

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
OCTOBER 25, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Kevin Murphy presiding.

Directors present were Blakeney, Browne, Eisenberg, Feuer, Flaks, Fratis, Gordon, Greenberg, Hill, Kalner, Lam, Lapes, Murphy, Piltch, Quinn, Seiden and Wylonis.

Directors absent and excused were Bagley, Ettelson, Lavoritano, Marmon, Potok, and Stevenson.

Other attendees included Merion neighbors Dave Rutzel, Darrel Boyle of Welsh Terrace, Barbara Schlegel and Patty Martin from St. Joe's.

The Meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 7:45 p.m. and the September minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – Bob Marmon was not present. Marty Piltch had no report to make.

**President's Report** – President Murphy thanked all who had attended the Annual Meeting on October 16.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arts and Education** — Frances Quinn announced that the next event to be planned is the Neighbor-to-Neighbor in January, 2012. Frances is looking for a topic of local or regional importance.

**Botanical** — Judith Flaks announced that the fall clean-up crew in the park on October 2 was sparse due to rain, but that much was accomplished in the way of pruning and clean up. A tree will be dedicated in the Spring to the memory of Phil Bagley, and the Merion Civic Association will assist in planning the ceremony. The Botanical committee has discussed establishing rain gardens in the park to offset the pooling of water after heavy rains. Patty Thomas has been consulted on the subject.

**Commissioner** — Commissioner Brian Gordon reported that the Environmental Advisory Committee is working on a "green" \_\_\_\_\_ ordinance with the use of shade trees within parking lots every 50-60 feet, with planted islands for the \_\_\_\_\_ of stormwater buffers between parking lots and adjacent streets.

Commissioner Gordon distributed a copy for review of The Township Capital Improvement Plan, which is also available at the public library.

Bala Cynwyd Library bids on the renovations to be done are due this week.

As regards the City Avenue Redevelopment plans, modifications to the original vision created by KSK, increase density, make for a more walkable environment. The allowable height has been reduced in response to neighbor complaints. Commissioner Gordon is trying to get the Planning Commission to create a new vision and zone to that vision. In a conversation with Chris Leswing, a recreational track to connect to City Avenue open space will enhance walkability, which is one of the incentives currently in the ordinance.

**Community Action, Zoning & PR** – Les Greenberg reported on the City Avenue Redevelopment meetings on Monday and Tuesday. There may be additional meetings held to resolve outstanding issues. Michael Seiden reported that the meeting on Monday, October 24 was well-attended by other civic associations. He also reported that the Township may want to have it enacted in December. Links to the Township website will be added to the Civic website. A presentation before the Planning Commission will be made at a public hearing on November 7.

Les Greenberg suggested that all look at the Township and Civic Association websites for further information. Michael Seiden reported that Comprehensive Plan discussions are ongoing, and it is estimated that the historical preservation element will be completed in another year and up to ten years to complete the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission estimates that the Comprehensive Plan will be completed within one (1) year. Carl Leswing will work on figuring out the strategy to accomplish this. Les commented that the neighbors' input is making an impact. On 10/27 the Zoning Hearing Board will meet to consider the Golden Slippers variance requests will be heard.

**Federation of Civic Associations** — President Murphy reported on the October 10 meeting highlights, including the proposed joint newsletter, City Avenue and St. Joe's issues.

**Finance** – No report.

**History** — No report.

**Membership** – Dolores Browne \_\_\_\_\_ to give the go-ahead to publicity initiative.

**Newsletter** — The next newsletter will go out in March/April 2012. President Murphy spoke about the idea of sending out a joint newsletter with other civic associations, such as Gladwyne and Wynnewood, with each civic sharing common items and tailoring their own letter with items pertinent to their own community.

**School Board** – Vivian Lapes reported the civil suit on special education for black students was thrown out by the judge. Sidewalks at Lower Merion High School and School House Lane

**Social** – Judy Flaks thanked all who brought food for the Annual Meeting. She thought perhaps the turnout to the meeting may have been affected by the late delivery of the Newsletter to the community. There is some thought that the post office processing procedures are not as effective as they used to be, explaining the poor delivery patterns.

**Station and Grounds, Postal Affairs** — Scott Feuer announced the Station clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, October 30, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Vines will be cleared from shrubs, window boxes cleaned. SEPTA maintenance of the Station grounds has improved.

Station and grounds clean-up is scheduled for Sunday, October 30 at 9:30 a.m. Refreshments will be provided and set up inside the train station.

**Streets, Lights and Traffic** – Renee Hill reported that the light on Baird Rd. has been repaired; thanked Patty Martin for inviting residents to vote at St. Joe's. Renee will check potholes on

\_\_\_\_\_. Renee will check the street light which is out on the southeast corner of Montgomery and Bowman.

**Website** -- Michael Seiden continues to update the website, and will list all the board meetings except the Annual Meeting, which needs to be determined.

**Barnes** – Scott Feuer reported that new Directors were voted in at the Annual Meeting.

**SOMETHING ABOUT PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS?**

Scott Feuer reported that the fence around the Barnes property is being repaired **CAN'T READ WHAT THE NOTES SAY.**

**Community Watch** — President Murphy had no report except to say that the meetings are now being held on a bi-monthly basis.

**Merion Community Coalition – St. Joseph's University Ad Hoc** – Tami Fratis reported that the Merion Community Coalition, Merion Civic Association and the St. Joe's meeting was made up of 4-5 representatives of each group. The most recent focus is to present in the neighborhood addressing construction issues. Two more fields are to open in the Spring. Patty Martin credits them for \_\_\_\_\_ meetings. There are weekly emails with construction updates from St. Joe's forwarded to members by Tami Fratis. Pedestrian safety at City Avenue was discussed in light of a report of a pedestrian accident at \_\_\_\_\_.

Patty Martin distributed a flyer announcing various concerts and lectures on the St. Joe's campus in November, as well as a workshop with St. Joe's and the Merion Botanical Society regarding stormwater management.

**Narberth Fire Company** – President Murphy reported there will be an Open House. October is fire prevention month.

**St. Joe's** –

**Old Business** – President Murphy reported that the Golf Outing will be postponed until 2012.

**New Business** – Frances Quinn reported that Nobel Prize winner in Astrophysics, Sol Perlmutter's parents live in Narberth in Hanson Court.

President Murphy relayed a message from Bob Marmon that Sam and Sharon Abramowitz will be honored by the Delaware Valley Stroke Council, and he requests that the Merion Civic Association honor them.

Judith Flaks announced she is participating in the Paws Walk and is looking for donations.

There being no more new business, the meeting, on motion made and seconded, was unanimously adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, November 22, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Guy, Secretary