

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERION CIVIC ASSOCIATION
MARCH 24, 2015

The regular March meeting of the Board of Directors of the Merion Civic Association was held on Tuesday, March 24, 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, Marmon, Murphy, Potok, Quinn, Ross, Rutzel, and Seiden.

Directors absent and excused were Anderson, Browne, Ettelson, Flaks, Gordon, Kalner, and Sinai.

Irv Finkel from Merion was also in attendance.

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

Approval of Minutes

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

Treasurer's Report – Robert Marmon presented the Treasurer's report for February, 2015. A motion was made and seconded and the Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Speaker - President Seiden introduced the speaker of the evening, Tom Devine, Business Director of Merion Mercy Academy, who presented changes to construction plans, which had already been approved by the Township. The original design of 2008 was not sufficiently funded, so the plans were changed to increase the square footage of the project, which does not change the original footprint, but is reflected in an increase in height of existing structures. There will be an upgrade to the landscaping facing Meeting House Lane; green space will be increased; and Physical Education classes will be moved to the second floor. And art studio will be added with exposure to more natural lighting. The overall aim of the upgrade is to maintain par with other private school competitors on the Main Line. Additional parking of 24-25 spaces may be created where the present tennis courts are situated, with the tennis program possibly being moved to the Bala Tennis Club. The Academy must have 17 parking spots in reserve on its 35 acre campus. Merion Mercy Academy continues to maintain good relations with its residential neighbors. A cap of 490 total students remains in place, with current enrollment standing at 487 students. The school limits student parking and closely monitors the number of permits that are issued. Parking is monitored on side streets in the neighborhood to prevent students from further encroaching on neighboring streets. The proposed changes will be presented to the Zoning and Hearing Board. It was noted that although Merion Mercy Academy is not located in Merion per se, the administration of the school wishes to keep the Merion Civic Association informed of changes to the campus.

President's Report – President Seiden began his report by emphasizing the importance of the activities of the Social, Membership and Nominating Committees in the coming year to advance the aims and purpose of the Merion Civic Association to be a relevant community entity and to

increase participation of the Directors and community in achieving those goals as well as to recruit more Directors.

President Seiden brought two maps of Merion, one from 1851 and the second from 1935, which were displayed for a comparative look at the changes to the community in the intervening years. President Seiden's second topic was an overview of the contents and use of the Merion Civic Association website, which he created and maintains. A copy of the home page is included with these minutes. The website, a valuable resource for all Merion residents includes the following sections, all with links available for more detailed information:

- About the Association
- Mission
- History
- Bylaws
- Minutes
- Directors
- Committees
- Membership application
- Calendar
- Contact
- FAQ
- Links
- News
- Newsletters
- Photo gallery

Of special interest to President Seiden is the History section, which contains scanned Year Books, which chronicle the activities of the Civic Association year-to-year from its inception, and which are all searchable.

President Seiden announced speakers under consideration for future meetings: Mark Shaw, Bartlett Tree Service; Jeff Cepull, president of the Merion Botanical Association; and the owner of Rosenberg's to present information on a possible wine tasting fund raiser, at a cost of \$10.00 per person. The Social Committee will be active in coordinating this activity. Scott Feuer suggested that President Seiden develop a business plan for this activity to be presented to the Finance Committee, and President Seiden asked for assistance from anyone with expertise in developing a business plan.

Committee/Representative Reports:

Land Use, Zoning and Community Relations: Les Greenberg announced that the Comprehensive Plan work groups will present their proposals to the Board of Commissioners on April 22. Zoning districts R6 and R6A codes have been updated to preserve moderate income housing stock. The redevelopment of the Wendy's restaurant is on hold.

Dave Rutzel gave an update on developments at St. Charles Seminary. The Seminary has submitted a plan to the township planning commission for approval, but it has not been scheduled. The Coalition for Neighborhood Character and Quality (CNCQ) has appealed the Zoning Hearing Board decision that allowed St. Charles to expand the use of the upper campus without providing buffer to the neighbors and allowing them to open the Highland Avenue gate. St. Charles challenged the standing of CNCQ. In the hearing with the judge on the motion to

dismiss based on standing, the judge recommended that the Seminary settle the case in the best interests of neighbors and St. Charles. CNCQ is currently in settlement discussions with the Seminary. There has been no announcement from the Seminary on the lower campus development plan.

Commissioner's Report – No report

Old Business – None

New Business –There being no other new business, a motion was made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at the Merion Tribute House on Tuesday, April 28, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Guy, Secretary