

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
JUNE 23, 2015

The regular June meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Merion Tribute House with President Michael Seiden presiding.

Directors present were Eisenberg, Feuer, Greenberg, Hill, Lam, Lavoritano, Murphy, Quinn and Seiden.

Directors absent and excused were Anderson, Kalner, Ettelson, Flaks, Gordon, Marmon, Potok, Ross, Rutzel and Sinai.

Merion residents Ellen Eisenberg, Roz Seiden, Melanie Schafmeister, Mr. and Mrs.(Orsi) Lazar, Nora and Howard Goldfine, and Mr. Schmuhl were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by President Seiden, who first welcomed all present.

**Speaker** – The scheduled speaker, Holly Cohen, Executive Director of the Kohelet Foundation, requested the opportunity to present to the Directors plans to expand the Kohelet Yeshiva High School (formerly Akiba Hebrew Academy). Ms. Cohen began her presentation by describing the work of the Foundation, which is to support Jewish day schools across North America by helping run programs, offering scholarships and educational programs.

Six years ago, David Magerman, Merion resident, purchased and renovated the Akiba School, which, now as the Kohelet High School, has an enrollment of 113 students, grades 9-12. The school focuses on modern Orthodox education, which means that teaching and learning is progressive, differs from traditional Orthodox education, and the Kohelet model being proposed may change the face of Jewish education in day schools across the United States.

The school is seeking to add a new, 2-story building to house elementary grades, K-8. The institution is zoned for 180 students and the new building would potentially increase enrollment to 360 children, which is fewer children than what Akiba accommodated. Not all current parking spaces required by code are being used, so Kohelet will be seeking a waiver of spaces required by the Township. Parking at the school is designated for faculty and staff.

An historic evaluation is scheduled to assess the plans to preserve mansion on the property. Administrators of the school will present their plans to the Historic Commission on July 20<sup>th</sup>, followed by an appearance before the Zoning Hearing Board on July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The properties at 280 and 284 Melrose Lane, owned by Kohelet, are uninhabitable and the plan is to vacate those properties and use the land for playing fields.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made and seconded and the May meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** – Although Robert Marmon was not present to report on the Treasurer's report for May, 2015, he did send the report to all directors via email. A motion was made and seconded and the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

**President's Report** – President Seiden announced that the second dues letter has been sent to the printer and will be mailed out in the next week or so. President Seiden announced that Township meetings are now being streamed online.

**Committee/Representative Reports:**

**Land Use, Zoning and Community Relations:** Les Greenberg reported that the Wendy's restaurant and Symphony Square issues are on hold. Jewish Family Services will appear before the July 9<sup>th</sup> Zoning Hearing Board.

**Old Business** – In response to several directors of the MCA, Les Greenberg announced that he wanted to make a motion to reconsider a donation less than the \$150 agreed upon at the May meeting to the Build On organization, some of whose members helped out at the train station spring planting. It was decided to table the topic until the September meeting.

**New Business** –There being no new business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Directors then gathered for the Annual Directors' Picnic. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,  
Helen Guy, Secretary