

# Merion Village Association

MEETING MINUTES

October 1, 2014

**DESCRIPTION:** Monthly Association Meeting

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

**MEETING DURATION:** 7:00 PM – 8:05 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell ([TRoell@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TRoell@MerionVillage.org))
- VICE PRESIDENT: Anne Stewart ([ASTewart@MerionVillage.org](mailto:ASTewart@MerionVillage.org))
- TREASURER: Michele Audetat ([MAudetat@MerionVillage.org](mailto:MAudetat@MerionVillage.org))
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman ([JNorman@MerionVillage.org](mailto:JNorman@MerionVillage.org))
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Tracey Studer ([TStuder@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TStuder@MerionVillage.org))

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- NONE

**TOTAL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 12

**TOTAL NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 4

**TOPIC:** Updates from Wes Miller

**DURATION:** 3 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Wes provided an update to attendees regarding the Farmer's Market and the Chamber Music Series. The first chamber music series event went very well and had over 50 attendees. The Gringo Loco Taco cart was there along with wine and other food. The next event is the final Sunday of October at 5:00 PM. The Farmer's Market will begin Mother's Day weekend in 2015 and will run through September.

**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:** 2 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Michele reported on income and expenses for the month of September. We have finished spending the funds from our gateway grant and three of the kiosks are already mounted. Two remain to be mounted. We received another deposit from Kroger for the rewards program. Please remember to sign up and designate MVA as the recipient of rewards associated with your account. This will cost nothing and will not utilize any of your personal rewards.

**TOPIC:** 501c3 Status

**DURATION:** 1 Minute

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Everything has been submitted and receipt has been confirmed for all 501c3 forms. Prior financial records before the current board was in place reflected that we had already paid the filing fees for this process. The President and Treasurer researched this in depth revising past bank statements. It was confirmed that these funds were never expended and a new check was cut.

**TOPIC:** Give-Back Campaign

**DURATION:** 2 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We are collecting hygiene products for the food pantry for our give back campaign. The board asked attendees if they have suggestions for new ways to handle these campaigns as participation has been low. One member noted that she often forgets to bring her donations to the meeting. One suggestion is to have the non-profit groups come to our meetings to talk about their organizations. Anne suggested that we consider using MVA funds to give back to the community, several others agreed. We will discuss this topic further. A local group, Reprise, is collecting instruments, broken or not, for local schools. Information can be found on the MVA Facebook page.

**TOPIC:** MVA Constitution and Bylaws

**DURATION:** 13 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The MVA Constitution was finalized following our last meeting. A complete copy will be uploaded to the website. Board elections are next month. If you would like to run for President, Vice President or Member-at-Large, please reach out to Tony as soon as possible. Tony and Tracy plan to run for their position again, while Anne's VP seat will be vacant.

**TOPIC: Southside Area Commission and Zoning Projects**

**DURATION: 14 Minutes**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** All zoning issues discussed at the last meeting were approved by the South Side Area Commission. At the area commission meeting, 8 committee members voted and 7 abstained. Chris Macisco abstained from voting at the south bend site hearing. We will put this back on the agenda to discuss with him at a future meeting. Some member’s asked if they could see minutes from the South-Side Area Commission meetings, Tony looked up the SSAC e-mail address for interested parties to request copies of minutes from those meetings: [binkycmh@hotmail.com](mailto:binkycmh@hotmail.com). Tony has been in e-mail communication with Nikki, the contact for the library project. He continues to push that group for a building that is more consistent with our neighborhood. Tony attended the Placemakers conference hosted by German Village. At one of these meetings, the new library in Dublin was discussed. This is a multi-story library with further indicated that these designs are available and should be considered for our area. The City Division of Housing has a program which currently extends to most residents in Merion Village. These areas are part of a housing redevelopment district. If you invest 20% of the property value into the property, you can obtain a tax credit abatement for a number of years. They want to expand these boundaries on the North Eastern portion of Merion Village. Erin will attempt to send the boundaries and notes to the Secretary to post on facebook. Anne suggested we ask the director of the division, Rita Parris to come talk at a meeting.

**TOPIC: Safety Committee Report**

**DURATION: 5 Minutes**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We had a well-attended safety meeting last month which included donated food from Westie’s, Red Brick and Easy Street for those in attendance. Remember to be proactive with the security of your home and vehicles. 80% of crimes are committed out of opportunity. A local neighbor had a false AEP rep. come to their door recently asking to see a copy of their electric bill to make sure “they are being charged the correct rate”. If issues like this occur, do not hesitate to contact your utility companies and the Police.

**TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities**

**DURATION: 7 Minutes**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Our pasta dinner is coming up this month. We still need a couple volunteers to make desserts. We are hoping to have a local happy hour in November and in December we will have a potluck and cookie trade. More details to come. On Saturday, October 25th, there will be a community walk. Participants should meeting at the Maloney Center at 3:00 PM. At 4:00 PM they will walk from the Maloney Center to Barack Recreation Center where there will be a cookout followed by a community play. If you would like to volunteer or be involved, you can e-mail Jo Anne St. Clair. We will circulate this flyer online as well. Plant Pride on Parsons is also having an event at Barack from 12:00 to 2:00 with cider and donuts.

<b>DATE (TIME)</b>	<b>EVENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COORDINATOR(S)</b>
October 19 <sup>th</sup> (5:00 PM to 7:00 PM)	Merion Village Association Pasta Dinner	Tracey Studer
<b>LOCATION:</b> The Explorer’s Club (1586 S. High Street, Columbus, OH 43207)		
November (TDB)	Local Happy Hour	TBD
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		
December (TDB)	MVA Potluck and Cookie Trade	TBD
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		

**TOPIC: Merion Village Schools**

**DURATION: 3 Minutes**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Tony plans to reach out to all of the local public elementary schools and South High School to see how we can all help each other advance the neighborhood and schools. We have not had a solid relationship with the schools in the past, but we hope to start building this. Some good news, Stewart just had a 98% pass rate on their 3rd grade reading guarantee.

**TOPIC: MVA Autumn Community Cleanup**

**DURATION: 4 Minutes**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** W We had about 7 people come out for the community cleanup. If you have time, please cleanup around your area, report issues to 311, etc. If you are reporting a broken dumpster, include the number on the side of the dumpster in your report.

**TOPIC:** Business Development Grant

**DURATION:** 2 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We will be ordering the key-tags for the business development grant. These will be part of the 2015 memberships. Tracy and Jessica are currently working to build the group of businesses who will participate in the program and offer rewards to members.

**TOPIC:** Welcome to a New Neighbor

**DURATION:** 7 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** A new member told us about a 9 hole golf course he and his neighbors built across 5 houses on Frebis Avenue. They has a 27 person tournament in September. Those in attendees welcomed him to the neighborhood and asked him to continue attending meetings and being involved in the neighborhood.

**TOPIC:** Merion Village Residents Discussing Being Re-Zoned Shumaker Place

**DURATION:** 11 Minutes

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** There is a group of Merion Village residents on the north end of our boundaries who are rallying and considering trying to make a push to be re-zoned as part of Shumaker Place instead of Merion Village. This would not be an easy process by any means, but it would of course be possible. Tony wanted to make sure everyone knows that this is a conversation some people are having. Most in attendance voiced their opinions on this. The response was overwhelmingly negative.

**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](http://www.311.columbus.gov)

**NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at the MVA Information Center (1330 S. Fourth St., Columbus, OH 43206) beginning at 7:00 PM.