

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION

June 25, 2013

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Scott Kalner presiding.

Directors present were, Browne, Feuer, Flaks, Fratis, Gordon, Greenberg, Hill, Kalner, Lam, Lavoritano, Marmon, Quinn, Rutzel, and Seiden.

Directors absent and excused were Bagley, Blakeney, Ettelson, and Potok.

In addition, George and Lynn Ross, of Merion, were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. by President Kalner. A motion was made and seconded and the May 28, 2013 minutes were approved unanimously.

President Kalner introduced the first speaker of the evening, Bob Wegbreit of the Narberth Borough Council, who spoke to the group about proposals for the intersection at North Wynnewood Avenue and East Wynnewood Road adjacent to the railroad tunnel in Narberth. After some study and research, the Narberth council recommends the use of a "mini roundabout." Supporting documentation may be found on www.NarberthCalendar.com Bob noted that the Rockland Avenue bridge will be demolished in August.

The second speaker of the evening was Merion neighbor, George Ross, who discussed the Idris Road plans issued by the Township Engineer. Lower Merion Township received bids, with the low bid coming in at about \$300,000 (of which landscaping is accounted for approximately \$43,000). The bids have already been awarded. The neighbors see three issues with the current situation: the initial height and caliper of the trees and shrubs to be planted; Lower Merion Township says that they will not provide any means to provide water on site for neighbors to aid in the establishment and care of the plantings; and Lower Merion wants to repave only after the portions of Idris Road directly affected by the stormwater piping installation have been repaired. However, George noted that there are significant portions of the road that are dangerously worn now.

Commissioner Gordon reported that he spoke with the Lower Merion Township engineer, Ed Pluciennik, about these issues, and he will continue to follow-up.

Treasurer's Report – No report

President's Report – No report

Commissioner -- Commissioner Gordon began his report by saying that after his initial opposition, he now supports the idea of a roundabout for the North Wynnewood Avenue and East Wynnewood Road intersection, noting that it should have traffic calming benefits and make left turns safer.

Commissioner Gordon suggested that Merion Civic Association invite Liz Rogan to a future Board meeting.

On the subject of St. Charles Seminary, Commissioner Gordon reported that he attended a second focus group meeting about the Seminary plans. There were about 15 people from neighboring civic associations as well as some neighbors. They suggested that St. Charles hire a planner to develop a study to give the Seminary an independent determination of what can readily be developed and the potential value of the site. Cross Partners (who developed Palmer Seminary) have submitted a pre-RFP proposal to the Seminary. There is more work to be done by Bishop Senior and the Diocese Real Estate Advisory Board before they are ready to prepare an RFP.

Commissioner Gordon suggested that residents review the proposed Lower Merion Capital Improvement plan and attend the 26 June meeting where it will be discussed at the Township.

On the Merion Cynwyd Business District, Commissioner Gordon noted that the initial meeting was a success and subsequent planning meetings with the business owners, local civic associations, commissioners and Township staff are currently being scheduled. He commented that there is a need to beautify the district and to expand the sidewalk widths which could reduce the roadway width to three lanes – two travel lanes and a turning lane. This will have the added benefit of calming traffic and making it easier for pedestrians to cross the Montgomery Avenue.

Committee Reports: No reports

Old Business – None

New Business – Frances Quinn was presented with a certificate in recognition of all her many contributions over the years to Merion Civic Association through her chairing of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor events and the Social Committee, as well as coordinating the annual Flag Day concerts. Frances continues to be an enthusiastic Director and will always be remembered for her unflinching willingness to be active and relevant to the civic association and the Merion community.

There being no more new business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned. The Board then gathered in the Legion Room to enjoy the Annual Directors Picnic. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Guy, Secretary