

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

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

Directors present were Blakeney, Browne, Eisenberg, Feuer, Gordon, Greenberg, Lam, Lapes, Murphy, Quinn, and Wylonis.

Directors absent and excused were Bagley, Ettelson, Flaks, Fratis, Hill, Kalner, Lavoritano, Marmon, Potok, and Seiden.

Merion resident Dave Rutzel was in attendance.

The Meeting was called to order by President Murphy at 7:30 p.m. and the October minutes were unanimously approved. President Murphy welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the speaker for the evening, Lower Merion Police Officer Michael Young, who has served on the force for 16 years, much of it on bike patrol.

Officer Young reported a vehicle being tracked and seen in Merion, thought to be operated by a suspected criminal – a white former patrol-type car with dark tinted windows and a low muffler engine sound. Copper downspouts continue to be stolen from houses. Four black youths, equipped with rakes have also been frequenting the neighborhood hoping to target empty houses, looking for electronic/tech items. Officer Young ended his report by reminding us to keep our eyes open to unusual activity and call the police department to make a report.

Bruce Eisenberg reported to Officer Young the heavy traffic on Old Lancaster Road. Delivery trucks are clogging the roads in the vicinity of the new senior citizen residence. St. Joe's student parking along Raynham Road was also addressed. Parked cars are blocking access to the homeowners at Raynham and Latch's Lane, at the Raynham Road gate into their property.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Marmon was not present. Although he submitted his report before the meeting it was not available for review. The report will be emailed to all Directors.

President's Report – President Murphy began his report with a remembrance of Marty Piltch who passed away on November 11, and was a long time Director of the Civic Association and chairman of the Finance Committee. Refreshments were enjoyed and Marty was very fondly remembered and will be missed. Frances Quinn and others spoke of their memories of working with Marty.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts and Education — Frances Quinn announced that the next event to be planned is the Neighbor-to-Neighbor lecture in February, 2012. The topic will be China and the speakers are the twin nieces of Helen Guy, Cory and Page Wheeler, who have just returned from a year in China as teachers of English at a school in Beijing.

Botanical — Judith Flaks was not present. President Murphy suggested that a tree be planted in memory of Marty Piltch, or perhaps a bench purchased and placed in the park. Scott Feuer added that a nice remembrance of Marty could be the purchase of trees to be planted in Israel.

President Murphy asked for a motion to approve the purchase of tree in Israel, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Commissioner — Commissioner Brian Gordon opened his report with an announcement that the 2012 Proposed Budget does not include an increase in real estate tax or the solid waste cost. The projected revenue is \$53 million and expenditures \$53.8 million. Budget cuts were made in order to insure no tax increases.

Commissioner Gordon spoke at length regarding the City Ave. District and the planning process, which he characterized as disappointing for the lack of expertise in the Township to carry this work forward. The Municipalities Planning Code of Pennsylvania has granted the power to create the Official Map of the City Ave. District. The map will include any piece of land or facility that will provide a benefit to the public, such as public streets, watercourses, parks, playgrounds, open space, pedestrian ways and easements, floodways and floodplains. One purpose of the Map is to give municipalities time to enter into negotiations for the possible acquisition of a property prior to development and prior to such an opportunity to provide for a new road or bike/pedestrian facility is lost. The Map is a planning tool that allows public officials to plan for public facilities in the future, and to acquire a property if they desire, which can happen with or without the Official Map. It is understood that the property so acquired would be less expensive and ideally in a logical place to meet the needs of the public.

Community Action, Zoning & PR – Les Greenberg was not present, but President Murphy reported that the City Avenue Ordinance will be up for vote at the December 14 Commissioner’s meeting. Neighboring civic associations, including the Merion Civic are opposed to the ordinance, but their wishes are being ignored. There is no real plan for the City Avenue district. The civic associations are not opposed to development per se, but the absence of a coherent plan is troubling.

Federation of Civic Associations — President Murphy reported that Chris Steckel spoke about the library renovation projects. There was a remembrance of Marty Piltch. He was an active member of the Federation.

Finance – No report.

History — No report.

Membership – President Murphy announced that the Committee needs to meet.

Nominating -- Scott Feuer nominated Dave Rutzel to fill one of the open Director position as well as chair the Finance Committee. President Murphy asked for a motion to nominate Dave Rutzel to serve a one year term and then be nominated at the Annual Meeting in 2012 to a 3-year term. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Newsletter — No report.

School Board – No report.

Social – No report.

Station and Grounds, Postal Affairs — Scott Feuer reported a successful clean-up at the train station. Scott has written SEPTA a letter reminding them of the projects that need to be completed in the next year.

Streets, Lights and Traffic – No report.

Website – No report.

Barnes – No report.

Community Watch — President Murphy referenced an outdated list of Merion residents who took training to be on community watch. Some of the names listed are of the deceased and some have moved from the neighborhood. President Murphy distributed the list and asked everyone to revise the list as possible.

Merion Community Coalition – St. Joseph’s University Ad Hoc – No report.

Narberth Fire Company – No report.

St. Joe’s – No report.

Ad Hoc Centennial Committee -- Scott Kalner was not present, but President Murphy spoke about the Drinker Marker and the restoration of the historic streetlight, with the suggestion that the Merion Civic Association share the cost of restoration and installation equally with the Tribute House. Suggestions were made to sponsor a fundraiser to help defray the cost.

Old Business – No old business to discuss.

New Business – President Murphy announced that the Civic would be willing to invite the Delaware Valley Stroke Association honorees, Sharon and Sam Abramovitz to a future meeting to further honor them.

There being no more new business, the meeting, on motion made and seconded, was unanimously adjourned at 9:35 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Guy, Secretary