

Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

September 3, 2014

DESCRIPTION: Monthly Association Meeting

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

MEETING DURATION: 7:00 PM – 8:40 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell (TRoell@MerionVillage.org)
- VICE PRESIDENT: Anne Stewart (ASTewart@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: 31

TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: 10

GUESTS: Owner of 1300 S. Fourth St., Owner of the Southbend Tavern, Chris Macisco (*MVA Representative, Southside Area Commission*), Cutis Davis (*Vice-Chair, Business-At-Large, Columbus South Side Area Commission*)

TOPIC: Introductions

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Each monthly meeting usually begins with the introductions of all in attendance. Due to the number of attendees in this meeting, we forewent the usual introductions. All members, non-members and guests were asked to sign-in and pass the sign-in sheet to the Secretary.

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

DURATION: 4 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The festival was very successful and earned the Association over \$1,500.00, after expenses. The initial order of Merion Village t-shirts was for a total of 75, 48 were sold during the month of August, 42 of which were purchased at the festival. Look to see your neighbors wearing their green shirts around town!

TOPIC: 501c3 Status

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The new 501c3 application was sent in certified mail and has been confirmed to have been received by the processing office. We now await reclassification of 501c3 status.

TOPIC: Safety Committee (Presented by Anthony Dillard)

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Anthony Dillard, the new chair of the Safety Committee reminded attendees that the next Safety Committee meeting is Wednesday, September 17th at the MVA Info. Center, beginning at 5:30 PM. Anthony encouraged those with safety concerns to reach out to him via e-mail at Safety@MerionVillage.org. He also briefly discussed the "Nextdoor" phone app. and website which allows neighbors to connect with each other on various topics, including safety concerns. At the next safety committee meeting, we will discuss block watches, ways to improve awareness and the new schedule for these meetings.

TOPIC: Zoning Variance Request (1300 S. Fourth St.)

DURATION: 10 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The owner of 1300 S. Fourth St. is in the process of demolishing the old garage on his property. He would like to build a new garage and is requesting a setback variance for the zoning which will allow the 3' requirements for setback between his property and his neighbor's property to be reduced to 0'. The current garage is set back 0' from the alley and the new garage will be setback at least 3' from the alley, allowing traffic and pedestrians better visibility and maneuverability in the alley. This request was put to all active members with voting privileges present at this meeting for vote.

VOTING RESULTS: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 21 / Members Voting NO: 0)

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

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Commission will have a booth at our upcoming festival. There will be a housing and community EXPO on September 20th from 12:00 PM to 3:30 PM. This will be held at the Maloney Center.

TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: There will be a “Let’s Move Columbus” event at South High School on Sunday September 21st from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. St. Paul’s United Church of Christ is having a chicken and rib festival on Saturday, September 27th from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM. You get a choice of chicken or ribs, applesauce, two sides, dessert and drink for \$8.00.

DATE (TIME)	EVENT DESCRIPTION	COORDINATOR(S)
September 27 th (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)	Community Clean-Up	Fran S. & Jessica Norman
LOCATION: Meeting at the MVA Information Center		
October (TBD)	Pasta Dinner	Tracey Studer
LOCATION: TBD		
December (TDB)	MVA Potluck and Cookie Trade	TBD
LOCATION: TBD		

TOPIC: Zoning Variance Request (The Southbend Tavern)

DURATION: 40 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Southbound Tavern would like to build a patio addition to their establishment located at 126 E. Moler St. The owner of the bar stated that the plan includes building a sound-proof fence which will send sounds upward rather than outward into the neighborhood. The bar also plans to post signs asking patrons to use the patio for smoking, rather than the area near the entrance of the establishment. Additionally, the Southbend is adding reinforcements to their interior walls to help control the amount of noise that permeates into the surrounding neighborhood and they have instructed their DJs to keep all music to a respectful level. The patio would hold 10 to 15 patrons at a time. The owner stated that the Southbend is concerned about safety and wants to be a good neighbor to those with business and homes near the bar. The Southbend gave to the MVA with a request for support to build a new patio a couple of years ago. At that time the MVA provided a letter of support but the Southbend did not have the funds to build the patio. The Southbend is requesting two zoning changes from the City the first of which is a parking variance that will allow the bar to subtract 2 to 3 of the current parking spaces in favor of the new patio. The second request would allow the Southbend to keep in place the current gravel parking lot rather than requiring them to have the lot paved. If paving would be required, the Southbend would have to pay for this as the owner of the property will not. In accordance with the Southside Area Commission practices, there will be a site hearing to review and discuss these requests on the second Saturday of the month. Upon the conclusion of the owner’s presentation, the issues was opened for questions and discussion. Tony Roell first commented to the owner that he would like to see measures put in place which prevent patron prof parking on the sidewalk between the bar and Moler Street. A neighbor stated that eh current lot does not allow the easy enough access to the dumpster behind the bar and therefore the Rumpkee drivers will turn the wrong way down Moler which is a one way street in order to access the parking lot from the other side. They then collect the trash and back down Moler until they reach Fourth Street. The neighbor stated that this has occurred numerous times and poses a safety risk. The neighbor felt that the Southbend has not taken measures to be a good neighbor to surrounding businesses and residents. Other residential neighbors agreed with this concern and added their own concerns including issues with patrons being loud and disrespectful, violent with one another and responsible for vandalism when the neighbors confronted them or asked them to refrain from being so loud. A neighbor stated that she lives next to the bar and has had to call 911 twice in the last year due to issues with patrons outside of the bar. A member stated that he felt the patio would not create any significant new business for the bar. One member did state that in the past she has called the Southbend to complain about loud music and thanked the owner as the employees always immediately respond to her requests. Member and neighbors wanted to know how the owner felt about the reception he received during the meeting wither or not his requests are passed. The owner stated that he took all comments to heart and would be willing to discuss a good neighbor agreement with the surrounding neighbors. Seth Trace, the Zoning Committee chair suggested the neighbors contact Rumpkee to report the failure of the garbage collection drives to follow the traffic laws in the area of the bar. Curtis Davis with the Southside Area Commission reminded those in attendance to utilize 311 to report complaints and issues. The more reports, the more attention the City with give the issues. These two requests were put to all active members with voting privileges present at this meeting for vote.

