



## Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: September 7, 2016

**DESCRIPTION:** Monthly Association Meeting

**LOCATION:** 225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206

**MEETING DURATION:** 7:15 PM – 8:50 PM

**BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- PRESIDENT: Tony Roell ([TRoell@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TRoell@MerionVillage.org))
- VICE PRESIDENT: Coda Bruce ([CBruce@MerionVillage.org](mailto:CBruce@MerionVillage.org))
- TREASURER: Allison Willford ([AWillford@MerionVillage.org](mailto:AWillford@MerionVillage.org))
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman ([JNorman@MerionVillage.org](mailto:JNorman@MerionVillage.org))
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Melanie McClure ([MMcClure@MerionVillage.org](mailto:MMcClure@MerionVillage.org))

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- NONE

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 18

**NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** 8

**TOPIC:** Treasurer's Report (Presented by Allison Willford)

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Alison provided a summary of the monthly treasurer's report. This included income and expenses for the festival which went very well.

**TOPIC:** MVA Info. Center

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The business owner who subleases the MVA Info. Center will be moving out in October of this year. If the MVA decides to keep the center, we will be responsible for the full \$400 rent each month as well as all utilities which average less than \$200 a month. When we discussed the center at the monthly meeting in March, the general consensus was that members wanted to keep the center. The space would need to be upgraded and we did secure a Grant from the United Way for about \$3,000 to help with these efforts. We would also need to determine how we want to use this space. Hosting a single meeting every month without finding other ways to use the center would not be the best use of the MVA's time or resources.

- Some members feel that the space is too small as it can only comfortably accommodate 35-40 attendees at a time. Our current monthly meetings average 20 people in attendance.
- Several members feel that the info center is a central location and a potentially excellent way to maintain our presence in the neighborhood.
- Sarah, the current tenant, feels that the space could be improved and well-utilized, but she doesn't feel we have the volunteer staff to make it viable.
- Allison has developed a good rapport with our land lord but she is not interested in making improvements to the space which means the MVA would be responsible for any and all improvements. However, the rent is only \$400 and has never increased.
- A representative from MINT shared with us that they do have a large space that could accommodate up to 150 people if we needed more space for a meeting or event.

**TOPIC:** 2016 MVA Board Elections

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Three MVA board member roles will be up for election this November, including President, Vice President and Member-At-Large. Tony will not be returning as a board member in 2017 so we will have at least 1 vacancy to fill. The other 4 board members will be returning and may be interested in running for new roles. This is an open election but candidates must be announced at the October monthly meeting. All candidates must be an active member of the MVA for at least 45 days to run. If you would like to run for a seat on the board, please e-mail Tony at [TRoell@MerionVillage.org](mailto:TRoell@MerionVillage.org).



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### TOPIC: Merion Village Farmers Market

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The farmers market this year has ended due to lack of vendor attendance. Many people have asked why the MVA does not take over the market as we are not currently part of the coordination process. The previous organizer committed to running the market again this year and quit after the first week, leaving Tarik in a difficult position. Part of the problem is that the day of the week and time of day we were holding out market is incredibly competitive. People love the market and would like it to continue, but we would need a committee of volunteers who can plan and coordinate a market for next year. One member commended that a new location could be very beneficial. Another member suggested exploring a CSA option for our market. We will continue to explore interest in the market. If you'd like to contribute to this effort, e-mail [farmersmarket@merionvillage.org](mailto:farmersmarket@merionvillage.org).

### TOPIC: 2017 Columbus Arts Festival

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Arts Festival Committee has already reached out to us to see if we want to participate again next year. Several members who volunteered at the frozen beverage booth this year commented that they enjoyed their shift(s). This event requires a significant number of volunteers so if participate, we'll need lots of help!

### TOPIC: Beautification and Zoning Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We will be redeploying the remaining planters on September 24th. We will also be installing the signs as soon as they are ready. We're going to plant some evergreen bushes and mums in certain planters. We will also have several volunteers at the pocket park on the 24th to install sod. Lastly, we will have teams of volunteers cleaning up litter in the alleys and making 311 reports. These efforts are part of the "For South Side" event spearheaded by the Stowe Mission. There will be a garden cleanup and mulching at South High school.

### TOPIC: Business Development Committee Update

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** This committee is focused on developing relationships with our local businesses. We made a big bush to register business members prior to this year's garden tour and now that the tour and the festival have concluded, the committee will be working to expand in size and to work with our business members.

### TOPIC: Education Committee

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** School is back in session! We had some challenges getting in touch with the principals and staff at the schools in our neighborhood. Ken Flower from Southside Stay is going to work with us to help build these relationships with our neighborhood schools so we can offer help in areas of need. CPS district leadership will be joining a special SSAC meeting at Moler Elementary in October.

### TOPIC: Social and Membership Committee

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We will need additional time to work through the logistics of the neighborhood welcome packets now that we have identified the significant cost of this project. Our next event is the autumn yard sale on Saturday, October 1st and we are beginning to plan the annual December potluck.

### TOPIC: Demolition Request for 251 Deshler

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We received a demolition request this morning for a house at 251 Deshler that currently faces the alley. The owners want to demolish the current house and build a new one that will face Deshler. This property is owned by German Village Holdings and the architect who lives in the neighborhood is designing it for a specific buyer. If we vote to approve a request, the SSAC will vote, typically in support of our decision. If we oppose a request, the SSAC can still approve it. After 60 days they can demolish the house regardless of our vote.

**VOTING RESULTS:** APPROVED/REJECTED (SUPPORT: 14 / OPPOSE: 0 / ABSTAIN: 0)



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**TOPIC:** Scheduled Events and Activities

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

<b>DATE (TIME)</b>	<b>EVENT DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>COORDINATOR(S)</b>
October 1 <sup>st</sup> (9:00 AM to 3:00 PM)	Merion Village Autumn Community Yard	Social & Membership Committee
<b>LOCATION:</b> Merion Village Neighborhood (Location Map Will be Available)		
December 9 <sup>th</sup> (7:00 PM to 9:00 PM)	Annual Merion Village Potluck	Social & Membership Committee
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		

**TOPIC:** Southside Area Commission Report (Presented by Jessica Clinger & Erin Synk)

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** They Commission will have a discussion and vote in August about a recycling center on 104. The center requested a variance permit to build a higher wall and increase their setback. The request was approved by the SSAC. The public service committee meets on September 8th at Barrack. They are discussing several things including an urban redevelopment project which will include bike lanes down Anne Street. The Southside Shines Housing Expo will be held on September 24th.

**GENERAL REMINDERS:**

- ✓ Community Rewards: The board would like to remind members and residents of the reward programs which help support the MVA. Visit our website for instructions to sign up for the 4 community reward programs in which we currently participate, 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](http://www.311.columbus.gov)

**NEXT MONTHLY ASSOCIATION MEETING:** Wednesday, October 5, 2016 in the basement of St. Paul UCC (225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206) beginning promptly at 7:15 PM.