

MPNA News

The Melrose Park Neighbors Association

Volume 2 – Number 16

From MPNA President – Andy Rudin

October 24, 2005

Minutes from our October 10, 2005 MPNA Meeting, thanks to Albert

Community Safety Issues

Sergeant David Hirschbuhl from the Community Policing division of the Cheltenham gave us good news – not much crime in Melrose Park.

In place of Town Watch, he wants to do e-mail alerts, alerting neighbors to crime patterns, or clearer news on safety issues, offenders. We said fine, you end alerts and we will send them. **(THIS MEANS WE REALLY SHOULD GET MORE EMAIL ADDRESSES. TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO EMAIL ME WITH THEIR INTEREST IN JOINING OUR ALERT NETWORK)**

We asked about fiber optic cables along the SEPTA tracks. Can they be connected to cameras in the parking lot at the Melrose Park station? He said he has a contact and SEPTA police and would look into it.

Survey on Crest Avenue permit parking - Mike Swavola said survey will be done on need for it.

Hazel Shepherd of Oak Lane Road said to Sergeant Hirschbuhl that her neighbors that had been cutting off branches and throwing them in her yard. They talked after the meeting adjourned.

Abandoned cars were discussed. The longest delay in getting them removed has to do with permission from Harrisburg.

History of Cheltenham and Camp William Penn

Lise Marlowe gave a presentation about her sixth grade class project on a Cheltenham History Book. She said there would be a November 11th Lucretia Mott celebration at the LaMott Community Center. Come and see a mural more information about Mott and Camp William Penn. Gates to the camp are on Sycamore Ave. It irks her to look at the poor condition of the site where Frederick Douglass and other famous people walked. It's in bad shape.

Perry Triplett passed away recently. Someone else needs to take on goal of drawing attention go Camp William Penn. Mr. Chambres has a web site on it. Their book is \$20, and their T-shirt and DVD are each \$10. Personally, I bought one of each. The book is really high quality.

Other issues

For your datebook: May 21, 2006 will be World Fair Day a High School Park. Cindy Goldberg is involved.

Nancy Hellendall, from the Committee for a Better Myers, described Myers Elementary School's new \$12 million building addition, which will take more than half of playground and create hard to monitor nooks and crannies. The resulting lack of a large playground may not be in the students' best interest.

Diane Kolb described the new dog park at the Curtis Arboretum. There will be a riparian buffer, protecting the creek and a 5-foot high, nice looking fence. Funds have been collected for fence. Now they are seeking a table

or bench and a water source. There will be ample parking. A group dog walk will be held on April 8th to raise funds for project. There will be a separate area for little dogs separately.

Mike Swavola reported that the former Melrose Presbyterian Church on Oak Lane Road may not be the location for the coming elections. He is working on remedying the situation, but there may be a last minute change in polling places.

The redbud and other tree replanting issues raised - Albert, Ricki Lent, Mike Swavola and Gene Silver will develop answers, coordinate with SEPTA and the Township.

There was discussion about the election Reform Network ERN meeting on October 29th to regain electoral honesty, improve follow-through on voting procedures and tallying. 1 pm, Saturday, October 29th – Grace Presbyterian Church, corner of Old York Road and Vista Road, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Free Admission

Gene Silver mentioned that a *Times Chronicle* article overplayed the nature of a fight that happened at Cheltenham HS. The situation was apparently nowhere near as big a fight or incident as portrayed in the paper. Sergeant Hirschbuhl agreed.

Cheltenham Emergency Management

Ken Hellendall emailed to say, “I am a resident of Melrose Park and Cheltenham’s Emergency Management Coordinator. If your group would be interested in a short power point presentation on what the Emergency Management team is doing, please let me know and we can work out a time. Thanks, and as a fellow Melrose Parker – Keep up the great work. Ken Hellendall, 215-635-7498 – Home.” Perhaps we could see his presentation at our next neighbors meeting.

Zoning Hearing Board Meetings about the New Church on Ashbourne Road

Karin Helstrom of the Elkins Park Neighbors Association (www.epna.org) association writes:

“We do not know how many meetings will be required to complete this appeal, but it is likely to run through December. The Township calendar schedules Zoning Hearing Board meetings twice each month. Time consuming appeals are usually heard on the second date. Each month the Board will announce the date and place of the next meeting, but most likely the meetings will be at Curtis Hall on:

- Thursday - October 27
- Wednesday - November 23
- Wednesday - December 21.

When the hearings are completed, the Board will have 45 days to issue its decision.”

Your help needed for an enjoyable Fall Planting at Melrose Park Station, Thursday, October 27th!

MPNA members are responsible for the beautiful plantings around the inbound Melrose Park SEPTA station. Come join your neighbors and till the soil a bit, by planting bulbs and more. We will have bulbs, but you are welcomed to bring additional plants, digging tools, clippers, etc. Come for any time -- even 30 minutes -- will make a difference and lead to a lovelier spring:

- Place: Melrose Park Station, southbound side
- Date: Thursday, Oct. 27th (rain date, Friday, Oct 28th, same time)
- Time: Any time you can spare between 4:30 and 6:30 pm

Halloween

There is going to be an alternate Halloween celebration in Curtis Hall. John Hoover, Director of Parks and Recreation is coordinating this event. His email address is jhoover@cheltenham-township.org.

This Newsletter

If you have any suggestions for items for this newsletter, feel free to email them to me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net.

MPNA memberships

Membership in MPNA helps pay for plantings, signage, and many other things. Annual dues are \$10 per individual, \$20 per family. Send your contribution to MPNA Board member Jim Muldoon, 106 Parkview Road, Cheltenham, PA 19012.

MPNA Board

Members of the MPNA Board are Andrew Rudin, Phil Kates, Gene Silver, Michael Shectman, Jim Muldoon and Albert Fried-Cassorla. If you are interested in helping out with MPNA, please email me at andrewrudin@earthlink.net. This newsletter is available or will be soon, maybe with photos, on our website – www.melroseparkneighbors.org