



MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

MERION VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

March 4th | 7 PM - 8 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

Welcome, Beth and Teri!

MVA TREASURER'S REPORT

Eric is traveling for work, so we don't have a treasurer report. We'll get one posted.

NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH AMBASSADORS GUEST SPEAKER

Lindsey Latscha from the Neighborhood Health Ambassador program for Columbus Public Health is here. They rely on volunteers to spread health information and relay back what's happening in the community. It's a volunteer program that asks for a 2 year commitment, but you can leave before then if needed. You would need to attend community events, such as this meeting, and be a liaison for them. They've been successful in eliminating violence and trauma and are trying to continue down that path. The ask is that you attend 4 events each year and they train volunteers on what to look for or what to share and equip them with a binder with resources and information. You'd learn procedures for viruses, like coronavirus, that are going around. You would have resources to help someone with an opioid addiction.

What do you get for being an ambassador? You get a fancy binder with a ton of information, power point presentations should you want to do any presentations, and a badge. The citywide training gives training to businesses and community members that would be free to ambassadors. These trainings span anything from public speaking to emotional intelligence to Excel. You also get a free membership to Parks and Recreation. Signing up is just a google document.

How long are the trainings? The next session is Saturday from 9-3pm. If you can't make a training, they'll make it up when it's convenient for you. The modules are recorded to watch online, too. You get a certification and certificate. After the final training, there's a little graduation ceremony. Their goal is just to have ears on the ground to know what's going on and what's important to a community.

MVA COMMITTEE UPDATES

Beautification | Membership | Social | Zoning

Beautification: Several members are interested in joining this committee, so there will hopefully be updates next meeting! We applied for a grant to get trees along the street. The grant would get us help planning where they should be planted as well as help offering refunds to people buying trees for this purpose. The MVA would kick in the remaining \$3,000 if we get the full \$10,000 ask so we could offer the most refunds. We also applied for funds from the soil and water foundation - \$2,000. Neither grant is a guarantee, but it's our goal for now. We should know more in April. Lauren also has an appointment in May to get the Merion Village arch repainted, as weather allows. Fun facts: If you have 4 feet of space, you can reach out to the division of forestry in Columbus to get them to plant a tree. They also do tree giveaways to get you to plant your own trees. There's a native plants class through Franklin County Soil and Water that will give you \$50 for a native tree.

Membership: We are gearing up for our Business Membership push. We are looking for connections and help reaching out. At the moment, it's just the board members!

Social: Do we want to do a game night instead of a happy hour this month? Yes! Looking for a Friday night instead of a Thursday and it would be BYOB. Planning for March 20th – look for more information on social media coming soon!

Zoning: There was a request that came in for 140 Moler on a R2F parcel. It can only have 2 residences, but it currently has 3 and has for many years. Rather than canvassing and voting, proposal to change the request for things like this where they need a variance for existing use of the property. This comes up when they refinance – the property needs to be zoned properly. This scenario could be handled like demolitions of secondary structures, approved by the zoning committee and board. If any questions came up from the committee or board, it would still be brought to a meeting. This would only be for properties where there are no actual changes. **Motion:** We treat variances to accommodate existing conditions where there are no other changes occurred by committee and board vote. **Seconded.**

VOTING RESULTS

APPROVE: 18 | OPPOSE: 0 | ABSTAIN: 0



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If you want to stay in the loop on the conversations occurring about the Giant Eagle space in Schumacher, reach out to Brenda. Pizzuti is looking at redeveloping the area into something else, to be determined, if Giant Eagle does not renew their lease.

SOUTH SIDE AREA COMMISSION UPDATES

Public services will have Recreation and Parks come to next week's meeting to go over the priority list. The 2nd Wednesday at 6pm. In April, Public Services will be there to talk about public safety for pedestrians.

The bylaw review process kicked off last night. Changes to city codes means they have to update bylaws that will change how elections and terms will happen. Let Erin know if you'd like to get plugged in.

Update to Zoning policy at the last meeting – for projects that the zoning chair deems substantial, there's an ability to call a special information meeting before it goes to the civic associations. They made it clear that a single application requires an applicant to go to a civic association meeting a single time. The updated policy will be uploaded to the website shortly.

CHILI COOK-OFF RECAP

The Chili Cook-Off went really well. Over 70 people attended and there were 12 different chilis. We made \$578 at our event and Mike Alcock from South Side STAY posted a public fundraiser that has about \$870. All money will go to our South Side Scholarship. If you know any seniors at South High, it'll open April 1st and they'll have a month to fill out the application. Thanks to everyone who came and/or donated!

BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

We are in a bylaw review year. Ideally a reading would happen in October with voting happening in November. The committee needs 3 non-board members. We've been collecting feedback over the last 2 years to add to this review process, as well. If you're interested in participating, please let us know.

WHITTIER POST OFFICE

Whittier Post Office closed for an unknown amount of time for construction after the ceiling collapsed. The Postal Service has been unresponsive. There is a concern that there is no post office within walking distance anymore. They asked the 43207 office what they've heard – they're moving the PO Boxes to Frebis & Lockbourne location which is being remodeled now. Whittier is no longer listed as a post office and currently there's no access to the PO Boxes. Requesting that all associations and commissions affected try to contact the post office to try to enlarge the voice of the neighborhood. They should have had a public hearing, but they made the decisions behind closed doors.

Action items: Terry will draft a letter we can use. MVA will contact the other civic associations and send the letter, copying Joyce Beatty.

OPEN FLOOR FOR QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

- The Spring Yard Sale will be May 2 from 9-3. Save the date!
- Litter League is getting ready to start. Allison has a team you can join, or you can create your own team. It starts April 4th and the team will clean twice a month until June 27th. There will be a Clippers game, as well. Keep Columbus Beautiful and the city are coming together to do this.
- The election is coming up on March 17th. Jessica Klinger is running! If you have any questions, please reach out to her.
- Nick is going to head up the beautification committee with Josh and Christian who are landscape architects in the neighborhood. He plans to work with neighboring associations to clean up Parsons and has many businesses interested in donating time and supplies. If you want to help, please reach out to us or Nick directly. Thank you, Nick!

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

Connect 2 Protect Block Watch Meeting | March 10th (6:30 - 7:30 PM) at Parsons Branch Library

Village Connections Monthly Brunch | March 19th (10:30 AM) at Scrambler Marie's Livingston

PAMA Monthly South Side Happy Hour | March 19th (5 - 7 PM) at Buns and Brews

MVA Social Event | March 19th (5:30 - 7) at TBD

South Side Area Commission Monthly Meeting | March 24th (6:30 - 8 PM) at Parsons Branch Library

GENERAL REMINDERS

- ✓ 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!



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- ✓ **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, April 1st | 7 PM at MVA Info Center (1330 S 4th St)