



## Merion Village Association

Meeting Minutes: October 7, 2015

**DESCRIPTION:** Monthly Association Meeting

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

**MEETING DURATION:** 7:25 PM – 8:55 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: Michele Audetat ([MAudetat@MerionVillage.org](mailto:MAudetat@MerionVillage.org))
- SECRETARY: Jessica Norman ([JNorman@MerionVillage.org](mailto:JNorman@MerionVillage.org))
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Nicholas Jenior ([NJenior@MerionVillage.org](mailto:NJenior@MerionVillage.org))

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

- NONE

**TOPIC:** Member-At-Large Board Position

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Tracy Studer has stepped down from his member-at-large position due to significant business commitments. The Board has appointed Nick Jenior for the remainder of the 2015 year.

**TOPIC:** ADAMH Presentation

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The CFO of ADAMH and the Director of the Southeast location attended our meeting to discuss their upcoming levy. ADAMH is a County agency responsible for evaluating and addressing mental health and substance abuse issues in the area. They are a privatized system with a network of over 33 providers throughout the County. They also partner with Netcare and the Police Department. They serve roughly 100,000.00 people in Franklin County each year. 20,000 or so are individual treatments while the other 70,000 + is related to counseling and public programs. The ultimate goal of this organization is to help those in need achieve recovery and reenter society as active, working members. Issue 14 is a renewal levy asking to maintain their level of funds for 5 years. This is the same plan that has been in place for 10 years. They are not asking for anything more than what they receive now. The current levy expires in 2016 so if approved, it will begin in 2017. However, there is no increase, so property owners would not see any increase in taxes. In this district alone, ADAMH spends over 1 million dollars annually on mental health and substance abuse services. ADAMH believes that treatment works and positively impacts the overall crime and safety situation in a community. For example, many of the prostitutes in our area are victims of human trafficking and/or are addicted to heroin and/or other drugs. 1 in 4 people will have a mental illness in their lifetime and each of those individuals will affect the lives of at least 7 other people. At their location at 1455 S. Fourth Street, ADAMH served over 3,000 people seeking treatment just last year. They also offer help for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. ADAMH services are readily available. You can view a full list of providers on their website. These services are available for children and adults. Even if you are not a family member, if you think someone needs help, you can call ADAMH for advice on how to help someone.

**TOPIC:** MVA Board and Southside Area Commission Elections

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Board Elections are coming up in November. Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large are all up for election. Jessica Norman will be running for the Secretary position. Nick Jenior will be running for Treasurer and Allison Wilford will be running for our Member-at-Large position. Voting will take place at the next monthly meeting. Anyone interested in running should contact Tony. The Southside Area Commission Elections are also coming up. Erin Synk and Chris Macisco are up for reelection. They have both served for the last two year. Chris would like to see a ribbon-cutting at the library and would like to see and increase in positive energy related to the Barrett redevelopment. Erin was previously appointed to her position and this will be her first election. She was also responsible for the housing expo the last two year and is working to help establish a proactive code enforcement program in some areas. Anne Stewart was just elected as the education chair and Bob Leighty is the PAMA chair for the Southside Area Commission. These 4 dedicated individuals are all residents of Merion Village!



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**TOPIC: MVA Committees**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The board recently discussed the need to establish new committees within the association to target specific concerns and suggestions. The committees will help us gather additional manpower and give attention to areas that are important to our residents. Current committee ideas include Education, Business Development, Neighborhood Welcome, Beautification and Social. If you have ideas, concerns or suggestions or would like to be part of a committee, please e-mail Coda at [CBruce@MerionVillage.org](mailto:CBruce@MerionVillage.org)

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

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** We had new membership deposits this month as well as additional income from the festival. We purchased several supplies that we will be using long-term for our events, civic booths, farmer's markets, etc. We also received the full refund from the idea foundry for our kiosks which will appear on the October report. Remember to renew your Kroger Community Rewards add visit our site for more information on the 4 rewards programs where the MVA can benefit.

**TOPIC: MVA Meetings in 2015**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Our November meeting will be at St. Paul UCC and the location for our December Potluck and Bake Sale has yet to be determined.

