

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY 22, 2011

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, February 22, 2011, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Kevin Murphy presiding.

Directors present were Browne, Eisenberg, Flaks, Fratis, Gordon, Greenberg, Hill, Kalner, Lam, Lapes, Lavoritano, Marmon, Mudrick, Murphy, Piltch, Quinn and Wylonis.

Directors absent and excused were Bagley, Blakeney, Ettelson, Feuer, Potok, Seiden and Stevenson

Other attendees included Karla Moras, Ed Goldberg and Dan Soffing.

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

**Treasurer's Report** -- Treasurer Bob Marmon presented and distributed the January 2011 report.

**President's Report** – President Murphy introduced the first speaker of the evening, Pete Condon of the Lower Merion Police Department, who began his report by saying that the number of burglaries in Lower Merion has decreased. Break-ins have been through windows and unlocked doors; several cars that were left idling to warm up in the winter weather were stolen; Babis Pharmacy burglar has been caught. On a separate issue, Judith Flaks said that St. Joe's students are parking on Old Lancaster Rd. and Raynham Rd. Officer Condon advised Civic members to call the Township to register parking complaints to start building a case for tracking the problem.

The second speaker of the evening was Lori Salganikoff, Historic Preservation Director of the Lower Merion Conservancy, a non-profit group dedicated to preserving open space, watersheds, historical preservation of neighborhoods through the Historic Neighborhoods Initiative. Lori was invited to continue the discussion about whether the Merion Civic Association wants to support the idea of designating portions of Merion as historic districts. The Conservancy has received funds to help four communities achieve that status -- Merion would be the third neighborhood to benefit from those funds.

The exploratory period of whether or not to go ahead with the historic designation involves a community partnership with the Conservancy, which would host community meetings, do the required research and host the presentations, which are scheduled at Adath Israel on March 15 at 6:30 p.m. and March 20 at 2:00 P.M.

Lauren Wylonis read a proposed resolution for approval by the Directors, which outlines the basic partnership with the Conservancy: assist in the distribution of information to neighbors; assist in organizing large and small community meetings to allow for free discussion; contribute \$500 to the Historic Neighborhoods Initiative and organize volunteers to collect signed petitions documenting support for the creation of an historic district.

A discussion followed on how best to distribute the resolution to the community as well as the information about the community meetings at Adath Israel and how to quickly coordinate a vote of the Merion Civic Association Directors. Marty Piltch clarified the by-laws that apply to this situation and stated that a special meeting of the Executive Committee would need to be

convened to vote on the contribution of \$500 from Civic funds instead of fund raising from the community and to accept Lauren's resolution as proposed. The Finance Committee would allocate the funds as a variance to the budget. It was decided that the Executive Committee would convene immediately after the adjournment of the Directors meeting to vote on the resolution and the allocation of funds.

President Murphy continued his report with a thank you to all, and specifically Karla Moras, for their active participation in and attendance at the many on-going Township meetings whose agendas have included issues important to the Merion community. He reported that the Merion Civic Association is the most represented of all the Civic Associations in Lower Merion at these public meetings. President Murphy is encouraged and energized by this active participation and is hopeful that the Merion Civic will continue this level of involvement.

President Murphy continued with a suggestion that an ad hoc Centennial Committee be formed to plan, organize and coordinate activities to celebrate in 2013 the centenary of the founding of the Merion Civic Association. President Murphy will continue to keep the Civic informed on crime in the community, the Comprehensive Plan, the street signs mandate, the City Avenue district, new Commissioners and the billboards issue. Lastly, if anyone has received a flood zone letter, it is important to respond.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Arts and Education** — Frances Quinn reported that several speakers for the next Neighbor-to-Neighbor event have been suggested, but no choice has yet been made.

**Botanical** — Judith Flaks announced the next meeting of the Botanical is on February 23 and that Frank Strawbridge will be stepping down as president.

