a community engagement committee. They plan to give an annual award to someone who has gone over and above for their community.

TOPIC: Business Development

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We are wrapping up the final details of the business development grant project. We have a lot of active recruitment to do with local businesses, but will begin passing out the membership key tags at the next monthly meeting. Be sure to attend to be one of the first members to receive your tag!

TOPIC: Grant Requests

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We submitted two grant requests to the United Way in January. They include a request for \$3,800.00 to focus on redoing the MVA planter boxes and upgrading the trashcans in Moeller Park. The current cans are industrial, plastic drums. We are looking for black metal trashcans, consistent with the park benches. We also requested for \$3,300.00 to kick off "The Merion Village Safety Education Program". This program will focus on providing classes and information to residents related to personal safety, home and vehicle safety, etc. We will know the results of our requests in April. Tony will be applying for an arts grant at the end of the month for music and arts in our neighborhood.

TOPIC: Merion Village Bowling Event

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Our bowling event was lots of fun! We had 10 Merion Village participants in addition to the staff of the Explorer's Club. We will arrange this kind of event again in the future.

TOPIC: Neighborhood Blight Properties

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: A member asked for advice from other attendees about a house near his residence that has been in foreclosure since 2007. He and other residents have attempted to contact the bank who owns the property for months to no avail. This can be an unfortunate side effect of some types of foreclosure. If you have these issues and they are not resolved by the owners or banks, consider contacting the Mayor's office and be sure to report all code violations to 311.

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

NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING: Wednesday, March 4th at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.