**TOPIC: City Demolition Requests**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** There have been a few "accidental" structure demolitions that did not follow the correct processes due to a failure in processing with the City. Additional procedures have been put in place to ensure that this does not occur again. The City admitted their mistake and apologized, ensuring they are working to prevent this in the future. Curtis Davis with the Southside Area Commission is working hard on this problem. We have 3 demolition requests including two garaged and 1 house on Morrill. Each of these have had code violations and our zoning chair, Seth, agrees that the properties are not salvageable.

**TOPIC: Fiscal Agent Request**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** A local artist is attempting to launch a mural project and would like the MVA to act as fiscal agent. As we received more information, we will share this with the Association Members for further discussion.

**TOPIC: Pocket Park at Morrill and Bruck**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** There has been a lot of discussion about the state of the pocket park at Morrill and Bruck and our future plans. The property is owned and operated by the Land Bank but Chris Feif has a lease for the park. Part of the problem is that there is too much to maintain for the number of volunteers who are able to help. One of the concerns is how we can improve the park to make it easier to maintain. Chris spoke about the park. He added a water source and received a City Grant to help with some things. The park needs volunteers to make it great. His main objective is to create a community garden for food on the south side of the property. Michele A. mentioned a small park she saw in Old Towne East with benches, a pergola and baskets of books for people to read on one side and a vegetable garden on the other. Chris suggested creating a Facebook Page for our park to gain interest.

**TOPIC: Siebert Chiller Complaints**

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The neighbors near Siebert worked came to an agreement with the school where the chiller will now be shut down during the evenings when the building is not in use. Some residents have raised concerns about the Merion Village archway. If you have any thoughts, please reach out to us.



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### TOPIC: SASC and Reeb Center Updates

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The SASC (Substance Abuse Solutions Committee) is sponsoring its second walk from the Reeb Center to Barrack Recreation Center on October 24th, beginning at 2:00 PM. There will be entertainment, dinner, face-painting, etc. The SASC was just given an award for best community project and will now be holding their meetings in the Reeb Center. The SouthSide Roots Café is also open now in the Reeb Center. The bump-outs on S. Fourth continue to be a blight. In the spring, Tony, Joanne and Mike from the Columbus Department of Service walked the street and reported all of the issues to 311.

### TOPIC: Southbend Patio

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Southbend will be adding a patio on the Moler. It will be closed at 10:30 PM. The Southbend has already secured a permit for this patio. The Southbend did sign a good neighbor agreement several months ago.

### TOPIC: Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The Parsons Avenue Redevelopment Corporation is a new group that was formed by Community Development for All People. They are having their first event on November 12th at Gather and they are looking for interested parties. If you would like to attend the event, please e-mail Tony no later than October 23rd.

### TOPIC: Scheduled Events and Activities

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** The next cleanup will be Saturday, October 10th. Participants should meet at the info center at 10:00 AM and will work together to for 2 hours to beautify our neighborhood. Wear your MVA t-shirts and bring any supplies you have. If you have any specific areas you'd like us to target, please e-mail Tony. If you'd like to participate but cannot come out, please spend some time making 311 reports about broken dumpsters or other code violations. Anne also needs a volunteer who can return supplies to Keep Columbus Beautiful. Bake Me Happy will be organizing a small craft fair two weekends in December. On one of the evenings, we will pair with them for a Meet Local / Buy Local event. We will also be working with Hey Hey or Tatoheads to host an event in October or November. One of the kiosks has been rehung on the T.Y. Furniture building. The next will be rehung at the Hey Hey.

<u>DATE (TIME)</u>	<u>EVENT DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>COORDINATOR(S)</u>
December 2 <sup>nd</sup> (7:00 - 9:00 PM)	Annual MVA Potluck	MVA Board
<b>LOCATION:</b> TBD		

### TOPIC: Joshua Clark Running for State Representative

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:** Joshua Clark is running for State Representative in 2016. He lives at Hanford and Jager and will come back to talk to us at a later date.

### 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, November 4, 2015 in the basement of St. Paul UCC (225 E Gates St, Columbus, OH 43206) beginning promptly at 7:15 PM.