**Commissioner** — Commissioner Brian Gordon's report focused on the problems and solutions of storm water runoff, citing the problem at the York Lynne Apartments. He suggested solutions to the problem on the St. Joe's campus such as adding a layer of stone to catch storm water; changing plantings to specimens that naturally absorb water; and berm structures. Commissioner Gordon turned to the importance of the historic preservation initiative as a tool for preserving the Merion community.

**Community Action/Zoning** – Les Greenberg announced an upcoming meeting for the request to rezone the Palmer property in Wynnewood. The property, proposed site of an apartment complex, is part of Eastern Seminary, across from St. Charles Seminary on Lancaster Avenue, between the Greenhill Apartments and Lankenau Hospital. The second issue Les reported on was St. Joe's plans to demolish Class II structures, and the third was the T Mobile tower placement on the building at 54<sup>th</sup> and City Avenue, the issue being the height of the antenna exceeding the code limit.

Les proposed a motion that the Merion Civic Association vote to disapprove the placement of cell phone antennae on the building at 199 City Avenue in Bala Cynwyd because the height would exceed the code limit. The motion was seconded, there were no objections, the motion carried. Les will represent the Civic Association at the upcoming Zoning Board meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Federation of Civic Associations** — Marty Piltch reported the major item at the Federation meeting was the "no-show" speaker. The meeting became a summary of upcoming meeting agendas.

**Finance** – No report.

**History** — Lauren Wylonis had no report as Lori Salganikoff presented information on the historic district project.

**Membership** – Dolores Browne reported her plan to gather as many emails of Merion residents as possible by creating a chain letter soliciting the help of residents in gathering those addresses. Dolores will use the addresses to contact residents who have not joined the Civic Association.

**Newsletter** — Marjorie Mudrick announced the Spring/Summer newsletter issue will be planned at the committee meeting in March.

**Nominating** – No report.

**School Board** – Vivian Lapes reported the Penn Valley school will get a solar panel; the lawyer from the Department of Justice supports redistricting decision; the school system needs to find more reading specialists.

**Social** – Judith Flaks reminded the Directors the New Residents Reception is scheduled for Sunday, March 13, 3:00-5:00 p.m., and passed around a refreshments sign-up form.

**Station and Grounds/Post Office** — President Murphy read the report Scott Feuer submitted before going on vacation. Sunday, May 1 at 9:30 a.m. is the Station planting.

**Streets, Lights and Traffic** – Renee Hill reported that the potholes that were the subject of complaints have already been repaired.

**Website** -- Michael Seiden was excused. President Murphy requested that Karla Moras ask Michael to add the link to the City Avenue Advisory Board to the Merion Civic website.

**Barnes** – Scott Feuer was excused. President Murphy offered Scott's report that the Barnes Community day is scheduled for June 5, 1-5 p.m. The next Barnes board meeting is scheduled for March 8. The Barnes Plant Sale date is May 7, starting at 8:30 a.m.

**Community Watch** — President Murphy announced the next training session is on February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

**Merion Community Coalition** – Karla Moras announced the Township has scheduled two meetings regarding the St. Joe's development. The MCC will be forming subgroups to handle the issues of lighting, parking and sound. The March meetings of the Zoning Board will involve votes on the different aspects of the St. Joe's development plans.

**Narberth Fire Company** -- President Murphy reported there were 22 calls in January. President Murphy described the "adopt-a fire-hydrant" idea to encourage residents to clear snow away from hydrants in their neighborhoods to maintain access for fire trucks.

**St. Joe's** – Patty Martin was not present. On February 24 at 4:00 p.m. the Historical Commission will meet regarding St. Joe's.

**Old Business** – President Murphy stated a new date for the golfing outing needs to be set.

**New Business** – A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to change the start time of the next meeting on March 22 to 7:45 p.m. The speakers at the next meeting will be Roger Moog of the City Avenue Rezoning initiative and a representative from the Bala Neighborhood Club. There being no more new business, the meeting, on motion made and seconded, was unanimously adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Guy, Secretary