

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION
October 26, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2010, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Scott Feuer presiding.

Directors present were Bagley, Blakeney, Feuer, Flaks, Gordon, Hill, Lam, Mudrick, Murphy, Piltch, Quinn, Seiden and Wylonis.

Directors absent and excused were Eisenberg, Ettelson, Kalner, Lavoritano, Marmon, Potok, Stevenson, and Tompkins.

Other attendees included Lynne Feuer, Amy Murphy, Emily and Casey Murphy and Karla Moras.

The Meeting was called to order by President Feuer at 7:30 p.m. and the September minutes were unanimously approved with corrections.

Treasurer Bob Marmon was not present but the September report was presented and distributed at the Annual Meeting

President's Report – President Feuer opened by thanking all the directors for their support and participation during his two and one-half years as president. He was pleased with the support from the community in drawing together for dialogue regarding the Maguire Field use and development. He spoke of the difficult transition into office after the passing of the previous president, Margot Flaks. He thanked the new secretary, Helen Guy, whom he brought on board, for her diligent assistance, and lastly, he thanked the Executive Committee for its help in planning meetings and addressing issues affecting the community; for planning the Flag Day celebration, the Neighbor-to-Neighbor events; the house and garden tour in collaboration with the LM Conservancy. President Feuer's goals included energizing the Civic Association by drawing in new members, getting them involved and he has the highest hopes and expectations that the incoming president, Kevin Murphy, will be an outstanding leader and continue the work of the Association for the next two years.

Marty Piltch, representing the Nominating Committee, began his report by offering his thanks to Scott Feuer for his accomplishments, for his many talents, for his energy, for his having brought in more young people into the Association and praised Scott with a good commendation.

Mr. Piltch recommended the new slate of officers for the coming year as follows: Kevin Murphy, President; Scott Kalner, 1st VP; Lauren Wylonis, 2nd VP; Michael Seiden, 3rd VP, Secretary, Helen Guy and Treasurer Bob Marmon. There was a motion to approve, it was seconded and the motion was carried.

Kevin Murphy thereupon assumed the role of President and began by enumerating Scott's many accomplishments dating from April 2008 up to the present. Scott worked diligently and successfully on the social events, the newsletter, the train station plantings and maintenance; the Barnes; the advertising and promoting of activities of the Association; helping to launch the website; the house and garden tour. Kevin then presented to Scott a framed collection of photos taken during his term and a certificate.

He invited all assembled to sign the framed items with well-wishes. Refreshments were enjoyed at the end of the meeting in celebration of those accomplishments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts and Education — Frances Quinn announced that the next Neighbor-to-Neighbor event is scheduled for Thursday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tribute House. Jerry Francis will be speaking on the Restoration of the Cynwyd Heritage Trail and the Train Station. Scott will make up the posters, the announcement will go out to the community and refreshments will be provided.

Botanical — Judith Flaks reported that the Botanical board met the Wednesday of the previous week and a new board member, Scott Feuer, was added to the group. Spring Clean-up is scheduled for May 1, 9:30-12:30 noon. The Botanical is trying to get Amtrak to reimburse for the three specimen trees that they took down, a Kentucky Coffee Tree and two Black Tupelos.

Commissioner — Commissioner Brian Gordon began his report with an update regarding the City Avenue rezoning issues. Township Commissioners are continuing their discussions regarding building heights, density, and traffic. Commissioner Gordon does not agree with the letter that Commissioner Manos submitted to the Merion Civic Association fall newsletter, which characterizes the build-up along City Avenue as an inevitable development that needs to be well-managed. Commissioner Gordon urged the directors to support the historical district idea in order to restrict development in Merion.

Community Action – No report.

Federation of Civic Associations — Frances Quinn reported that two Commissioners attended the last meeting of the Federation. Discussion centered on the purpose and direction of the Federation, the lengthiness of meetings and what the character of Lower Merion should be, looking to the future. Will it be an extension of the urban into the suburban or remain the bedroom community that it now is? There is concern over the discussions of the development of the City Avenue strip that abuts the community and what the influence on the suburban lifestyle will be as far as building density and added vehicular traffic, which is already very congested.

Finance – No report.

History — Lauren Wylonis reported on the History Committee meeting proceedings of earlier in the evening. Discussion at the meeting focused on pursuing historical designation of Merion, with a plan to discuss the topic at the upcoming January meeting of the directors and with the Merion community invited to attend.

Newsletter — No report.

Nominating – Marty Piltch gave the committee report at the beginning of the meeting.

Post Office — Michael Seiden had no report.

School Board – No report.

Social -- Judy Flaks reported on a successful Annual Meeting, with interesting and relevant speakers and a very enjoyable dinner afterwards.

Station and Grounds — Scott Feuer reported that the fall clean-up was successful and very productive despite a sparse turnout.

Streets, Lights and Traffic — No report.

Website -- Michael Seiden reported that he has posted the 10th Annual Yearbook (1923) to the website. The Yearbook is a summary of activities in Merion, accomplishments and goals for the coming year, reminding us these many years later that the founders and members of the Civic Association laid the foundation for what Merion is today and what its residents cherish and value in 2010.

Zoning — No report.

Barnes – Scott Feuer announced a Barnes community day being planned for May 15, 2011, and he has formed a committee to plan the activities. The Barnes Foundation will be closing in July 2011 for one year to pack and move the art contents to the new museum in Philadelphia. Mr. Feuer also would like to plan a tour of the Barnes gardens for the Merion community.

Community Watch — No report.

Merion Community Coalition – Lauren Wylonis reported that the Zoning Hearing Board meeting on November 18 will announce its decision regarding the Maguire fields issues.

Narberth Fire Company -- President Murphy reported 13 calls were received at the Fire Company in October and gave an update on the situation of the 4 new houses built on the site of the razed Spanish house in Narberth. The houses were not built with the required sprinkler systems. The fire house will “surround and drown” if fire trucks are summoned to the houses.

St. Joe’s – No report.

Old Business -- None.

New Business – President Murphy requested a motion to change the meeting time of the next meeting on November 23 to 7:30 p.m. The motion was made, seconded, there was no discussion, none opposed, and the motion was passed.

There being no more new business, the meeting, on motion made and seconded, was unanimously adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, November 23, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Guy, Secretary