VOTING RESULTS - PAKING VARIANCE: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 16 / Members Voting NO: 3)

VOTING RESULTS - GRAVEL VARIANCE: REJECTED (Members Voting YES: 8 / Members Voting NO: 11)

TOPIC: MVA Board Elections for Terms Beginning in 2015

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: MVA Board elections are coming up this November for President, Vice President and Member-At-Large. If you are interested in running for any of these board seats, please contact the current board. Tony Roell and Tracy Studer both plan to run again while Anne Stewart does not plan to run for reelection. A member asked what the “Member-At-Large” is responsible for. Tony responded that the Member-At-Large position is one that pick their passion and gets involved in various areas depending on their interests. Additionally, this position speaks on behalf of the general membership and can help break tied votes between the rest of the board members. This position is a one-year term while all others are two-year terms.

TOPIC: Gateway Grant Status

DURATION: 2 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We were approved for an extension to use our United Way, Gateway Grant funds. These funds will pay for the five Merion Village kiosks being designed and constructed by the Idea Foundry. Once complete, the kiosks will be mounted to local businesses or buildings and will contain information and Merion Village and the Association.

TOPIC: MVA Constitution and Bylaws

DURATION: 13 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: The Board has combined the MVA Constitution and Bylaws into a single document. The document has also been updated in the following areas: (1) The membership categories “Patron” and “Non-Resident” have been removed. These categories were redundant and are not necessary as the same non-voting memberships can be obtained by non-residents or non-Merion Village businesses through individual and business membership types. (2) Voting privileges and procedures have been updated. Limited, neighborhood issues can now be reviewed for absentee voting. Each issue will require board review and approval before allowing absentee voting. (3) The document now includes a requirement that all Board members undergo a background check. (4) Acknowledgment of the South Side Area Commissions and the City of Columbus regarding Zoning requests and procedures has been added. (5) A section was added which specifically addresses and details “voting quorums”. (6) The general voting procedures have been updated to reflect consistency with Modern Parliamentary Procedures. This replaced the previous reflection of Robert’s Rules of Order. The revised Constitution was circulated to the membership for review on August 3rd, 2014 and was further discussed at the monthly meeting on August 6th, 2014. Some members suggested that the Constitution should further specify how absentee voting will be conducted and what timelines will be in place for votes when absentee ballots are accepted. All those present agreed this would be beneficial and the board will make these updates. These changes were put to all active members with voting privileges present at this meeting for vote.

VOTING RESULTS: APPROVED (Members Voting YES: 21 / Members Voting NO: 0)

TOPIC: MVA Autumn Community Cleanup

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: We will have another community cleanup on Saturday, September 27th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. All those participating should meet at the MVA Info. Center between 9:45 AM and 10:00 AM. The number of volunteers will determine how many areas we will target with this cleanup. Regardless of the number of areas, we plan to address some of the alleys and other areas in need of attention. If you plan to attend, please remember to wear your Merion Village t-shirts to help spread the word about our Association. If you don’t have a t-shirt, you can purchase them online and pick them up at the Info. Center before the cleanup or at a monthly meeting. Visit our website at <http://www.merionvillage.org/shop>.

TOPIC: Updates from Wes Miller

DURATION: 3 Minutes

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION: Wes updated attendees on the Farmer’s Market hosted by T.Y. Fine Furniture each Saturday morning at the corner of E. Moler St. and S. Fourth St. The market is open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and will continue to run this year through Saturday, September 27th. Next year, the Farmer’s Market will open Mother’s Day weekend and run through the end of September. Wes also reported some sad news about one of the previous vendors from the market, James Market who passed away in August. Our sympathies are with his family. Wes also updated everyone on the Merion Village Chamber Music Series which is also hosted at T.Y. Fine Furniture and includes spirits and food. Check out their Facebook page for more information!

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, October 1st, at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.