

Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2015

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

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

MEETING DURATION: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell (TRoell@MerionVillage.org)
- VICE PRESIDENT: Coda Bruce (CBruce@MerionVillage.org)
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman (JNorman@MerionVillage.org)
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Tracey Studer (TStuder@MerionVillage.org)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

- TREASURER: Michele Audetat (MAudetat@MerionVillage.org)

TOTAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 19

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 4

TOPIC: Introductions

DURATION: 2 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: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Treasurer's report. This month, we brought in about \$200.00 from membership fees and \$200.00 for yard sale listings and community space rental. Our expenses included website domain and hosting fees, insurance renewal and facebook advertisement ad promotions.

TOPIC: Non-Profit Rewards Programs

DURATION: 2 Minutes

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! The MVA was approved to participate in the GoodSearch and GoodShop Non-Profit reward programs. You can sign up for these programs free of charge and choose to support the Merion Village Association. Each time you use the GoodSearch site for your web searches or shop online through GoodShop, you'll be supporting your neighborhood! To sign up, visit <http://www.goodsearch.com>

TOPIC: MVA Monthly and Safety/Block Watch Meetings

DURATION: 6 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The board recently discussed combining the monthly MVA meetings and the Merion Village Block Watch/Safety meetings into a single monthly meeting. We discussed moving the Block Watch/Safety meetings to occur from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM, before our monthly meetings which would begin at 7:00 PM. There will be an intermission between the two meetings with snacks and beverages. After the final block watch training session in May, the Block Watch/Safety meetings will be led by the committee chairs, rather than the Columbus Police liaisons. There will still be police liaison presence, but they will not lead the meetings. We will try this new format beginning in June and we'll try a 3 month trial run. Tony will work with St. Paul UCC to determine if we are able to use their space for the meetings. Since the meetings will be combined, we expect a larger attendance than our normal monthly meetings. Once this is finalized, the details will be made available in the membership newsletter, through the website, Facebook and Nextdoor and signs will be posted at the MVA info. center. Those present at the May meeting were widely in favor of this change.

Update: Block Watch meetings will be from 6:30-7pm followed by the Association meetings starting at 7:15.

TOPIC: Good Neighbor Agreement With The Southbend

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Anne S. and Michelle K. drafted the good neighbor agreement between the Southbend and local neighbors. The letter described the location and the business type of the Southbend. When the Southbend came to the association to present a request for zoning variances recently, many members who were present were very upset about issues with patrons and the bar. This prompted the good neighbor agreement discussions. Michelle commented that the owners and operators of the Southbend have been very open and want to be involved with the association and the neighborhood. Some things are out of the bar's control, but to the best of their abilities, they want to stay in the neighborhood and be good neighbors as the owners are also Merion Village residents.

TOPIC: Garage Demolition at 311-313 Deshler Ave.

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: There has been a request to demolish a garage located at 311-313 Deshler. We do not have information as to whether or not they will be rebuilding after demolition. If they do want to rebuild, they would only need to ask for a variance if they don't meet code. There was no opposition to this request.

TOPIC: Block Watch and Safety Committee Update

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The next block watch meeting is 5/20 at St. Paul UCC, beginning at 6:30 PM. The attendance from the first to second meeting dropped significantly by about 30 people. If this continues to drop, the Columbus Police Department will no longer recognize the Merion Village Block Watch. Anthony's house has sold and this will be his final meeting, as such, Mary Cannon is now monitoring the Safety@MerionVillage.org email address.

TOPIC: Update Regarding Dog Leash Signs in Moeller Park

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Coda is investigating the process of having a sign install in Moeller Park reminding people that dogs must be leashed in accordance with Ohio State leash laws. She is also investigating what is required to establish a small fenced-in area in the park for dogs to run.

TOPIC: Merion Village Community Yard Sale

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The yard sale has over 50 sellers on the map this year. One of our residents created a community yard sale app that sellers and buyers were able to use the day of the sale. The app can be found at <http://www.yoscar.com>

TOPIC: Arts Festival Volunteering

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The arts festival volunteers have been through the required training. We are excited about this event and will have water bowls available for dogs. Please come to the festival on Friday, June 12th and Saturday, June 13th to support our booth! The association will receive 10% of the gross sales from our booth each day and will receive no less than \$150.00.

TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The garden tour is July 12th. From now on, the garden tours will always be the weekend after Independence Day. We currently have 4 gardens signed up to be part of the tour. If you want to be on the tour, contact Sherry Ray at GardenTour@MerionVillage.org. The Merion Village Simmer Festival will be held on August 30th. We are looking into the process of having a beer garden at the festival this year. George, the owner of Red Brick is assisting us with this process. If you have suggestions or would like to help, please contact Tony.

DATE (TIME)	EVENT DESCRIPTION	COORDINATOR(S)
July 12 th (10:00 AM - 3:00 PM)	Merion Village Garden Tour	Sherry R. and Committee
LOCATION: A Garden Tour Brochure Will Include All Participants		
August 30 th (TBD)	Third Annual Community Festival	Festival Committee
LOCATION: Moeller Park (261 Hanford St, Columbus, OH)		

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

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Southside Area Commission approved the recent variance request for the garage rebuild on Stewart/Zimpher. The library is breaking ground on June 2nd. They are looking for children 8 and under to help with a special ceremony. The summer reading kickoff is the day before the groundbreaking.

TOPIC: Business Membership

DURATION: 5 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: During the meeting, we acknowledged and thanked our first three businesses to take advantage of our new levels of business membership. Acupuncture and Wellness of Merion Village, T.Y. Fine Furniture and Bake Me Happy each purchased a Silver or Gold level membership and helped the association to kick off our Buy Local Rewards Program. Check out our website for more information! <http://www.MerionVillage.org/Business>

TOPIC: Kiosk Updates

DURATION: 1 Minute

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We have reached out to several companies to help us refinish our kiosks. Only one company has responded. This will cost an additional \$1,000 from our general funds, but will be necessary to finish this ongoing project.

TOPIC: New United Way Grants

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Association has been awarded two new grants through the United Way, including one related to crime and safety and another which will allow us to revitalize the Merion Village planters and update the trashcans in Moeller Park. Coda and Jessica will meet with the United Way on May 25th to discuss our grant funds and the processes involved. Once we receive the funds, we'll have plans to share with everyone. We will be polling residents for input on the crime and safety classes to be offered and we will rehab planters in batches of 5 or 10.

TOPIC: Columbia Gas Improvements

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Columbia Gas contractors are still working on the line improvements throughout the neighborhood. The asphalt patches should be temporary, but if you notice bricks being replaced with asphalt, please contact Tony with the location(s).

TOPIC: Merion Village Farmers Market

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Merion Village Farmers Market begins Saturday, June 6th and will run every Saturday through September from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. If we want the market to continue, we MUST have buyer attendance. If you know vendors, have them contact Tarik or Wes and please be sure to spread the word to all your neighbors and friends! Checkout and like the Farmer's Market Facebook page to receive updates and information easily. <https://www.facebook.com/gvmvfarmersmarket>

TOPIC: Merion Village Calendar Fundraiser

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Jessica proposed the idea of a end-of-year fundraiser selling Merion Village wall calendars. The calendars would contain photos from around Merion Village and would also include dates of MVA meetings and events that would be set in advance. All those in attendance liked the idea and would consider purchasing a calendar. We would like to include current photos as well as vintage and antique copies as well. If you know local residents who take beautiful photos or may have old photos share, please ask them to e-mail Jessica at JNorman@MerionVillage.org.

TOPIC: Vacant Lots and Community Gardens

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Columbus Land Development division has parcels that cost \$10 and allow neighborhoods to create community gardens. Coda wanted to know if anyone would be interested in these lots and if so, she would continue her research. Michelle mentioned water sources on properties being important and also suggested that it would be necessary to have raised beds due to poor soil quality being possible.

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 AND BLOCK WATCH COMBINED MEETING: Wednesday, June 3rd in the basement of St. Paul UCC (225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 6:00 PM.