

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION
April 24, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2012, beginning at 7:45 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Kevin Murphy presiding.

Directors present were Browne, Eisenberg, Feuer, Greenberg, Kalner, Lam, Lapes, Marmon, Murphy, Rutzel, and Seiden.

Directors absent and excused were Bagley, Blakeney, Ettelson, Flaks, Fratis, Gordon, Hill, Lavoritano, Potok, and Quinn.

Merion residents Claire Mitchell and Karla Moras were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. and the March Minutes were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Marmon presented the report for March. Total revenue from dues was \$335.00. Cash expenditures were \$732.21 and are detailed in the report. The ending checkbook balance in February was \$27,264.12. The Vanguard Money Market Fund holds \$6,377.21. The Golf Outing deposit is \$800.00 and post office escrow is \$265.00. Total Assets is \$34,706.52; Total Assets one year ago were \$33,292.08.

President's Report – President Murphy opened the meeting by saying that the light turnout was likely due to the primary elections being held today, as several of our directors are working at the polls. President Murphy also announced that Lauren Wylonis has resigned her director position since she will be moving out of the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Arts and Education — The Flag Day Concert will be on June 14. All are invited to come early at 6:30 p.m. for a picnic on the front lawn. The concert will begin at 8:00 p.m.

Botanical — Scott Feuer reminded the directors that spring clean-up in the park is scheduled for May 6, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Volunteers will meet at the Latches Lane entry to the park. Please bring hand tools and gloves.

Commissioner — No report.

Community Action, Zoning & PR – Les Greenberg announced the April 25th Board of Commissioners' meeting to approve the City Avenue Zoning Ordinance. He also noted that the resolution authored by Brian Gordon will be presented at the Zoning Hearing Board meeting to review St. Joe's special exceptions. Dolores Browne suggested that St. Joe's be requested to give out camp scholarships to Merion residents. Vivian Lapes offered that the Merion neighbors' concerns should take precedence. The edited version of Commissioner Gordon's resolution was discussed.

Les Greenberg reported that the Township passed the application for the liquor license for the kosher restaurant that will open on Montgomery Avenue in Bala Cynwyd, and the application has been forwarded to the Liquor Control Board; TSAAC will not meet until the trigger point has been reached, based upon traffic counts on City Avenue.

Michael Seiden reported that Township Manager Cleland's contract issues have not been resolved yet. Karla Moras added that the contract, by law, is limited to two years, with additional review required before a vote.

Scott Kalner reported on the Land Use Committee meeting for the Comprehensive Plan. The process needs work by staff. The integration of work by different groups was discussed.

Michael Seiden, a member of the Facilities Committee, gave background information on the current holdings required to be reviewed.

Claire Mitchell, Merion neighbor from Baird Road, was introduced and all members present offered their greetings and welcome.

Federation of Civic Associations — President Murphy reported that there was no Federation meeting this month. Representatives of the Federation attended the City Avenue meeting at the Township instead of going to the Planning Commission. The City Avenue agenda item did not come up until very late in the evening.

Karla Moras noted that changes to the City Avenue Ordinance recommended by the Bala Club were not recommended by the Planning Commission.

Karla Moras said that two grants that are being pursued by the Township, one is for the Manayunk Bridge extension of the Cynwyd Trail, the other is for traffic light improvements for City Avenue.

Les Greenberg mentioned that the traffic light improvements grant application has been in the works for a while under the auspices of the City Avenue Special Services District.

Finance – No report.

History — No report. A question was raised about the status of petitions for the historic district petition signatures. Brian Gordon will be asked for a status report.

Membership – No report.

Nominating -- No report.

Newsletter — Michael Seiden reported that the Newsletter will soon be sent to the printer.

School Board – Vivian Lapes reported that the increase in the Lower Merion School District taxes has been lowered from 3.99% to 1.99%. Joel Levin was hired for the website. .

Social – The planting of the flower boxes at the train station and the post office is scheduled for Sunday, April 29 at 9:30 a.m., rain or shine.

Station and Grounds, Postal Affairs — Scott Feuer announced the train station planting day will be on April 29 at 9:30 a.m.

Streets, Lights and Traffic – No report.

Website – Michael Seiden has updated the website to include topics discussed at the meeting.

Barnes – Scott Feuer announced the Barnes opening is scheduled for May 18 with 60 hours free of charge around Memorial Day. On September 23, the second annual Merion Day will be held on the Barnes grounds in Merion.

Community Watch — President Murphy announced National Night Out is scheduled for August 7 with a gathering at Suburban Square. The information will be added to website.

Merion Community Coalition – St. Joseph’s University Ad Hoc – Michael Seiden reported that the tone of the meetings has generally not been positive Although community concerns have been expressed. Les Greenberg noted the tone has been antagonistic but dialogue should continue. Karla Moras reported that St. Joe’s is appealing the Zoning Hearing Board decision on Maguire Campus to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, after the Commonwealth Court denied the appeal. A discussion followed about St. Joe’s landscaping on Berwick Road and St. Joe’s town/gown problems. The issue of banners was discussed at the MCP meeting. The point of contention is the advertising for commercial sponsors. Bob Duncan said at the Lower Merion Township Planning Commission meeting that the Township believes that the banners, as currently arranged constitute advertising, and are not allowed. Lawyers will be consulted on this issue.

Narberth Fire Company/Union Fire Company – President Murphy reported there were 21 alarms at the Narberth Fire Company, 19 in Lower Merion. There was a small apartment fire in Merion Gardens. There were 18 alarms at Union: three building fires, with a good turnout of volunteers.

St. Joe’s – No report.

Ad Hoc Centennial Committee -- Scott Kalner announced the historical light post is almost ready and should be installed within the next month.

Old Business – No old business to discuss.

New Business – President Murphy announced that the May meeting will be a joint meeting with Wynnewood and Gladwyne Civic Associations. The guest speaker will be Lower Merion School District Superintendent McGinley. A motion was made by Harriet Lam and seconded by Bruce Eisenberg to change the meeting time to start at 7:30 p.m.

Karla Moras asked if the recreation of Lori Salganicoff’s presentation can be funded by the Merion Civic.

Scott Feuer inquired about the status of the Drinker historical marker.

A motion was made by Les Greenberg and seconded by Dave Rutzel to approve the resolution written by Brian Gordon regarding the summer sports camps at St. Joe’s. It will be read at the Zoning Hearing Board on May 3 by a member of the Merion Civic Association.

There being no more new business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Guy, Secretary